

Costume Shop Manager's Tips & Tricks: Design Advice

Read the script

At its heart, costume design is all about storytelling.
Read the story. Then re-read it.
Get to know the people whose stories you are about to tell.

Research

No matter what period your show is in, research is incredibly informative.
As such, Dropbox and Pinterest may become your new best friends.

Express yourself

Do not be afraid to speak up during design meetings.
Your ideas matter.

Collaborate

The best shows tend to be those that are cohesive and that is often due to excellent collaboration.
Pick your fellow designers' minds and who knows... you might make a new friend in the process.

Manage your time

Time is your greatest asset.
Use it wisely.

Pull, borrow, rent... and THEN buy

When looking for costumes, do so in this order.
Budgets go fast, and you'll be amazed what you can get for free.

Embrace challenges

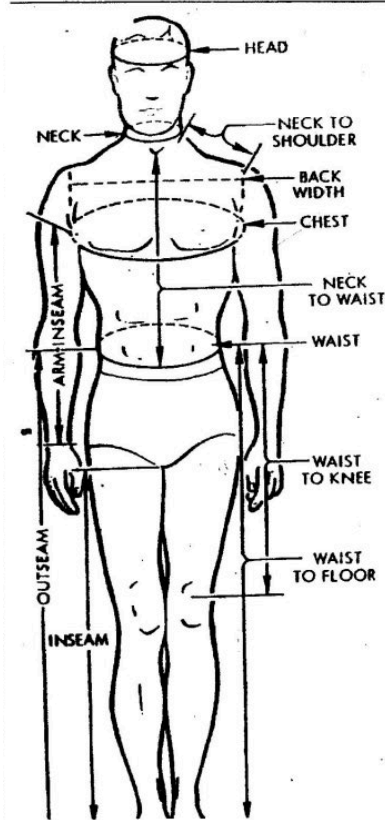
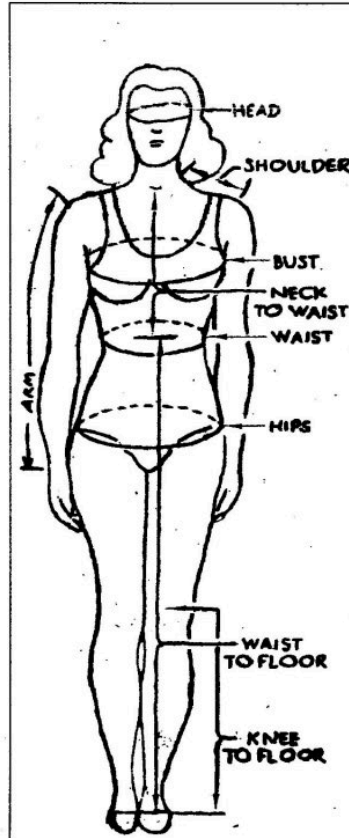
The greatest constraints often produce the most creative and fruitful results.
This could mean setting a strict color scheme, sticking to certain shapes, or working within a tight budget.

Have fun!

Costume Shop Manager's Tips & Tricks: Cast Measurements

ACTOR: _____
CHARACTER: _____

HEAD _____ HEAD
NECK _____ NECK
CHEST _____ BUST
WAIST _____ WAIST
HIPS _____ HIPS
9" below _____ 9" below
THIGH _____ THIGH
NECK to SHOULDER _____ NECK to SHOULDER
NECK to WAIST _____ NECK to WAIST
BACK WIDTH _____ BACK WIDTH
ARM LENGTH _____ ARM LENGTH
WAIST to KNEE _____ WAIST to KNEE
WAIST to MIDCALF _____ WAIST to MIDCALF
OUTSEAM _____ WAIST to FLOOR
SHIRT SIZE _____ DRESS SIZE
HEIGHT _____ HEIGHT
WEIGHT _____ WEIGHT



ACTOR: _____
CHARACTER: _____

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Helpful Hints

- You do not always need every measurement; use your best judgement.
- Most measurements go around the body, not straight across.
- If taking the inseam measurement makes you or the performer uncomfortable, ask the actor to hold the tape measure at his/her groin and then you can bring it down to his/her ankle.
- Make sure you also ask an actor for their clothing (i.e. shirt, pants, dress, skirt, shoes) sizes. This will make it easier to shop for costumes.
- If you have trouble finding the correct natural waistline, ask him to bend to the side.