COSTUME DESIGNER

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WHO IS A COSTUME DESIGNER?

A costume designer designs costumes for a film, stage or television production. Costume design is the most personal aspect of design. The costume designer must create clothes for characters that, on one hand, reflect the ideas and goals of a production, but on the other hand, should look like the character chose the clothing just the same as you choose yours every day. Designers typically seek to enhance a characters personality to create an evolving plot of colour; they may distort or enhance the body within the boundaries of the director's vision.

Costume designers create the characters' outfits/costumes to balance the scene with texture and color. They work alongside the director, set designer, lighting designer, sound designer and other creative personnel.

The designer must ensure that the design allows the actors move as freely as the role requires. Garments must be durable and washable, especially for plays with extended runs or film where costumes will not be changed.

WHAT THE WORK INVOLVES
A typical day for a costume designer might include:

- reading scripts
- researching clothing style for a specific time period
- confirming the number of characters and what they will wear
- creating initial design sketches by hand then drawing up final design which will Illustrate details
- collaborating with hair stylist, wig makers and make- up artists
- visiting draperies and costume shops and liaising with sewers
- picking out accessories such as jewelry, shoes and hats
- managing the costume budget for the production

Working hours can be very long at times as a lot of painstaking and detailed work is required.

WHO IS THIS CAREER FOR?
As a costume designer you must be able to work well under pressure to meet deadlines. Good research skills and knowledge of costume history and modern fashion is also a must. In addition to that, a good eye for details and leadership abilities are well needed qualities.

WHAT CAN I EARN?
As a costume designer you will only earn a steady and reasonably high salary if you find work with a large production company. Finding such full-time work may be a challenge and you may need to have other sources of income.

HOW DO I QUALIFY?
You can formalize practical experience and learnt expertise with in a bachelor's degree in fashion design or textile.

WHO OFFERS TRAINING IN JAMAICA?
The Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts
Annie Gees College of Fashion Design
Heart/NTA (Garmex Academy)

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