Costume Terminology 1

# Workers

**Costume Designer** – Follows the Director’s concept, and designs costumes based on a combination of concept and research. May make **costume renderings**, fabric purchases, pull from **stock**, etc. Attends all **fittings** and **dress rehearsals**.

**Assistant Designer** – Acts as the designer in many matters when the designer is not present. Usually designs a sub-section of the show, and essentially apprentices to the costume designer.

**Design Assistant** – Assists the designer, and when the designer is absent makes small design decisions like buttons, trims, etc. when directing **stitchers** and lab workers doing tasks.

**Costume Studio/Shop Manager** – In larger costume shops/studios the person who oversees all the personnel and activities of the workroom. Especially important in a repertory company where many different designers come through the same studio.

**First Hand** – The senior **stitcher** who helps explain needed sewing techniques to the stitchers.

**Stitcher/Seamstress/Seamster** – Worker who primarily sews.

**Cutter** – Person who drafts patterns primarily using the flat pattern method

**Draper** – Person who makes patterns primarily draping fabric on a dress form

**Cutter/Draper** – Person who does both the two above

**Tailor** – Person who makes tailored garments, primarily men’s suits.

**Costume Crafts Technician/Costume Properties Technician** – Generalist costume studio worker who does nearly all the odd specialty tasks involving costume accessories outside the main sewing/patterning areas. Jobs may include, but are not limited to, the sub specialties below:

**Milliner** – Makes Hats

**Armorer** – Makes Armor

**Dyer** – Dyes fabric and costumes, & sometimes also **Distressing**.

**Wardrobe Mistress/Master** – Chief of the crew of Dressers running the show during rehearsals and performances. Responsible for repairs and laundry.

**Dresser** – Individual member of a costume crew, sometimes in larger theatres assigned to a particular actor or group of actors. Responsible for quick changes and costume check-in.