

COSTUME DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Hello and thank you for your interest in the Costume Design and Technology Program at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM). We offer both a BFA degree in Theatre Design and Production (TD&P) with an emphasis in Costume Design and Technology as well as a three year highly concentrated MFA degree in Costume Design and Technology. We are fully accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST) and a member of U/RTA.

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

Our philosophy for the Costume Design and Technology Program is best simply stated: costume designers communicate better with costume technicians when they have a working knowledge of the elements and areas of costume technology; costume technicians communicate better with costume designers when they have a working knowledge of the process and elements of costume design. Therefore, both the BFA and MFA degrees emphasize the dual importance of design and technology. As an individual artist, your strength may lie in one area or the other, yet knowledge of both is critical in this collaborative art. And, as is often the case, entry-level positions in professional costume shops and theaters frequently tend to be in technology (cutting, draping, crafts, paint/dye) and wardrobe and less frequently in design. Our program recognizes this fact and addresses it honestly.

PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

CCM offers a wide range of theatrical experiences for students. During each academic year we produce two major productions each of Opera, Musical Theatre and Drama on our two main stage theaters as well as several studio productions in our flexible space studio theater. And, with the recent re-structuring of our division, we have begun incorporating support for Dance, expanding learning opportunities in both design and construction to this fourth area.

Both undergraduate and graduate students are given opportunities as design assistants, first-hands, cutter/drapers, crafts persons and studio designers as well as wardrobe and maintenance personnel on all productions. Faculty, staff and graduate students most frequently design the six main stage productions although exceptional undergraduates may also have the opportunity. The studio productions are usually student designed even though faculty from the Opera, Musical Theatre and Drama programs direct. The relationship between faculty, staff and students is a professionally demanding one within an equally demanding educational setting.

CCM undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to seek summer employment at one of our nation's many outstanding summer opera, musical theatre or drama institutions.

COSTUME SHOP FACILITIES

The CCM costume shop is a modern, moderate size space excellently equipped to produce the most challenging designs. It includes a separate paint/dye studio, toxic spray room, laundry and maintenance facility, fitting areas, offices, excellent and organized large costume stock and more. Some of our equipment includes industrial and domestic sewing machines and sergers, blind hemmers, walking foot, Omni-Stitch, stainless steel industrial dye vat and steam cabinet, etc. Our costume stock includes more than 25,000 costume pieces including the Broadway and touring production of *The Scarlet Pimpernel* (designed by Ms. Jane Greenwood) and the Tony-nominated *Cyrano! The Musical* (designed by Mr. Yan Tax of the Netherlands).

COURSES OFFERED

Regular course offerings include beginning and advanced costume construction, costume design for plays, musicals, operas and dances, the history of costume and pattern development, character figure drawing and rendering, advanced rendering, millinery, fabric painting and dyeing, mask-making, patterning, draping, tailoring and costume shop management. Seminar and Special Topics classes are added as needed.

HONORS AND AWARDS

CCM is continually recognized regionally, nationally and internationally for its high quality productions and professional training programs. Our TD&P students, staff and faculty have, and continue to, receive numerous awards and citations for outstanding design and technological achievements from the National Opera Association Opera Production Competition to USITT (regionally and nationally) for both productions at CCM and elsewhere. Students occasionally assist faculty designers with their off-campus professional positions, thus gaining valuable experience.

EMPLOYMENT POTENTIAL

Undergraduate and graduate costume students of CCM have recently been, or are now currently employed in costume technology, crafts, wardrobe and/or design with The Washington Opera, The San Francisco Opera, The Denver Theatre Center, Cirque du Soleil, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Utah Shakespearean Festival, Chicago Lyric Opera, Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, American Players Theatre, Santa Fe Opera, Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati, the Shakespeare Theatre, Wolf Trap Opera, The Houston Ballet, Glimmerglass Opera, English National Opera, Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Cincinnati Ballet, Disney, Broadway and national tours, as well as with commercial and independent film companies.

ADMISSION

In addition to the usual University and College application procedures and their requirements, admission to the undergraduate program is by portfolio review and interview (preferably on campus). Graduate admission includes the usual application procedure and portfolio review; however the interview must take place ON CAMPUS. (Rare exceptions may be made.) It is important for ALL applicants to visit our facilities

and witness first-hand our complex production and educational demands to better understand what they may expect from the program and what the program will expect from them. A full day visit is recommended with a longer stay desirable. This gives the applicant time to experience the working and academic environment as well as ask questions of the faculty, staff and students with whom (s)he will be interacting daily if accepted into the program. The Costume Design & Technology program strives to maintain an MFA population of six and a BFA population of twelve.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

For the MFA applicant, the Graduate Incentive Award (GIA) may be available to help with partial tuition while the Graduate Assistantship (GA) helps with most tuition and includes a stipend for hours worked (usually ten hours/week).

For the BFA applicant, we encourage participation in the university-wide Cincinnati Scholarship Competition. Also available may be scholarship support from CCM and TD&P. Please refer to our websites for updated information.

CONCLUSION

The Costume Design and Technology Program at UC_CCM is a demanding, intensive educational experience for the highly motivated individual seeking a professional career. Few programs or institutions can offer as wide a range of opportunities, experiences and exposures as we are able to give students. And, few programs or institutions expect as much from their students as we must, and do. As frightening as this intensity sounds, a most creative and challenging environment exists within, as The New York Times has described, "One of this country's leading conservatories". We're extremely proud of our accomplishments and hope that you may become a part of them.

So... when you have questions, or if I may be of help in arranging your visit, please contact me. I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Dean Mogle

Professor/Head

Costume Design and Technology

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