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Costume Management: Departments and Processes

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

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Founder of Cosprop, and Chris Garlick, Company
Manager, Cosprop 2

John Bright OBE, Costume Designer and Founder of Cosprop, and Chris Garlick, Company Manager, Cosprop

Continuation of Close-Up interview (p. 313 of *Get into Costume* book)



Figure E9.1 Rails of period children's party dresses at Cosprop are grouped into dates (centuries and decades), to make things accessible and quick to find.
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How do people get a foot on the costume ladder?

John Bright: People working at Cosprop have often come by word of mouth or by recommendation, or if they've done a placement here as a student. We specialize in clothes, so people with experience in this aspect

of work are better able to fit into our working practice. Someone entering the profession today needs to be sure that this is what they want to do. They must be adaptable and willing to do work that may not be their first choice, but which in turn may lead to it.



◀ ***How do you manage with late casting?***

Chris Garlick: Late casting is a disaster, especially when new clothes are made. To produce the couture level of finish in our makes that we hope to achieve, we need time and three fittings. At Cosprop, we stand our ground on having three fittings. If there isn't time or availability, then we may not be able to take it on. For costume hire, we need time to check stock, book it out, cost it and get paid before costumes can leave the building, and this can take up to five working days from when the costumes have been picked.

How do designers prepare for having costumes made?

Chris Garlick: The more knowledge of historical costume/garment construction that young designers have, the better. If they are costume makers themselves, they will understand what is possible and how to achieve it. If not, they may expect the impossible

and it's our job to point them in the right direction. Frequently errors are made in the choice of fabric, and we are able to help with selections and by suggesting alternatives. John [Bright] leads on the making, and his experience is an incredible resource for any designer, however practised they are.

Everyone that comes to Cosprop is allocated a costumier from the women's and men's departments. They will advise on period correctness and can help with the pulling. Our costumiers are very good at completing outfits and choosing the appropriate underpinnings, which is often the downfall of costumes on set if not done correctly. Costume teams vary in how much they use these services, and, of course, sometimes the designer has a deliberate intention to go against period correctness.

Visit the Cosprop website.