Lorraine Barker

Professional Internship

Leon

Reflection Essay

Period 5

12-9-14

Costuming at Theater Works

Being the costume intern at Theater Works Live in Peoria, Arizona is one of the greatest opportunities I’ve had in my high school career. Using the skills I had learned in Fashion Design & Merchandising I & II, I was rather successful in achieving my goals and assisting my mentor in costume production (my background in theatre also helped me out a bit in the process).

My mentor, Tamara Treat, is simply wonderful. I’ve worked with her in the past, as she has costumed a show I was in before. Getting to know her better and finally being able to work alongside her in the costume shop was amazing.

During my internship, I learned various new skills to improve my costuming and seamstressing techniques. Starting out on the job, I was a beginner hand-sewer and machine-sewer, and had somewhat of an eye for colour. Tamara taught me various tricks and tips to get the job done quicker and more durable. I quickly assessed with this internship that costuming was all about how the garment looked onstage, and how durable it was – we were not creating original high fashion pieces, no, we were creating an entire look and ambiance to go onstage that fit the show assigned and was meant for performing in.

Of course, as I am an intern for Theater Works the entire season, I have much more to look forward to next semester. I have already assistant-costume designed a few shows and have some experience under my belt. For the next blockbuster hit at Theater Works in the spring, I will actually be in charge of three character outfits by myself to work on – concept and construction and everything.

This internship has definitely given me opportunities that will take me far in the theatre industry. I have learned a lot, and have met many of important people, and will use such gifts as these towards my future career in theatrical costuming.