COSTUME DESIGN FOR THEATRE

Creating costume designs gives us the ability to test out ideas about colour, shape, style and texture in 2D before buying or creating the final costumes for a production. Designs can be created by hand or digitally, and usually include fabric samples to describe texture. Unlike fashion design drawings, costume designs for performance usually show character, facial expression, movement and gesture.

THE TASK:

- CREATE A COSTUME DESIGN FOR PERFORMANCE -

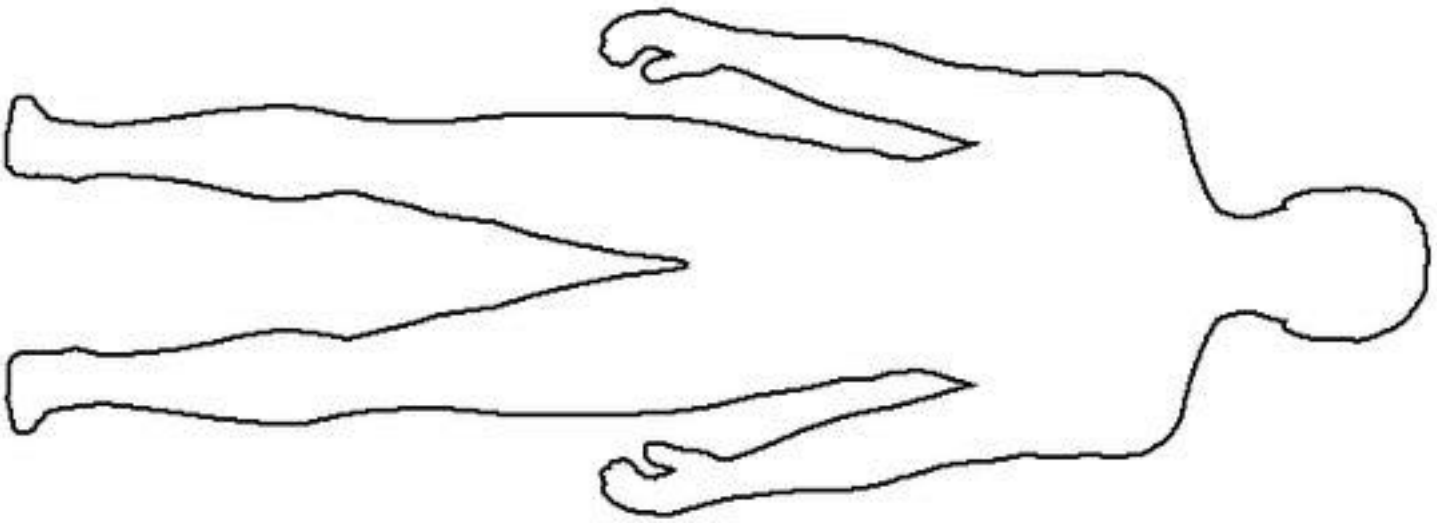
Create a costume design or group of designs out of any resources you have at home! The design(s) can be based on a character from your favourite film, book, TV show or play, or perhaps a character you've created yourself! We have provided a series of templates you can use, or you can draw completely from scratch.

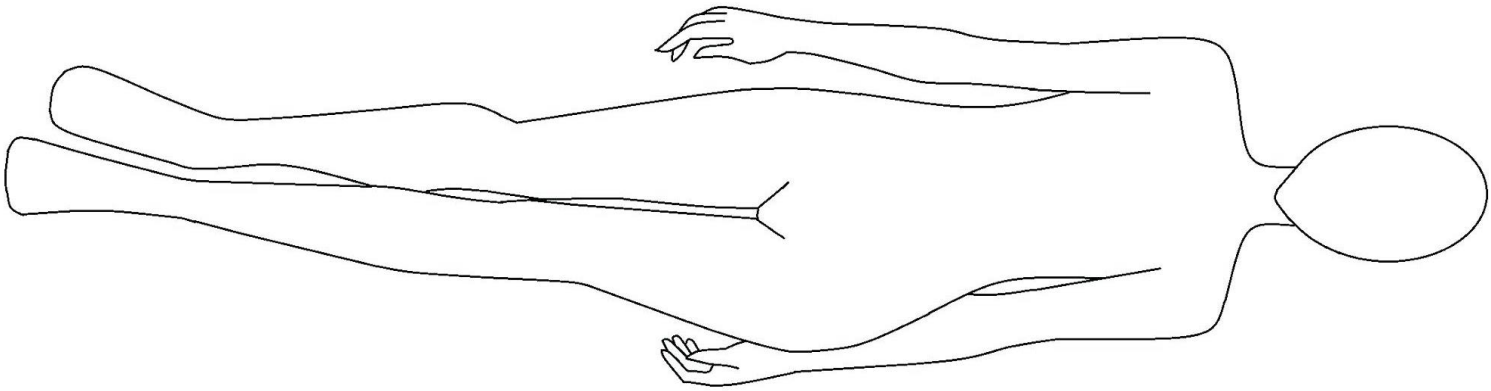
THE MATERIALS:

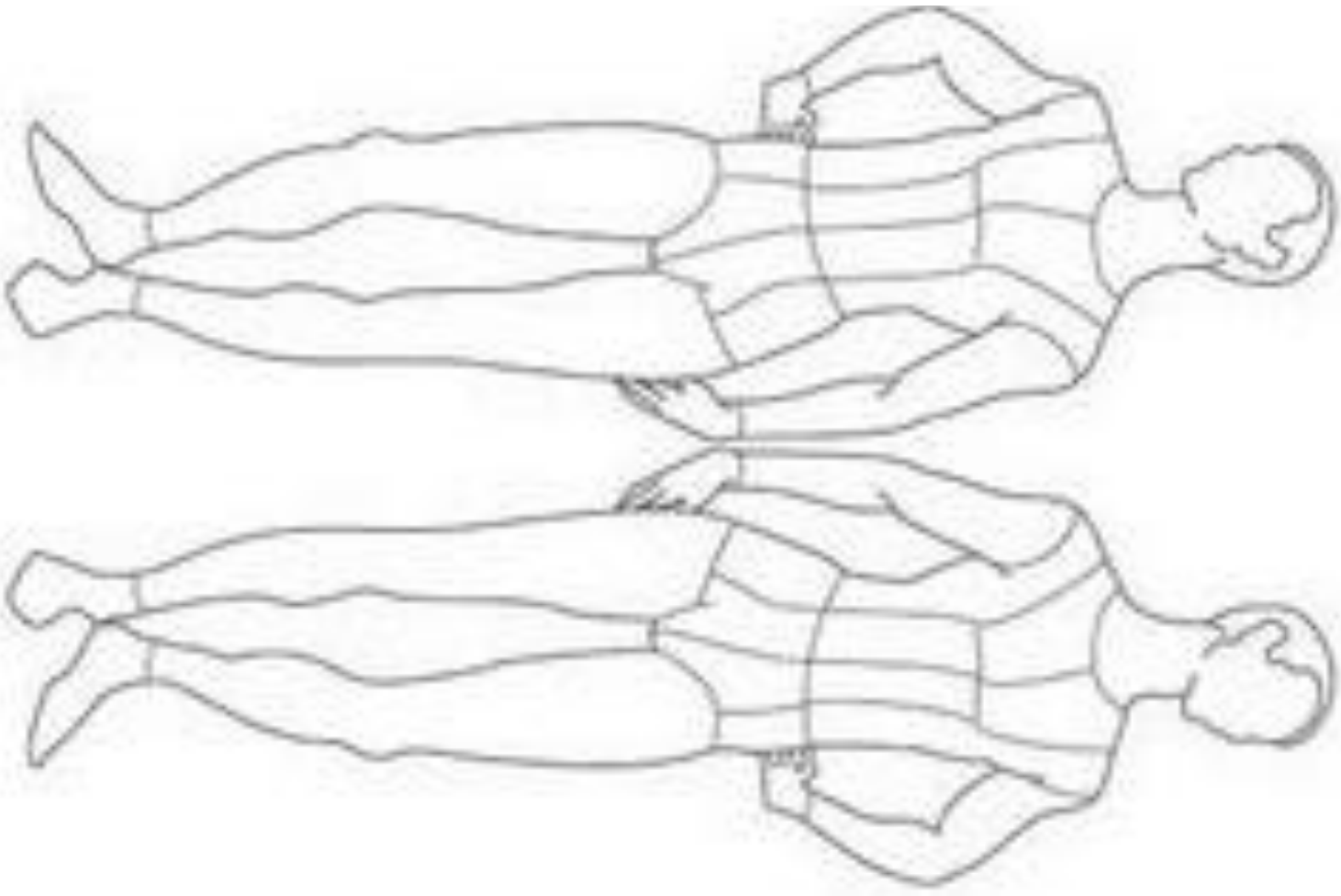
We encourage you to use ANYTHING & EVERYTHING you can find at home! This could be with paper and pencils, painting, collage from magazines or even on a computer! ANYTHING goes when it comes to creating these designs, you might even choose to make them into 3D costumes using kitchen roll tubes and coloured paper, rather than drawings! We'll go through some example materials and textures in the video masterclass.

Key Points:

- The designs can be any shape/size/colour/texture/material you have!
- Inspiration: who do you live with? What is your favourite book? Who is your favourite artist? You could even recreate a costume that you've seen!
- It doesn't have to be finished; it can be a 'work in progress'.
- You can design along to the masterclass or choose your own character!





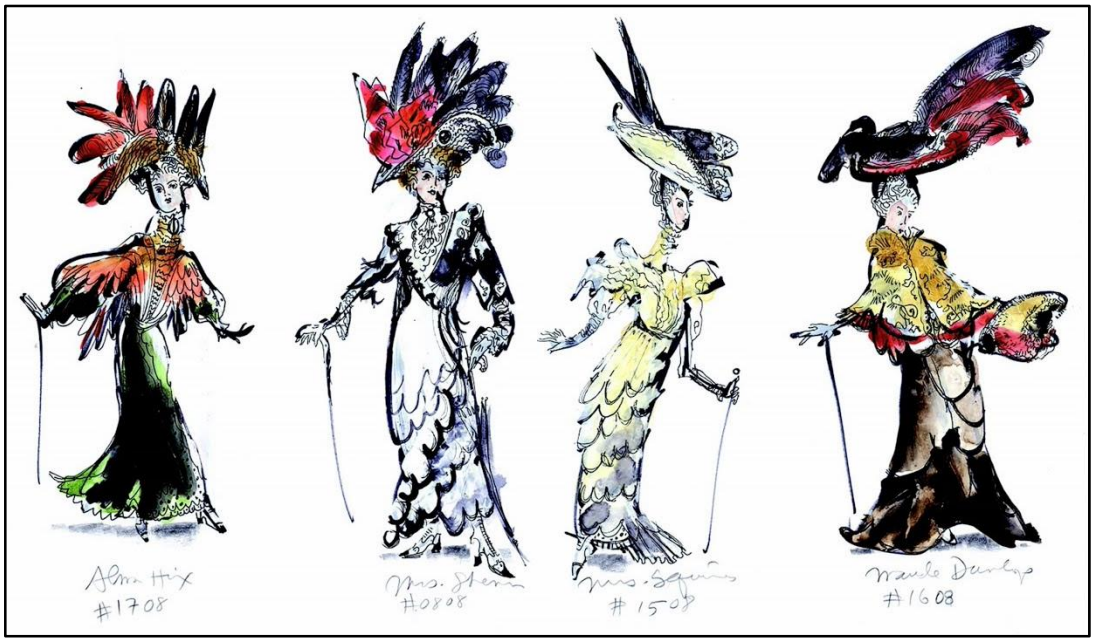


INSPIRATION!

Below are some examples of Costume/Theatre Designers and their work which could be used to inspire and develop your designs to take them to the next level!

Bob Crowley // Costume & Set Designer – 'Alice in Wonderland' for National Ballet

Idea: Re-create a classic character's costume e.g. The Mad Hatter or Cinderella



William Ivey Long // Costume Designer – 'The Producers' on Broadway

Idea: Create a costume design inspired by your pet or favourite animal!

Sandy Powell // Costume Designer – ‘Cinderella’ film 2015

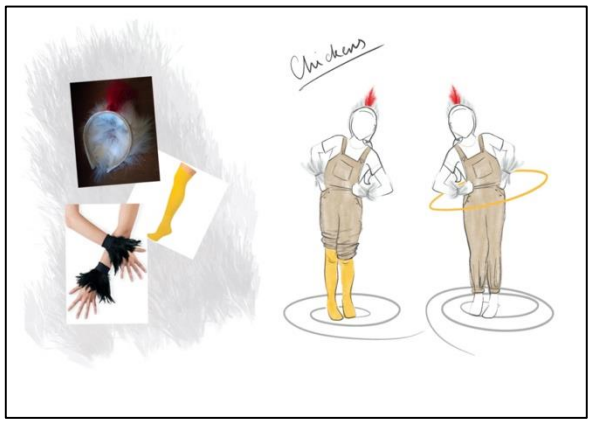
Idea: Use a combination of materials (water colour paints and pens) to create textures.

Michele Clapton // Costume Designer – ‘Game of Thrones’ TV Series

Idea: Watch your favourite TV show then re-create the costume designs using only collage from magazine & newspapers!

INITIAL DESIGN CONCEPTS AND SKETCHES

Costume Design for performance is a process, meaning no one gets it right first time! As designers, we like to do lots of initial sketches and gather reference images first to help with decision making, before creating the final costumes for performance!



COLOUR THEORY CHART - WHAT DOES EACH COLOUR REPRESENT IN COSTUME?