The Tempest: Designing Costumes

DURATION: 60 mins

OBJECTIVE: To have created a costume design for a character in The Tempest.

KEY LEARNING POINTS:
• Designers undertake research and then present their ideas in a visual way.
• Designers need to be able to articulate their ideas and justify their choices.
• There are always constraints to consider when designing a production.

YOU WILL NEED:
• Participants to have an understanding of the plot of The Tempest (you could look at the The Tempest: Story Whoosh! or the The Tempest: Plot Points exercise for this).
• The Tempest: Character Descriptions
• Character Quotes - see below.
• Costume templates, one per participant – see below.
• The Design of the Trilogy video
• Magazines, images, coloured paper, wrapping paper
• Access to the internet and a printer
• Whiteboard and flipchart
• Marker pens
• A3 card, one per participant
• Glue, scissors, paints, coloured pens and crayons

IT’S NICE TO HAVE:
• Assorted craft materials – different papers, fabrics, ribbons, string etc

ACTIVITY:
• This would follow on well from The Tempest: Character Detectives and The Tempest: Designing Island Concepts exercises.
• Watch the Designing the Trilogy video and ask participants for feedback about things that they discovered or that surprised them.
• Put the participants into small groups and ask them to discuss the things that they think are important to know about a character when you are designing the costume for them. Ask participants to share these back and list on the whiteboard or flipchart. Some useful things to know: age, status, location, financial status, gender might be...
useful, location, weather/time of year that the play is happening, time period, faith.

- Ask the participants what other things the costume designer needs to consider. (The Director and Set Designer’s vision (if the set and costume are being designed by different people), actor comfort and safety, budget etc.)
- Ask the participants to suggest different locations for the island in *The Tempest*, for example Caribbean, Mediterranean, Pacific, Arctic, Scottish, Irish and list these on the Whiteboard or flipchart.
- This production of *The Tempest* was set in a women’s prison. In what way is that setting like an island? Now ask the participants to think of other similar settings that might have the same qualities, for example a sea-fort, a space ship an immigration detention centre or a boarding school, and list these on the Whiteboard or flipchart.
- Allow participants to pick a character and an island type, or allocate them. Allow participants to choose a time period for their costume. You could set a homework research task to enrich the participants’ understanding, and split the exercise, returning to create the costume design in the next session.
  - Prospero
  - Miranda
  - Caliban
  - Ariel
  - Ferdinand
- Ask participants to design a costume for their character. They need to consider the design elements, including texture and colour, and practical considerations like the actor’s comfort and the ability to clean/wash the costume easily.
- Encourage participants to use painting, drawing, collage and digital design to represent their costume design. They could also use quotes from the play to illustrate their design.
- Ask participants to share their design and talk about their choices, and invite feedback from other participants.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY:
- You could develop this by researching other production’s costume choices and analysing the decisions made by other designers.
The Tempest: Character Quotes

Prospero
My dearest father
Good sir
Me, poor man, my library Was dukedom large enough
Great master!
Noble master!
Boss
A tyrant
A sorcerer
Potent master
The wronged Duke of Milan

Miranda
My dear one, thee, my daughter
the goddess On whom these airs attend!
Precious creature
Noble mistress
O you. So perfect and so peerless, are created of every creature's best.

Caliban
My slave
'Tis a villain, sir, I do not love to look on.
Thou tortoise
Thou poisonous slave, got by the devil himself
Thou most lying slave, Whom stripes may move, not kindness!
Flith as thou art
Hag-seed
Abhorred slave
A man or a fish? Dead or alive?
Most pernicious and drunk monster?
Puppy-headed monster
Most ridiculous monster
Abominable monster!
A howling monster, a drunken monster!
O brave monster!
Servant- monster!
So full of valour that they smote the air for breathing in their faces
A devil
And as with age his body uglier grows, so his mind cankers

Ariel
Moody?
Malignant thing
Spirit
Brave spirit!
Ferdinand
With hair up-staring- then like reeds
A goodly person
I might call him. A thing divine, for nothing natural. I ever saw so noble.
Good friend
A prince