



Michelle Paulman/DN

Ann E. Watson, manager of the costume shop in the Temple Building, stands among mannequins while students work.

Cooperation, variety of workers make theater costume shop tick

By Cinnamon Dokken
Staff Reporter

Walking through the costume shop of the Temple building, one sees aisles of wedding dresses and majorette uniforms, racks of feathered hats and baseball caps and a wall full of shelves that contain enough shoes to make Imelda Marcos drool.

Ann E. Watson, the costume shop supervisor, has been working there for 16 years.

Watson "keeps it all together," said Charlotte Wittig, the undergraduate assistant in the costume shop.

Watson said the costume shop is a busy place during the school year. It is staffed by work-study students, graduate students interested in costume design and students working on class projects for introductory theater, dance or design classes.

"It's completely possible that interested students can help out — regardless of experience," Watson said.

Wittig, a textiles and fashion design major, also plays a big role in the costume shop.

"I've always been interested in theater," Wittig said. "I first came to the costume shop to do hours for a Theater 112 project, and now I'm planning a career in costume design."

Both Watson and Wittig said a lot of work goes into preparing for a show. Costume designers first meet with the director in a production meeting to discuss design possibilities.

"To get some ideas floating around," Watson said.

The designer then researches the era in which the play takes place or the typical dress of a character's occupation. For the show "The Firebugs," Wittig went to the local fire department for information.

At other times, designers have used paintings or art books for ideas.

Janice Stauffer, the faculty costume designer, patterned the costumes for a production of Shakespeare's "As You Like It" after porcelain figurines.

During regular production meetings, a show's director, prop master and light, sound, set and costume designers meet to coordinate the

efforts of all involved, Watson said.

"Cooperation between set and costume designers is especially important," she said. "We don't want actors blending into the walls."

All of the preparations are made about four weeks prior to opening night. The remaining weeks are spent with the designs in the shop, creating the costumes.

As soon as a wearable garment is made, it is fitted to the actor. The garment often requires a series of alterations to fit the actor comfortably.

Costume designs range from the relatively simple to the very difficult.

"A costume can take anywhere from one to 30 hours to make," Watson said. "It's difficult to say how many hours of work it takes to do the costumes for the average show, because each one is unique."

Not all costumes must be created from scratch. Some can be found in the shop storage room and reworked. Some designers have found appropriate outfits at Lincoln thrift stores and have altered them to suit the show better.

See **COSTUME** on 11

'Dancing in the End Zone' next up from Theatrix in Temple Building

By Bryan Peterson
Senior Editor

This semester, many theater productions will be performed both on and off campus.

Below are offerings from Theatrix. All performances are in the Temple Building and cost \$2.

Nov. 24-25: Marya Lucca-Thyberg directs three performances of "Dancing in the End Zone," a football comedy in Studio 301.

Dec. 5-8: Layne Ehlers directs

two one-act plays in the Studio Theatre, "27 Wagons Full of Cotton" by Tennessee Williams and "Waiting on the Rocket," a play by UNL student K. Scott Kolb.

Dec. 5-8: Heather L. Flock directs Parke Goodwin's "Cold Journey in the Dark" and Ruth Dowell directs "The New Play" by William Saroyan in Studio 301.

Dec. 12-15: Barbe Marshall produces Cynthia Heimel's "A Girl's Guide to Chaos" in the Studio Theatre. Laura Lionberger directs "Ad-

aptation" by Elaine May and Patrick Lambrecht directs an adaptation of George Orwell's "1984" in Studio 301.

UNL Theatre and Dance also will produce Max Frisch's "The Firebugs" in the Studio Theatre of the Temple Building Nov. 14-16 and Nov. 19-23.

"And the Dance Goes On," a tribute to Sammy Davis Jr., Margot Fonteyn and Martha Graham, will

See **END ZONE** on 10

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