

EARLY OUTLINE FOR COSTUME TRAINING:

A program of 10 classes, 3 hours each.

1. Introduction to basic costuming, terms,

- basic costume vocabulary –
 - discussion of fashion versus costume–
 - discussion of costume versus wardrobe –
 - how to set up racks, inventory,
 - shorthand for stock ---
 - how to interact with other crew and the various duties of each –
 - Etiquette of contacting actors – what to ask them – getting sizes, preferences – start w/star, then day players – in pecking order –

Homework: reading script provided and getting costume info from it- contemporary or period? day or night? city or country? winter or summer? doubles required for stunts or rain?

2. Measurements and Fittings: correct way to measure – have each person measure one another, man and woman – how to measure for hats, gloves, bras

- fittings etc – show how to fit men's wear – bring in tailor – how to tie tie, pocket square, correct formal wear
- fittings – women – etiquette about when to leave room and not – how to alter for camera – bras and checking back view
- how to supply a good fitting room – basic underwear, hair scruffies, robe,

Homework: observing 10 types of personalities' clothing, list to be given to students

3. CostumePro Computer Program - the program most used professionally for doing cross plots and budgeting –

- how to keep good records of expenses and protect yourself from being left holding the bag

Guest instructor: Jim Gadd, from Los Angeles, notes costumer and expert in this program

Homework – do cross plot and budget for small film, script provided by instructor –

4. Shopping:

- Vendors – building a database of vendors –
- Studio Service – what it is, and how to get the best from it.
- Product Placement – get companies

Homework –list given to students of possible items they would need to obtain so they can learn where to purchase these things. Examples: pointe shoes, wet suits, S&M clothing, medieval corsets, size 17 shoes, made to order hats, etc.

5. Ageing and dying, -

- supplies needed – fullers earth, movie blood,
- techniques – teaching whites to tan or gray –
- distressing t-shirts, adding blood for bullet holes etc –

Guest teacher: (To be announced) a specialist in ageing techniques

homework

6. Kit: Costume Supervisors ... what they expect when hiring locally,

- what should be in your kit,
- what should be in the trailer –
- discover all the things that are good to have with you that never make the official list, like plastic bags for wet garments, string, swiss army knife, belt hole punch, ring sizer, sweat pads, bust pads, nipple covers etc etc –
- accessories to have on hand, wedding rings for eg.
- how to be prepared for ANYthing
- where to buy these supplies

Guest speaker: (TBA) from IATSE will discuss value of the union to the costumer, and what the union will do to protect its workers

7. How to co-ordinate with other departments, working as a team

- **Producers and directors** – what they expect of you, and what you expect of them
- **Hair and Make-up** – how to interact successfully with this department
- **Stunts** – how to costume for stunts to protect actors – how to hide pads, harnesses etc. – how to protect for fire stunts, which fabrics can be fire treated, nomex underwear etc
- **Sound** – mike packs, etc – things for shoes to be quiet, fabrics that rustle, belts that jangle etc
- **Background actors** - what to avoid
- **Kids and babies** – multiples, pitfalls to avoid, health rules for infants
- **Green screen or blue screen**
- **Nude scenes** – how to protect actors, cover what needs to be covered
- **Skin color and lighting** – how skin color and costuming affect the DP

Guest speakers: Tara Clark or Kenny, Jonathan

8. How to work on a set

- how to set up an actors dressing room
- how to set up a quick change
- Continuity notes – how to take and keep good continuity notes, and why it is important
- What to watch for, how to not ruffle the actors or ADs

- how to work on a wardrobe crew of a Las Vegas stage show

Guest speaker: John Stone, head of wardrobe for Caesar's Palace Coliseum (Elton John, Cher, and Better Midler)

9. Getting the job: – how to write a good resume, cover letter, create a portfolio in order to get the job –what the costume designer or Wardrobe Head looks for in an assistant

Homework, preparation of portfolio/resume

10. Field Trip – Visits to Costume Rental houses, costume workrooms, fabric stores**

**** For the One week intensive, open to students across the country, this field trip will be to Los Angeles, to such places as Warner Bros, Universal, NBC etc.**