



### 3.

# THEATRE COSTUME DESIGN

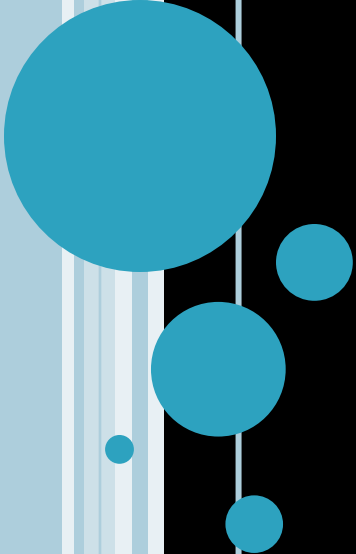
**Spectacolo VET project EU,  
Vocational Educational Training**

**Centre of Higher Education in Theatre Studies  
Mika Panagou  
Stage, costume, Interior Designer & Researcher**



# WELCOME EVERYONE...

Take notes ... I talk a lot ...  
Before we design a costume, we will  
be taking detailed notes...  
in pencil & paper  
so your brain can absorb  
...And... write down any questions  
for the end...



# WHAT DOES A COSTUME DESIGNER DO:

## *COSTUME DESIGN*

- ❖ By costume design we mean the way performers /actors & actresses, are dressed on stage within a theatre play.
- ❖ Their entire presence includes all clothing, fashion accessories, hats-wigs-shoes- bags etc (plus the make-up style).
- ❖ The entire look and style, has to be carefully thought out and designed by the Costume designer within the characters-role description and....
- ❖ In relation to the other roles of the play.



# SOMETIME IN ANCIENT TIMES

[HTTPS://WWW.HELLENIC.ORG.AU/POST/THE-THESMOPHORIA-WOMEN-S-RITUAL-IN-THE-ANCIENT-WORLD](https://www.hellenic.org.au/post/the-thesmophoria-women-s-ritual-in-the-ancient-world)



# WHO, WHERE & WHY... THE DRAMATIC ELEMENT



# MEDEA BY EURIPIDES

## THE WOMAN, THE HERO, THE TRAGEDY

- Medea, passionate, vengeful, and unrelenting in her pursuit of justice.
- Medea abandoned her country and her family, to follow Iasonas.
- Medea has nothing to loose and so she challenges the prejudices of the male-dominated societies.
- She is betrays and forced in exile for a second time.
- She will proceed to cut all ties with her current life.
- She will seek her own justice.
- There is no other life for her.



# 1969 MEDEA THE QUEEN, MARIA CALLAS



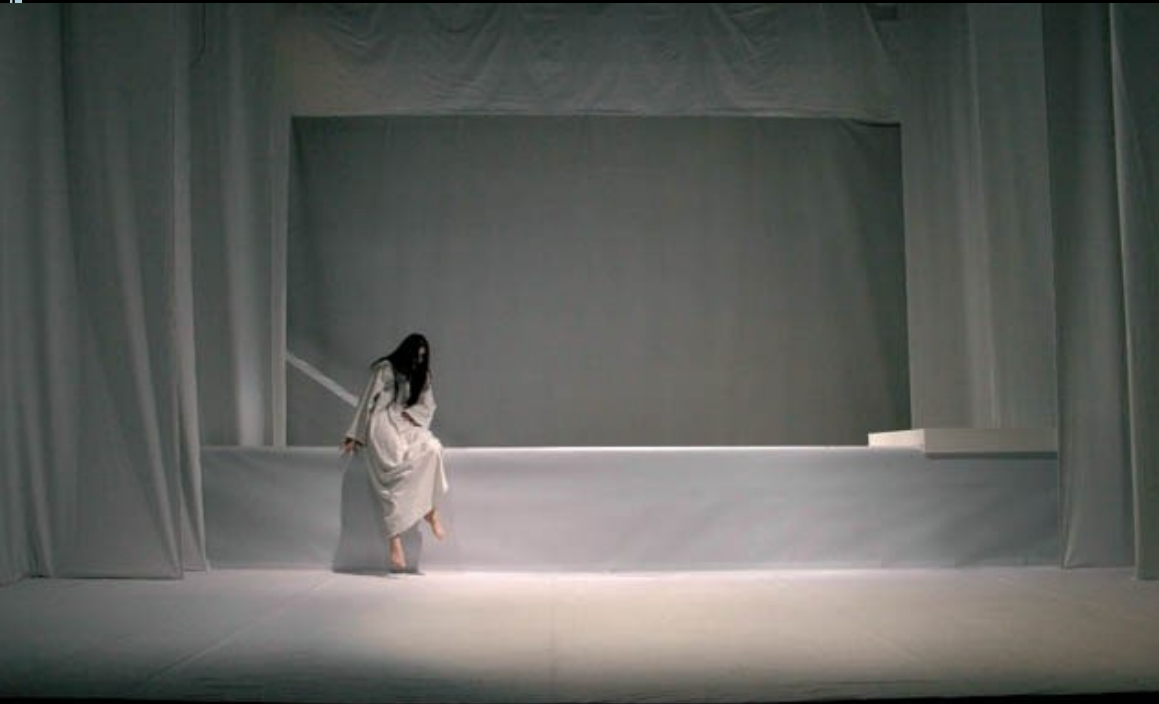
[HTTPS://PROJECTS.LATIMES.COM/HOLLYWOOD/STAR-WALK/KATRINA-PAXINOU/](https://projects.latimes.com/hollywood/star-walk/katrina-paxinou/)







[HTTPS://DIANADOBREVA.COM/DIANA-DOBREVA-THEATRE-MEDEA](https://dianadobreva.com/diana-dobreva-theatre-medea)



# REFLECTING MEDEA ...

[HTTPS://WWW.IITALY.ORG/MAGAZINE/ARTICLE/DAMBROSIS-MEDEA-AND-TEATRO-PATOLOGICO-LA-MAMA-ETC](https://www.iitaly.org/magazine/article/dambrosis-medea-and-teatro-patologico-la-mama-etc)



## MEDEA IN AND OUT ...

- She is the ultimate embodiment of female vengeance and an archetype of the femme fatale. Medea's tale has prompted artists to explore the following questions: did she kill her children in an impassioned fit of rage, or did she murder in cold blood?
- Medea was not just a woman who behaved irrationally against her husband and killed her children. She was wronged and let her pride protect her, and she created an identity for herself completely different from the female stereotypes of the time.





- <https://artuk.org/discover/stories/representing-medea-the-tale-of-a-mythical-murderess>
- <https://previiew.com/newsboard/medea-for-vogue-greece-by-tanassis-krikis-6867.html>



MEDEA... TODAY...  
THE CONCEPT  
OF THE DIRECTOR...  
THE DESIGNER...

- ❖ Via a certain costume many meanings are conveyed in the context of the play
- ❖ Costumes support the overall aesthetic of the PLAY...
- ❖ Costumes reveal to us information on individual characters, on their relationships and on groups of characters (such as chorus i.e.)



# MEDEA , THE SYMBOLS



***COSTUMES HELP THE AUDIENCE  
TO UNDERSTAND INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHARACTER  
AND THE PERFORMANCE AS A WHOLE,***





# THE PLOT OF MEDEA

[HTTPS://WWW.RANDOLPHCOLLEGE.EDU/GREEKPLAY/THE-PLOT/](https://www.randolphcollege.edu/greekplay/the-plot/)



# COSTUMES & SYMBOLS

A Costume designer creates unique clothes , that reflect the ideas of a role. Symbols are used to convey the meaning. The style , the colors, the relationships are timeless.

- Medea, the refugee/immigrant/outcast ? Queen.
- Her world and the others.
- The 2 children
- The female Chorus.
- The husband: Iasonas ( Jason)
- The new-the young-the innocent? wife: Glafki
- The King of the city.



# 2023 MEDEA COSTUMES, EXHIBITION AT THE EPIDAUROS THEATRE

[HTTPS://WWW.LIFO.GR/CULTURE/THEATRO/OLES-OI-MIDEIES-SE-MIA-EKTHESI-STIN-EPIDAYRO](https://www.lifo.gr/culture/theatro/oles-oi-mideies-se-mia-ekthesi-stin-epidayro)



## A CONCEPT TO INCLUDE ALL

- ❖ Design, especially Costume Design must accomplish the following aspects that reveal the Concept of a play :
- ❖ Personality of the Character-
- ❖ Time Context- Color /Style and
- ❖ unity relations-Action development.



ELIZABETHAN TIMES

16<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

SHAKESPEARE TIMES

MACBETH

THE MAGIC OF 3.. AS A CHORUS

- The Three Witches are characters in 3 of William Shakespeare's plays: 1- Hamlet, 2- Macbeth, 3- Othello
- <https://www.rsc.org.uk/shakespeare-learning-zone/macbeth/story/timeline>







# WHO?

**A KING, A MURDERER, A DEAD, A PHANTASM...**

LEADING CHARACTERS USUALLY STAND OUT IN  
VARIOUS WAYS.





## COSTUMES HAVE POWER, THEY CAN :

- reveal **information about a character's circumstances** in development within the play.
- A role may start well posed, wearing ironed clothes and by the end of the story they could look run-down, with a creased costume revealing unpleasant situations.
- Here we have a bold mix of the a symbol such as the scull and a white contemporary men's suit.



MACBETH... AND THE BLOODLINE CONTINUES...  
LADY MACBETH



'only look up clear'  
(as it will raise suspicion)

She is  
careless,  
wealthy,  
superior.

She is married to  
Macbeth.

Authoritative  
against Macbeth

sinister, barbaric

She is devoted, and plots  
against The King (Duncan).

loyal/  
protective  
of her  
husband

'Shall sun  
that morrow  
see! (To see  
what tomorrow  
brings (Plot)).

## lady Macbeth

ambitious,  
fearless,  
dishonest

Driven  
crazy by  
power  
(obsessive)  
villian-  
ous.

ruthless

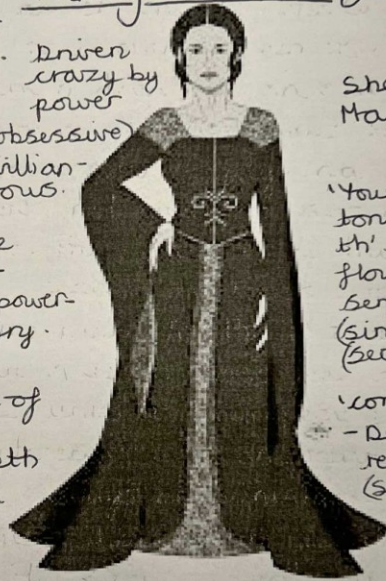
She manipulates  
Macbeth.

'Leave all the  
rest to me' -  
Independent, power-  
thirsty / hungry.

Taking control of  
the situation,  
driving Macbeth  
to do things.

'Unsex me' -  
masculine.

'We will retire to  
our chambers'  
(The Palace)  
Wealthy,  
authoritative.



'Your hand, your  
tongue - look like  
th' innocent  
flower, But be the  
serpent under't'  
(sinister, sneaky)  
(secretive, sly).

'Come you spirits'  
- Devil, Hell,  
religious imagery  
(supernatural),  
evil.

malicious,  
devoted,  
sly.

Fearless, she is  
callous, murderous,  
(A Traitor - going  
against the king)  
- Treacherous,  
persistent, (callous  
is cruel).

'That croaks  
the fatal  
entrance of  
Duncan  
under my  
battlements'  
- cruelty

'stop up th' access  
and passage to  
remorse' - Don't make  
me feel guilty for it

'Come, thick night' - Conjuring up this  
darkness (Devil - evil).

'That my keen knife' - planning / she  
is ready, light against dark.

OTHELLO COSTUME PROJECT BY MAXIN DEVITT  
[HTTPS://WWW.ARTSTATION.COM/ARTWORK/RJOxZ6](https://www.artstation.com/artwork/RJOxZ6)



## B. WHEN AND WHERE.

- ❖ Style and Era. Kings and Queen i.e.
- ❖ The overall design & aesthetic /style of the play. Costumes can at a first glance convey the context of the play, the Era and even geographical setting.
- ❖ A specific style of the 18<sup>th</sup> century could suggest the historical setting of the piece.
- ❖ A traditional dress or a style that relates to the climate, could mean a certain place in the world. The North or the South as in cold or hot. Also a continent related to / according to tradition.







# 1985 MACBETH THIERRY MUGLER



avec des paniers, des corsages  
with panniers and bodices





## C. COSTUMES OF AN IMAGINARY REALM.

- ❖ Costumes may seem of an everyday style or maybe of a past era but also of a new style especially to enhance the play and its action.
- ❖ They can easily create the illusion of a new world. They could even represent an idea instead of a character.
- ❖ It's a challenge to create realities and to mix the old and new, styles past and present so as the audience can have an immediate feeling towards action just by the costumes.



## COSTUMES HAVE POWER :

- reveal a lot of **information** about a **character's personality**,
- FROM ANCIENT GREEK DRAMA TO SHAKESPEAR TIMES,
- THE UNITY OF THE TRAGEDY AS AN AESTHETIC IS COMMON.
- THIS IS YOUR LESSON OF TODAY.



# DIFFERENT REALITIES



# MEDEA



# COMMEDIA DEL ARTE



PANTALON



LE DOCTEUR



ARLEQUIN



BRIGHELLA



LELIO



PIERROT



POLICHINELLE



COLOMBINE



LA SORCIÈRE



LE CAPITAINE  
MATAMORE



SCARAMOUCHE



[HTTPS://WWW.THEATREHAUS.COM/2021/10/A-GUIDE-TO-THE-4-COMMEDIA-DELLARTE-CHARACTER-TYPES/](https://www.theatrehaus.com/2021/10/a-guide-to-the-4-commedia-dellarte-character-types/)



*THANK YOU FOR YOU ATTENTION*

