An Outline for The Design Process

1. A designer gets the job as the costume designer for a show.

2. The designer gets the script of the show.

3. The designer meets with director and discusses the director's vision for the show. This includes color ideas as well as research to communicate their vision.

4. The designer researches the period in which the play is set in. He/she will research everything that is included in the given circumstances.

5. The designer researches the clothing of the period of the play. He/she will then make choices of what a character would where in the world of the play.

6. The designer makes thumbnail sketches of the costumes.

7. The designer gets feedback from the director about the thumbnail sketches.

8. The designer develops his/her sketches further and creates preliminary sketches. The designer is also thinking about color choices for costumes, as well.

9. The designer shows the preliminary sketches to the director and receives feedback from him/her. Revisions are done if necessary.

10. The designer adds color to the preliminary sketches.

11. The designer obtains approval from the director on preliminary sketches.

12. The designer creates his/her final renderings and then shops for the fabric.

13. The designer presents his/her designs at a "Show and Tell" to the director and cast. The designer explains his/her choices made for the costumes.

14. The construction process starts in the goes in to costume shop.

15. A muslin mock-up is made of the designs by a draper. The designer approves the shape, proportion, external and internal design lines.

16. The costume is fit onto the actor by the draper and designer.

17. The pattern is adjusted to fit the actor and the final pattern is made by the draper.

18. The fabric of the costume is cut and marked by a first hand.

19. The first hand, in the costume shop, explains to the stitchers how to sew the pieces of the costume together.

20. The costume is fit on the actor, for a second time, and is adjusted if needed.

21. The costume is put on stage under the specific lighting conditions of the production. The designer and shop staff adjusts the costume if necessary.

22. The play opens and the costume designer's job is done. The show set, and must look the same every night, with no changes. When that happens, we say the show is "frozen".