

Artist's Statement

While in grad school, my fellow designers, technicians and I joked about how to describe what we do. We discovered what we felt was an appropriate answer: "We create clothes for imaginary people." We did so hoping that the imaginary world we created somehow became real and found a place in the souls of our audiences. As a designer, my intent is to create a world in which the audience is enveloped and included, touching the lives of others through laughter and knowledge and gaining insight that lasts beyond the curtain.

My job as a costume designer and technician is ever changing. I have the chance to not only be a visual artist but also a historian, a psychologist, a sociologist and an observer in a subtle language: clothing. Growing up with a father in the military, I was taught that "no job is worth doing unless its done with heart, and done well." That advice flows into all that I do. When I work, it is with my whole heart and my fullest ability.

I am meticulous in detail. I work to create cohesive and tight color palettes with respect to the periods and moods of shows. I work with directors and other designers to focus on shape and silhouette and then home in on the smaller details of clothing that make an authentic show. I look at how the garments were constructed, what popular details and quirks are found in the clothing, and what social antiquities exist from that period. The research is my favorite part. Having a technical background helps me think not only in terms of the big picture but also allows me to communicate to others the specificity of each relationship between costume and character.

Above all I am a collaborator. All that goes into the creation of a finished costume on stage involves many artists dedicated to the show's finished product. As artists we are offered a chance to answer important questions. We are part of social and political change. We are scribes, record takers and philosophers with the common goal of touching others through our art. This is the type of theatre practitioner I am and always hope to be. I hope to share that same goals and passion with you.