JULIAN MERCER

COSTUME DESIGNER

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Costume Designer with 10+ years designing for episodic television, feature films, and commercials. Member of Costume Designers Guild who leads costume departments of up to 20, keeps designs on budget and on schedule, and builds period and contemporary wardrobes from script breakdown to final fitting.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Costume Designer Jan 2021 - Present
Warner Bros. Television, Burbank, CA

- Design wardrobe for a 10-episode network drama with 14 series regulars and 60+ guest roles, managing a $450,000 season costume budget.
- Break down each script into character change charts, then lock looks with showrunners and directors a week ahead of prep.
- Led a 16-person department of assistant designers, buyers, cutters, and set costumers through 12-day episode schedules.
- Reduced rental and purchase overage by 11% by tracking every garment in a shared inventory with fitting photos and return dates.
- Developed a color palette per character arc that kept wardrobe continuity across 24 shooting days of non-linear scenes.
- Coordinated stunt doubles and duplicate garments for action sequences, avoiding reshoots caused by wardrobe damage.

Assistant Costume Designer Mar 2017 - Dec 2020
Western Costume Company, North Hollywood, CA

- Researched and sourced period garments for feature films, building a 1940s wardrobe of 180 pieces from archive stock and custom builds.
- Ran fittings for principal cast and supervised alterations by an in-house team of 8 tailors.
- Managed breakdown binders and cast measurements for three productions, which cut re-fit appointments by about a quarter.
- Coordinated with the production office on budget reports, flagging rental overruns before invoices were due.

Costume Designer, Entertainment Jun 2015 - Feb 2017
Disneyland Resort, Anaheim, CA

- Designed costumes for live stage shows, parades, and seasonal events, delivering looks within short pre-production windows.
- Presented sketches and fabric swatches to show directors, which led to wardrobe approval in a single review for most characters.
- Built a vendor network of fabric houses and costume rental shops that cut average lead time on custom pieces to under two weeks.

Costume Assistant Aug 2013 - May 2015
San Francisco Opera, San Francisco, CA

- Assisted with fittings and wardrobe maintenance for mainstage opera productions of up to 90 costumes.
- Dyed, aged, and repaired garments for stage use and kept the show's quick-change schedule on track.

CORE SKILLS

Script breakdown | Costume research | Sketching and rendering | Fabric sourcing | Budget management | Fittings | Period costume | Department leadership | Quick-change planning | Wardrobe continuity | Aging and dyeing | Adobe Photoshop | Movie Magic Scheduling

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Fashion Design, Fashion Institute of Technology, New York, NY

CERTIFICATIONS

Member, Costume Designers Guild (IATSE Local 892) | Safety Pass, Contract Services Administration Trust Fund | OSHA 10-Hour General Industry