**Costumes:**

It is a good idea to ask directors what their costuming vision is during the planning stages, in the semester leading up to a show. This will often tie in directly with whatever the overall theme/directorial vision of the show is.

Most costuming decisions may not become concrete until the show is cast and some idea of who is playing who, what size they are, etc. is ascertained.

Soon after casting, measure the actors so you have that information on file. You will want to know:

*Shoe Size*

-Do actors/directors/techies have man shoes (for themselves if playing a man, or to lend to someone else with their shoe size if they are not playing a man)?

*Shirt/Dress Size*

Measure:

-inseam

-outseam

-waist to floor

-hips

-waist

-bust

-head

-collar bone, along shoulder, down to wrist

-neck

Please note: formal suits/tuxes should be ordered in BOYS sizes.

Sometimes directors seek to have character discussions with actors which will include costume discussions.

Note: anyone who has to bind will have a smaller chest when bound.

Ask the actors what items for their costumes they may already have. Be sure to let the entire cast know what is needed in case anyone has something they could lend. Look in the Pagoda for other items. (SPT has a reasonable collection of man shoes and man pants, as well as a number of odd and unusual items.)

Definitions:

Man Shoes: non-descript shoes that are not overtly feminine. Loafers or oxfords common, often in black, brown, or navy blue.

Man Pants: pants that are not overtly feminine, not too low-cut or tight, don’t define the hips or any other curves.

Be sure to define this for your cast.

If you intend to budget for costumes (a good idea, even if you expect to be able to pull most of your costumes from the Pagoda or you actors’ closets, since you won’t know exactly what you’ll get until long after your budget is due), try to research some of the items needed in advance. It is helpful if the director does this since she will have a clearer idea of what it is she is looking for.

You may be lucky enough to find a costumer. A costumer is responsible for coming to early rehearsal to measure the actors, find out shoe/dress size, etc. and keep those records. She should meet with the director(s) in order to gain a clear idea of what they are envisioning. She will also be responsible for keeping track of who still need to locate which costume items.

Ideally, the costumer is someone who can perform minor alternations to costumes as well. She should be on call to assist with the strike and putting things back into the Pagoda. It is up to the discretion of the stage manager(s) as to whether or not she should also be on call during performances.