

Jodi Karjala, Costume Designer

## Artist Statement

Designing Costumes for theatre is more than simply putting clothes on people. While I am in no way an actor, I must enter the actor's psyche, delve into the characters, and discover with my collaborators who these characters are, and how to best portray them to the audience via their clothing.

As an artist, this initial character investigation informs every decision I make thereafter. While much of this process is similar to what an actor may go through to prepare a role, my methodology necessarily takes a somewhat different route as I must imagine every aspect of each character's physical appearance, from the top of their head to the tips of their shoes. This often involves countless hours of visual research into the time period of the play, the culture in which the play is set, and specific clothing appropriate for each character in the play. Unlike the actor, my tools are color, shape and texture, which I use as non-verbal means to assist both the performers and audience with a modicum of insight into the world of the play.

Beyond, or in concert with designing the costumes, I especially enjoy the artistry and craftsmanship of constructing them, as evidenced by the work samples I have submitted – costumes that are both of my design and construction.

Theatre constantly challenges both of these aspects of my work – conceptual design and its fruition through the physical realization of the costumes. Each new show challenges me creatively as I ask for each character and the show as a whole “What is appropriate? What is accurate? What can I do to help more fully tell the story?”