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21M.732 Beginning Costume Design and Construction  
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# Script, Character, and Concept

## 1. Concept

- a. Director establishes the major focus of the interpretation. Some questions to ask: Why do you want to direct this show? Here? Now? In this venue?
- b. Performing art is a collaboration. Production suffers if everyone is not working towards a common goal. Everyone should be aware of what everyone else is doing.
- c. Unity through: knowledge, understanding, communication
- d. Costume interpretation draws from both written material and directorial approach.

## 2. Character

- a. Script's emotional tone
  - i. How the plot flows, important moments, which characters hold primary focus, which are minor but have major input, which characters merely fill out the scene, what/who changes as story progresses
  - ii. Example: Star costume/decorative costume vs. costume that grows out of interpretation of the drama
- b. Physical requirements
  - i. Character costume develops out of what characters say and do and what others say about them. May or may not have anything to do with stage directions.
  - ii. Sometimes 2D character: Superman, etc. Or clichéd, like villains
  - iii. Costumes can progress to show change in production and/or character

c. DO NOT ANTICIPATE AN ACTION! (Regina, boy and girl in powder blue)

d. Ask:

- i. When do the crucial moments occur in the production, and how should they be staged?
- ii. What kind of line, texture, color will best express these moments?
- iii. What is the motivation of each character?
- iv. How does each character fit the framework of the entire production?
- v. Does the character go through changes as the action progresses, and if so how should this evolution be expressed?
- vi. What did the character do before the action begins, and what will they do after the action ends?

### 3. Script

a. Geography

- i. At times a specific country is not as important as a feeling for a general area: Middle East, American West, etc. Other times, need to be more specific (Cabaret, Streetcar)
- ii. Chekhov – Russia, but fashions from France and England with a Russian feel.
- iii. Sometimes must be locale NON-specific

b. Season – do they need coats?