Technical Theatre

Unit Eight: Costume Design
　　　　　Costume Notes and Sketches

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The Importance of Developing a Costume Design for Production:

As a <u>student of design for theatre production</u>, you must recognize the importance of a successful costume design to ensure the overall quality of a show. Costume design is an area of theatre that is neglected many times because of an erroneous stigma that the design does not involve as much creativity and skill as other areas. In reality, good costuming requires research and planning for a design to function in all the ways it should. These functions include establishing time period, economic status, reflecting character personality, establishing relationships among characters, unifying other areas of the show design, and many other things. A good costume design should achieve many things without distracting the audience.

The Assignment:

After reading your show carefully,
1. Fill out the **costume notes for each character**.
2. **Research the style, period and type of material** needed for each costume.
3. **Fill out the Costume Plot**, which details the costume**,** changes for each character throughout the show.
4. Prepare **costume color rendering for each character.** The rendering should be in color and on the form provided for you, with necessary information in the title block. This sketch should show all clothing, shoes, and any accessories worn by the character. Attach a swatch of the material used to create the costume at the top of the color rendering.

Tools to Use:

Use colored pencils, pastels, markers, or a color printer for the sketches. For prints and patterns in the fabric, markers <u>do not work well</u>. Although regular printer paper will work, you may find sketch paper much easier to work with. Work out your preliminary ideas before attempting final sketches. Swatches are available in the department or you can go to any fabric store and cut a swatch.