

# **BA (Hons)** **Costume Production \***

## **Programme at a Glance**

### **Year 1, Semester 1**

- Basic construction techniques and pattern cutting – both stand cutting and flat drafting
- History of costume
- Research and analysis of performance and the theatre industry
- Introduction to theatre production

### **Year 1, Semester 2**

- Foundation wear and corsetry
- History of costume
- Research and analysis of performance and the theatre industry
- Practical costume making project

### **Year 2, Semester 1**

- Dancewear skills, millinery, fabric painting and breaking down, wig dressing
- Historical waistcoat project
- Visual and cultural awareness
- Production Role 1 – wardrobe assistant

### **Year 2, Semester 2**

- Production Role 2 – wardrobe assistant with responsibility for budgeting and dressing
- Historical half-scale costume project

### **Year 3, Semester 1**

- Production Role 1 –supervisor or maker
- Independent research project

### **Year 3, Semester 2**

- Production Role 2 - supervisor or maker
- Elective project

## **Why should you join this programme?**

On the Costume Production programme you will develop your garment making skills and produce costumes for use in realised theatrical productions, working to designs by professional and student costume designers. The garments that you produce will be durable enough to withstand the rigours of performance. You will also experience the whole range of responsibilities involved with being initially a wardrobe assistant and then a wardrobe supervisor.

## **Resources and facilities**

The programme has three dedicated workrooms that have a range of domestic and industrial machines. It also has full use of the College laundry that includes professional standard washing machines and dyeing facilities. The extensive costume store is added to each year by the work of Costume Production students. Productions take place in a variety of venues including the College's own 350 seat theatre-in-the-round. The College also has a dedicated Learning Resources Centre containing specialist books, videos, support materials and an extensive collection of research material on this subject.

## **Industry and professional links**

The programme regularly employs experts in their field to enhance the core teaching staff. Taking time out of their busy professional work, guest artists input into specific modules to help ensure that you will achieve professional standards and learn up-to-date practices. Often these professionals can offer you placements and advice on specific production issues, and may even lead to full-time employment.

## **Duration**

3 Years.

## **Entry Requirements**

A levels, BTEC or equivalent. All applicants are invited for interview (portfolio required).

## **How to Apply**

Applications made through UCAS

## **Institution code name:**

Rose

## **Institution Application code:**

R51

## **Programme Code:**

W451

## **Term Start**

September, 2010.

**\*NCDT Accredited**

### **Placements and exchange opportunities**

As a student on Costume Production you will be supported in undertaking an industry placement where your skills can be tested and enhanced. Placements can be with theatres, workrooms or other specialist companies and professionals, applicable to your interests and needs.

The College also has links with other institutions worldwide, such as Divadelni Fakulta, Prague, Czech Republic, Teatterikorkeakoulu (Theatre Academy), Helsinki, Finland, Centre de Formation Professionnelle aux Techniques de Spectacle, Paris, France and Institut del Teatre, Barcelona, Spain and it is often possible to undertake some of your study abroad. The majority of students who do this find it a hugely enriching and valuable experience.

### **Graduate success**

One of our recent graduates has secured work in the making wardrobe of the latest *Harry Potter* film. Other graduate successes include a wide range of employment including at venues such as English National Opera, Royal National Theatre, The Globe, London Palladium, Queens Theatre and The Prince of Wales theatres in London, ITV Television, Warner Brother Film studios, Disney corporation, Vivienne Westwood Couturiers, and Gieves & Hawkes, Saville Row. Other graduates have found employment in bridal wear, costume hire, and in the wardrobe departments on a variety of cruise liners and even in a wardrobe department as far away as Melbourne, Australia working on a production of *Billy Elliot*.

### **Your interview**

Entry is through the UCAS application system. All applicants who satisfy the entry requirements set out in the prospectus are offered the opportunity to attend an interview with the programme tutor. You are expected to bring to your interview a portfolio of your work that should include actual practical work. This could be a garment(s), garment samples, costumes, etc. You will be interviewed with your portfolio at hand so you have an opportunity to explain your work to the interviewer, who will endeavour to see all your work (dependent on the amount and range you bring). You should be prepared to enter into a conversation with the interviewer about your interests and experiences in theatre and associated areas. You will also have an opportunity to meet current students on the

programme both in the classroom, where applicable, and during the tour of the campus.

### **Cost of study**

You will be expected to have a basic tool kit when you start, which can be supplemented as the programme develops. There are some core books that you will be expected to buy, although there are a limited number of copies in the College library.

You will also be expected to fund theatre visits and trips as required. One of the skills you will acquire is to work to a given budget on a production, so all of the production costs associated with the making of the garments are covered by College production budgets. Similarly, to ensure parity between students the College provides the materials used for the majority of project work. As a result, the College owns the work, although you are encouraged to take photographs to include in your portfolio. There are two exceptions, one project in level 2 and one project in level 3, where at the end of the programme you own what you have made. In both cases the cost is dependent on the complexity of the work.

### **Contact**

020 8308 2600

### **Head of School**

Nick Hunt

### **Programme Director**

Angela Ball

### **Core Staff**

Colin Window

Natasha Dodsworth

### **Visiting Professionals**

Jane Smith

Kevin Matthias

Due to the specialist nature of the College, our courses often have longer contact hours than at some universities and require a lot of stamina. Hours can be irregular with some evening and weekend work required in the run-up to shows. These long hours reflect practice in the creative industries and help to prepare students for the realities of work in this sector.