



INTRODUCTION TO COSTUME

MARCH 2023

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MONDAY MARCH 17, 2014 WESTERN MAIL

WM²

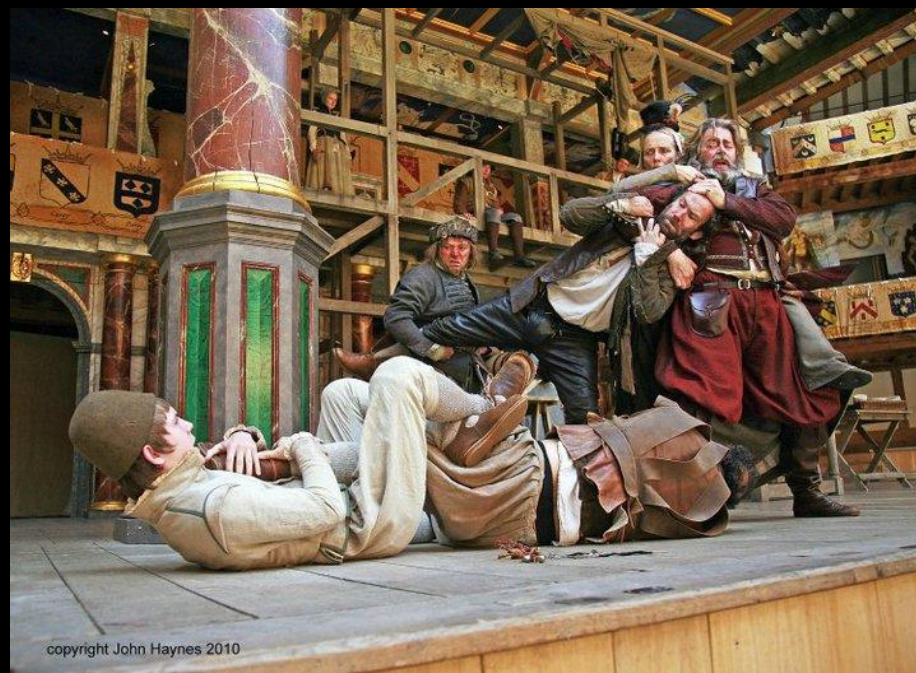
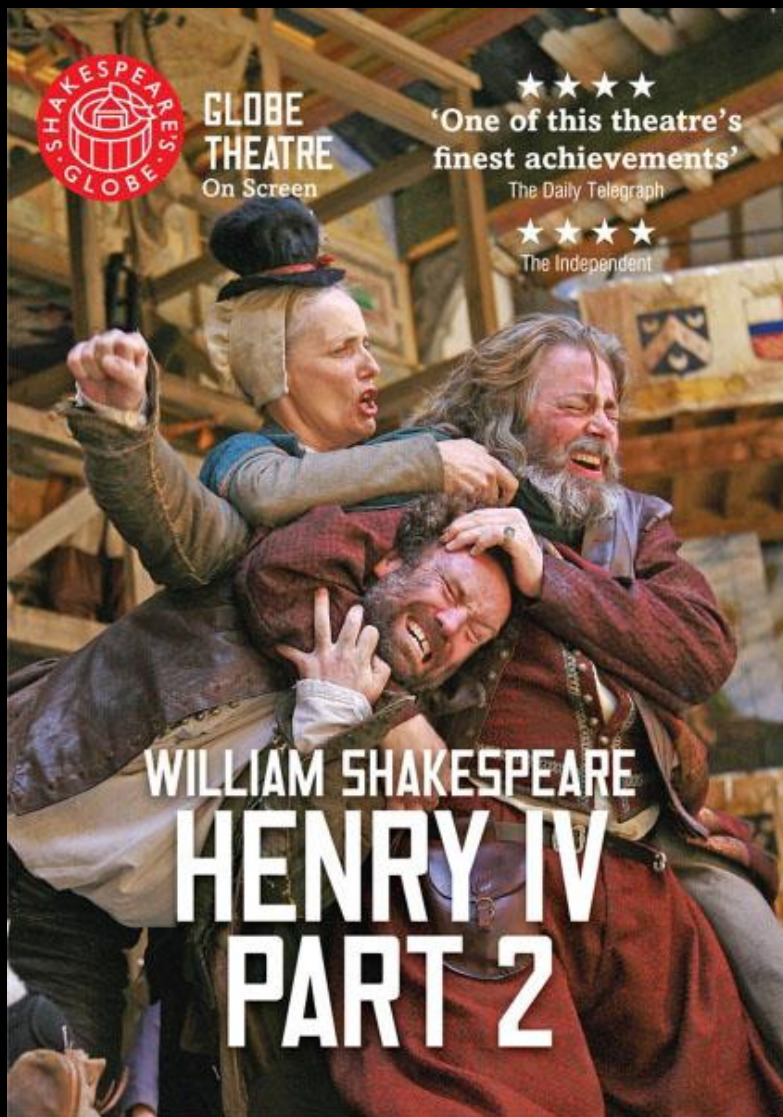
- ◉ HEART OF WALES
- ◉ WALES & THE WORLD
- ◉ DISPATCHES
- ◉ FRIDAY OPINION
- ◉ YOU & YOURS
- ◉ WEEK END WORD

COLUMNIST P21&24 | COMMENT P22 | LETTERS P22&23

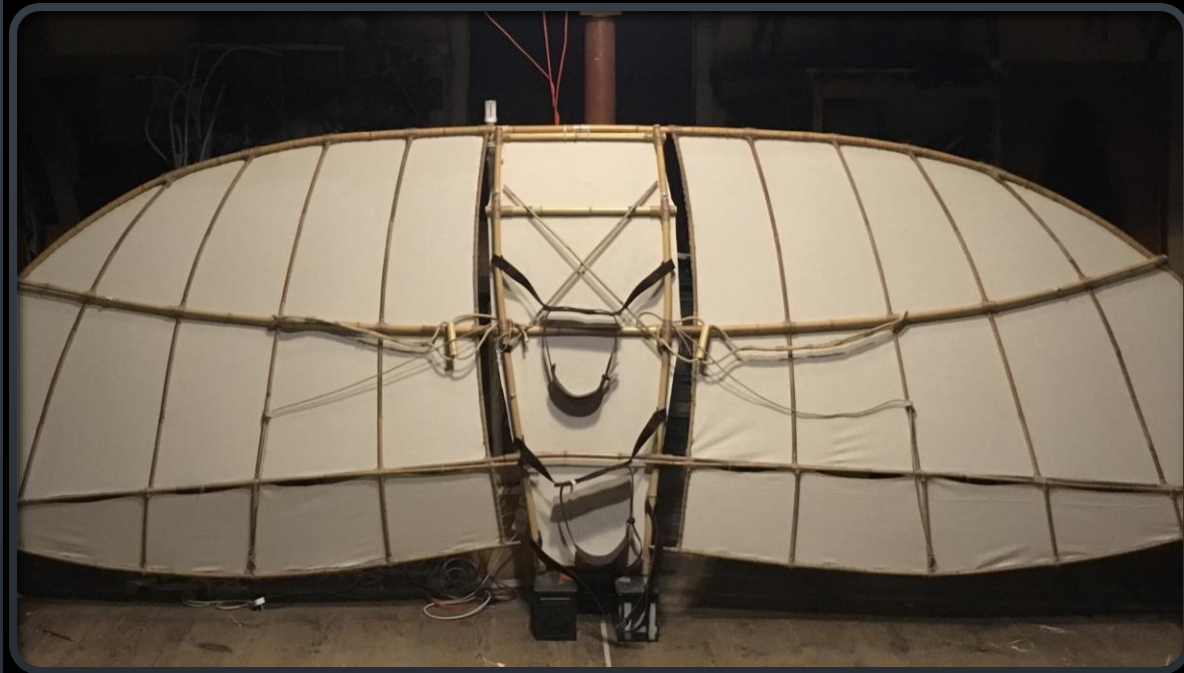


Laugharne soldier's historic battle with armies of Napoleon

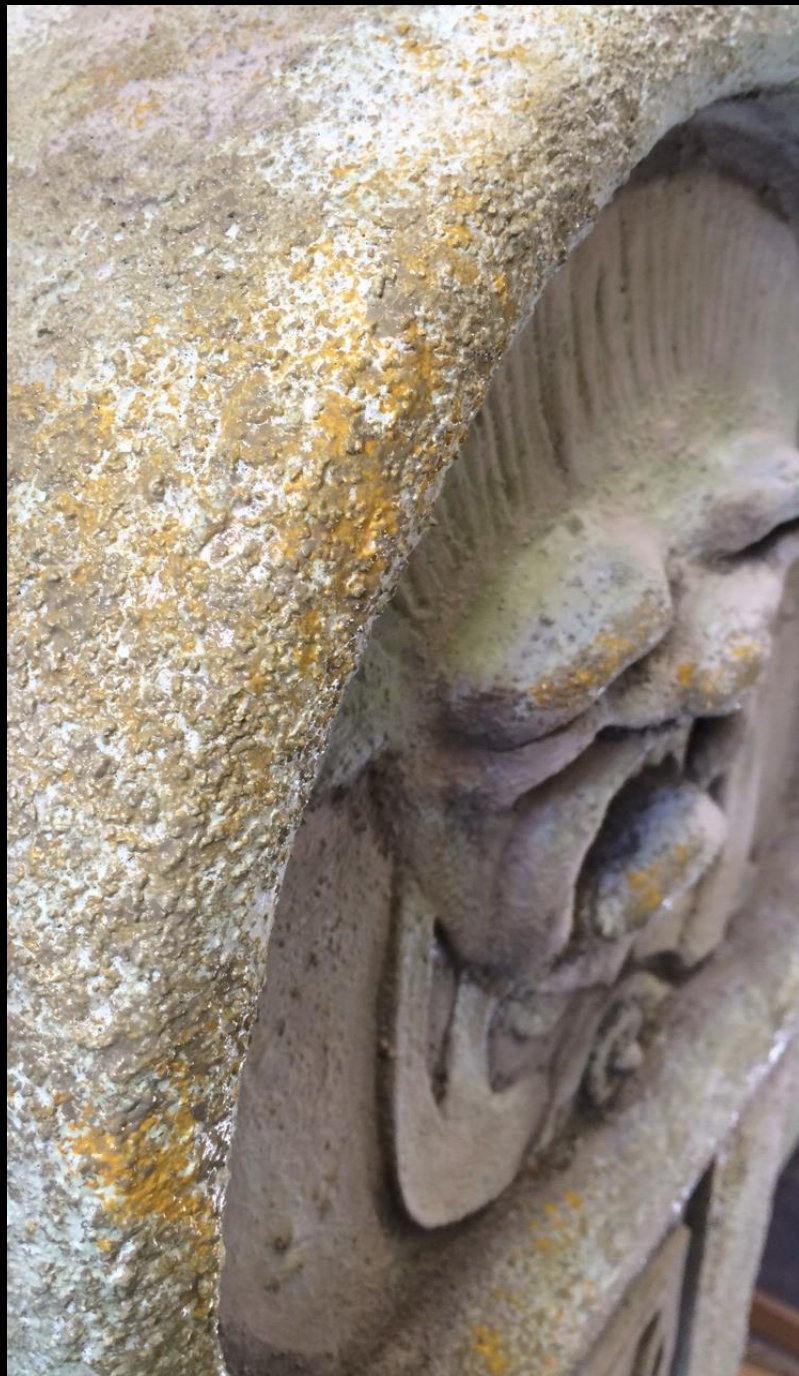
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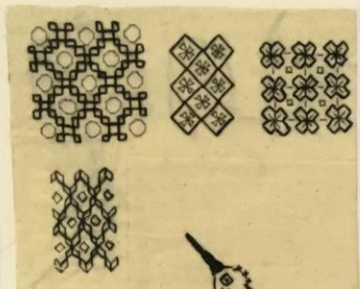
QUESTIONS?

WHAT IS A COSTUME?

- AN OUTFIT WORN TO CREATE THE APPEARANCE CHARACTERISTIC OF A PARTICULAR PERIOD, PERSON, PLACE, OR THING.
- THE COSTUME INFLUENCES THE PERFORMANCE, NOT ONLY OF THE ACTOR BUT OF THE PRODUCTION AS A WHOLE.
- THE COSTUME IS A 'VISUAL SHORTHAND', YOU SHOULD KNOW WHO THE CHARACTER IS ON THE FIRST APPEARANCE.

THE COSTUME MAKING PROCESS

- MAKING PROCESS.
- DESIGN
- *CASTING*
- MEASUREMENTS
- PATTERNS
- TOILE
- FITTING 'TOILE'
- ADJUSTED PATTERNS
- CUT OUT IN FINAL FABRIC.
- SEW TOGETHER
- FASTENINGS
- FINAL FITTING
- FINAL DECORATIONS.



COSTUME MAKING EQUIPMENT



FITTING ETTIQUETTE

WHAT'S THE POINT OF A FITTING?

- AT THE TIME OF A FITTING YOU WOULD ALREADY HAVE DONE THE RESEARCH AND THE DESIGN SKETCHES WOULD HAVE BEEN APPROVED. YOU MIGHT HAVE ALSO DONE THE FIRST 'TOILE' OF A GARMENT.
- IT'S THE FIRST TIME THAT THE ACTOR GETS A 'FEEL' FOR THE CHARACTER COMING TOGETHER.



HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF QUICK WAYS TO DENOTE CHARACTERISTICS THROUGH COSTUME:

- RICH- CLOSE FITTING CLOTHING
- POOR- LOOSELY FITTED CLOTHING
- PREGNANT/FAT- BODY PADDING, LUMPS AND BUMPS!

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE THE FITTING:

- WHERE WILL THE FITTING TAKE PLACE? (THE ROOM SHOULD BE WARM)
- DOES EVERYONE WHO MAY WANT TO ATTEND THE FITTING (OTHER DEPARTMENTS) KNOW ABOUT IT?
- DOES EVERYONE HAVE AN ESTIMATION OF THE AMOUNT OF TIME A FITTING WILL TAKE? (OFTENTIMES THEY CAN TAKE LONGER THAN AN ACTOR MIGHT EXPECT, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT EVERYONE HAS THE SAME EXPECTATIONS REGARDING TIME.)
- WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACHIEVE FROM THE FITTING?



- ARE YOU FITTING WITH A TOILE? (IF YES, DO YOU HAVE ALL OF THE COMPONENTS?)
- **THE WORD "TOILE" CAN REFER TO THE FABRIC ITSELF, A TEST GARMENT (GENERALLY) SEWN FROM THE SAME MATERIAL**
- ARE YOU FITTING WITH A HIRE GARMENT? IF YOU ARE, THIS WILL HAVE IMPLICATIONS;
- YOU CAN'T CUT THE GARMENT.
- YOU MAY HAVE TO AGREE WITH THE HIRE COMPANY IF YOU NEED TO TAKE IN/UP THE GARMENT OR ADD EMBELLISHMENT.

- DO YOU HAVE ALL OF THE EXTRA INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHARACTER THAT YOU MAY NEED?
- E.G.
- WILL THEY BE CARRYING ANY WEAPONRY?
- DOES THE CHARACTER REQUIRE A CERTAIN KIND OF PHYSICALITY AND DOES THE COSTUME HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO LIMIT THIS?
- DO THEY NEED TO BE ABLE TO MOVE EASILY?



DURING THE FITTING

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN FITTING A COSTUME OR TIPS TO MAKE THE ACTOR FEEL COMFORTABLE:

- THINK ABOUT PERSONAL SPACE, YOU SHOULD ACCOUNT FOR THE FOLLOWING:
 - - AGE
 - - GENDER
 - - MODESTY ISSUES

EQUIPMENT YOU WILL NEED:

- TAPE MEASURE
- PAPER AND PENCIL
- PINS AND SAFETY PINS
- CHALK
- CAMERA
- HAIR BOBBLES
- A CHIFFON SCARF (THIS SHOULD BE USED TO STOP MAKE-UP RUNNING ONTO THE GARMENT AT THE NECKLINE)
- A DRESSING GOWN (IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE DRESSING GOWN IS *CLEAN AND SMELLS NICE*)
- DRESS SHIELDS (FOR THE ARMPITS)
- A SMILE
- GLUE – FIXING SHOES? (BRANDS INCLUDE: 'SHOO GOO' REPAIR ADHESIVE).
- DEODORANT?

WHAT TO DO IF THE ACTOR IS UNCOMFORTABLE OR HAS AN OPINION ON THE COSTUME:



- LISTEN BEFORE JUMPING IN TO DEFEND YOUR DESIGN/COSTUME CHOICE
- - REMIND THEM THAT THE COSTUME IS WHAT THE CHARACTER WOULD WEAR (THIS IS PARTICULARLY USEFUL IF THEY SAY "I DON'T LIKE GREEN" OR "OH I REALLY LIKE HER CARDIGAN, CAN'T I HAVE THAT ONE?")
- - IF YOU NEED TO BACK UP WHAT YOU SAY WITH YOUR RESEARCH

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- ACCESSORIES BRING THE COSTUME TO COMPLETION AND CAN 'MAKE' OR 'BREAK' IT.
- IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO KNOW WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IT IS TO GET THE ACCESSORIES
- ACCESSORIES:
 - HANDBAGS
 - GLASSES
 - BRIEFCASE
 - HANDKERCHIEFS
 - BELTS AND BRACES
 - GLOVES
 - JEWELLERY
 - HATS

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS WHEN FITTING A COSTUME:

- THERE ARE A NUMBER OF SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS YOU SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT WHEN FITTING A COSTUME. SOME OF THESE ARE COMMON SENSE AND DESIGNED TO KEEP THE WORKING ENVIRONMENT CLEAN, FOR EXAMPLE NO FOOD OR DRINK SHOULD BE CONSUMED IN THE FITTING ROOM, OR WHILE THE ACTOR IS WEARING THE COSTUME.
- ADDITIONALLY YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ANY ALLERGIES THAT THE ACTORS HAVE, BELOW IS A LIST OF PRODUCTS USED IN COSTUME WHICH ARE KNOWN TO CAUSE ALLERGIC REACTIONS:
 - RUBBER
 - LATEX
 - WASHING POWDER
 - MAKE-UP
 - SOME FABRICS
 - DUST — HIRED GARMENTS
 - ETHICAL ISSUES — LEATHER, FUR, ETC.
 - RELIGIOUS ISSUES.

HOW WILL YOU BE FASTENING THE GARMENT?

- POPPERS
- HOOK AND EYES
- INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH MAGNETS (IF YOU INTEND TO USE MAGNETS YOU SHOULD FIND OUT IF ANY OF YOUR ACTORS HAVE A PACE MAKER, MAGNETS SHOULD BE KEPT AWAY FROM PACE MAKERS AS THEY CAN CAUSE THEM TO STOP WORKING.)

NEW SHOES?

- YOU CAN USE A CHEESE GRATER ON THE SOLE OF A SHOE TO ADD GRIP AND STOP ACTORS FROM SLIPPING.



THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- A FITTING HELPS TO CREATE THE CHARACTER, IT'S AN AID TO THE ACTOR.
- MEASUREMENTS LIE, ESPECIALLY WHEN GIVEN BY THE ACTOR!
- GET THE SHOES RIGHT! THIS SOUNDS SIMPLE BUT THE SHOES SHOULD BE BOTH COMFORTABLE AND SUITABLE FOR THE COSTUME DESIGN.
- MEN'S MEASUREMENTS, THE WAIST IS NOT WEAR THE ACTORS TROUSERS ARE WORN. THE WAIST IS AROUND BELLY BUTTON HEIGHT!

Costume Measurement Form

- Tips:
- Use a long cloth tape measure.
 - Encourage actor to wear closely fitted clothing; jeans, for example, will add to a waist measurement. Take off additional bulky clothing.
 - When taking measurements from a group of actors, ensure that the same person measures each one to ensure accuracy.
 - We generally measure in inches unless cms are specifically required.
 - Measurements and fittings can be sensitive for some so encourage others to wait outside.

Production:
Name of Actor and Character:
Allergies:
Who took measurements?:

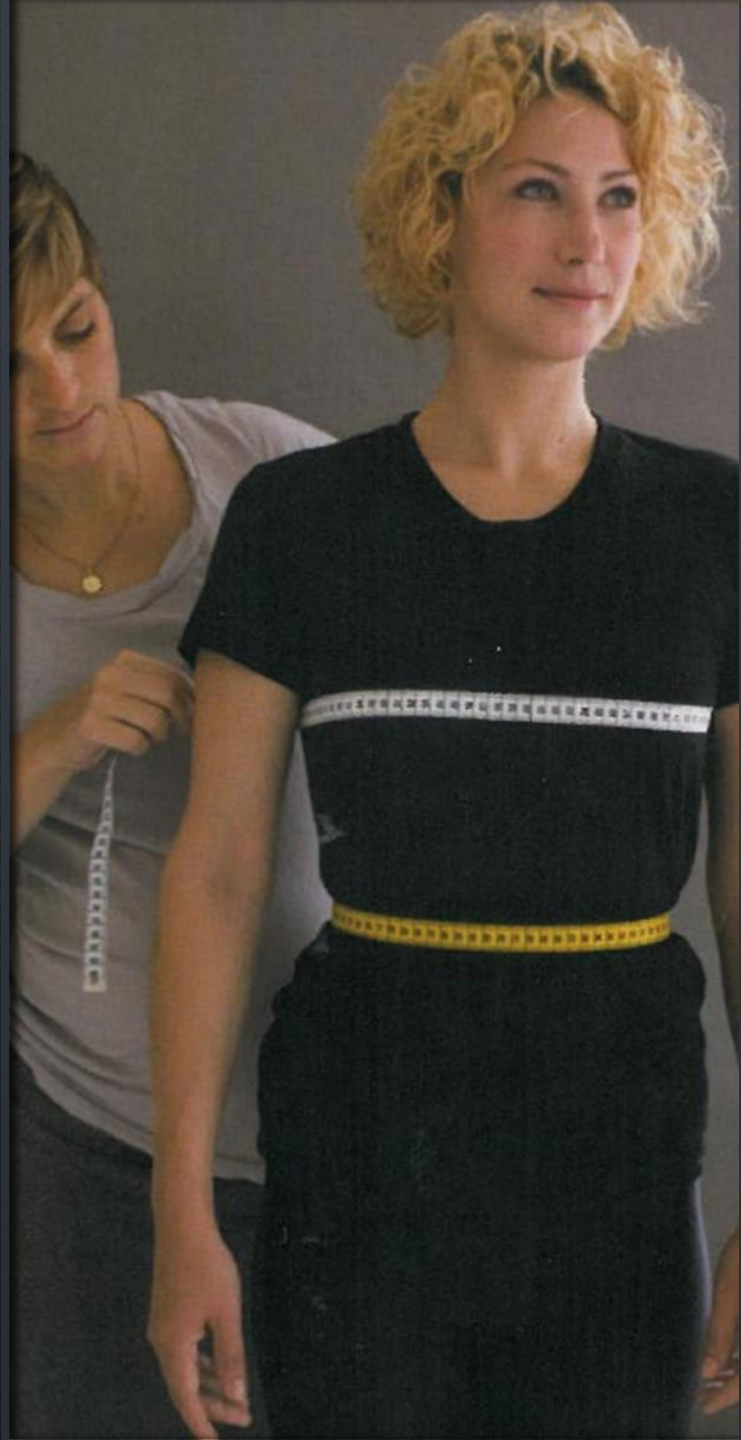
Head:	Nape to waist:	
Neck (upper):	Nape to ground:	
Neck (lower):	Back width:	
Bust/Chest:	Across back:	
Across front:	Shoulder:	
Waist (natural):	Shoulder to elbow:	
Waist (modern):	Shoulder to wrist:	
Hips:	Armscye circumference/length: (Arm-hole)	
	Armscye depth: (Nape to paper trick)	
	Upper arm circumference:	
Waist to knee:	Elbow circumference:	
Waist to ankle:	Forearm circumference:	
Waist to floor:	Wrist circumference:	
Inseam (inner leg):		
	Shoes size:	
Thigh circumference:	Bought clothes size top:	
Knee circumference:	Bought clothes size bottoms:	Leg: Waist:
Ankle circumference:	Bra Size:	

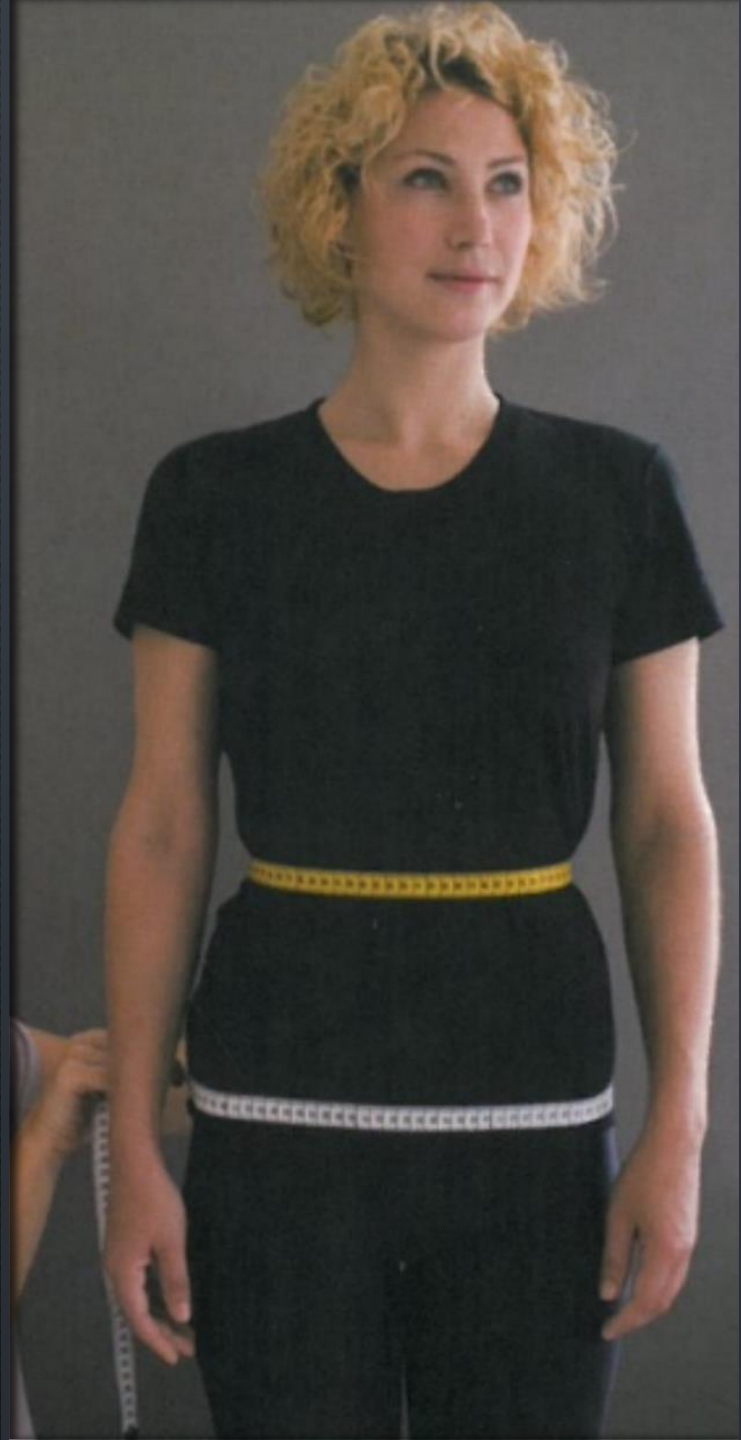
Measurement taking, pattern drafting and basic garment construction techniques

- Taking measurements:
 - Tie cotton tape around the actors waist. You will use this as a guide for most of your measurements.
 - Measure actor in cms (you can convert this into inches at a later date if a pattern requires it).
 - Write all details possible on measuring chart.
 - Name
 - Allergies (washing powders, make-up, fabrics like wool?, spirit gum, etc).
 - Shoe size
 - Bought clothing sizes (Men-trouser waist and leg size, collar size. Women-bra size, top dress size, bottom dress size.)
 - Head, glove.

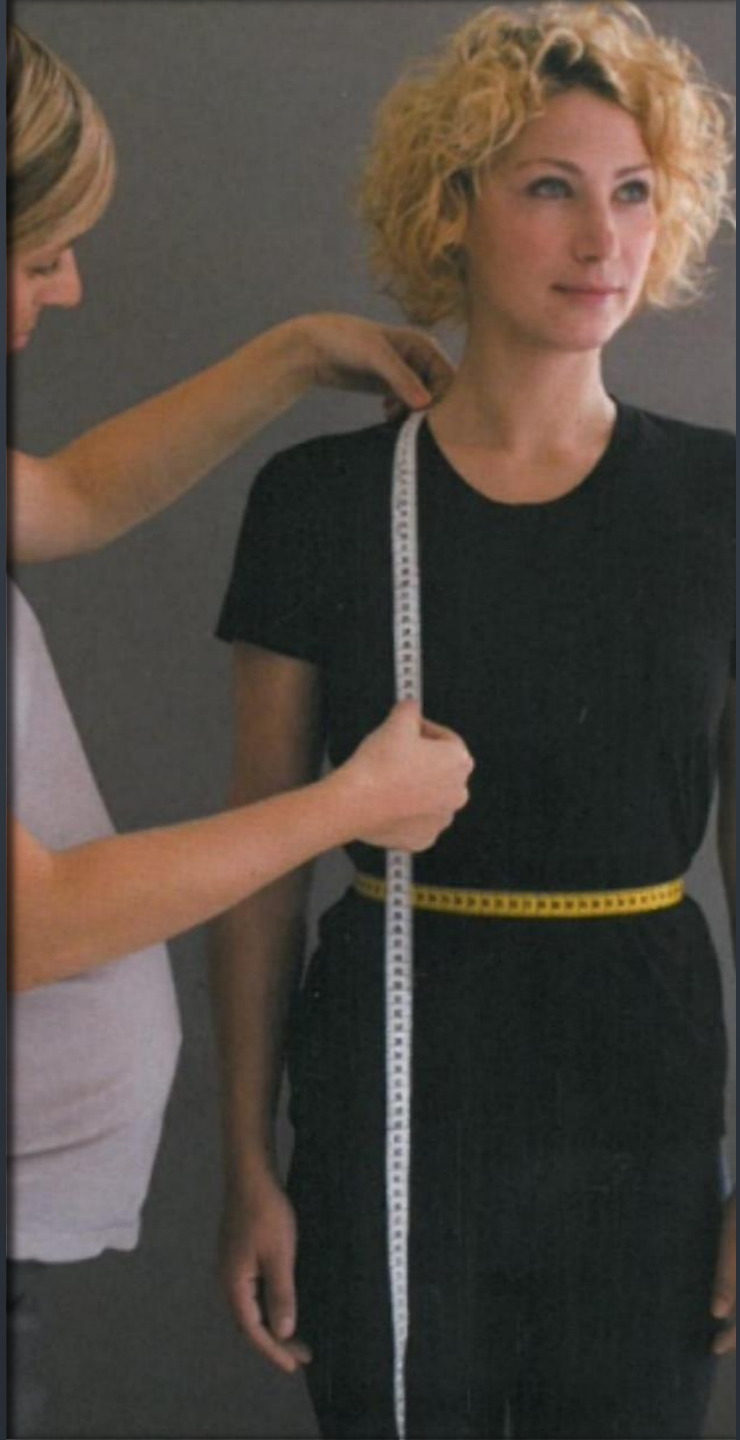
**Measure in 3's - one writing, one measuring, one being measured.
Then swap.**







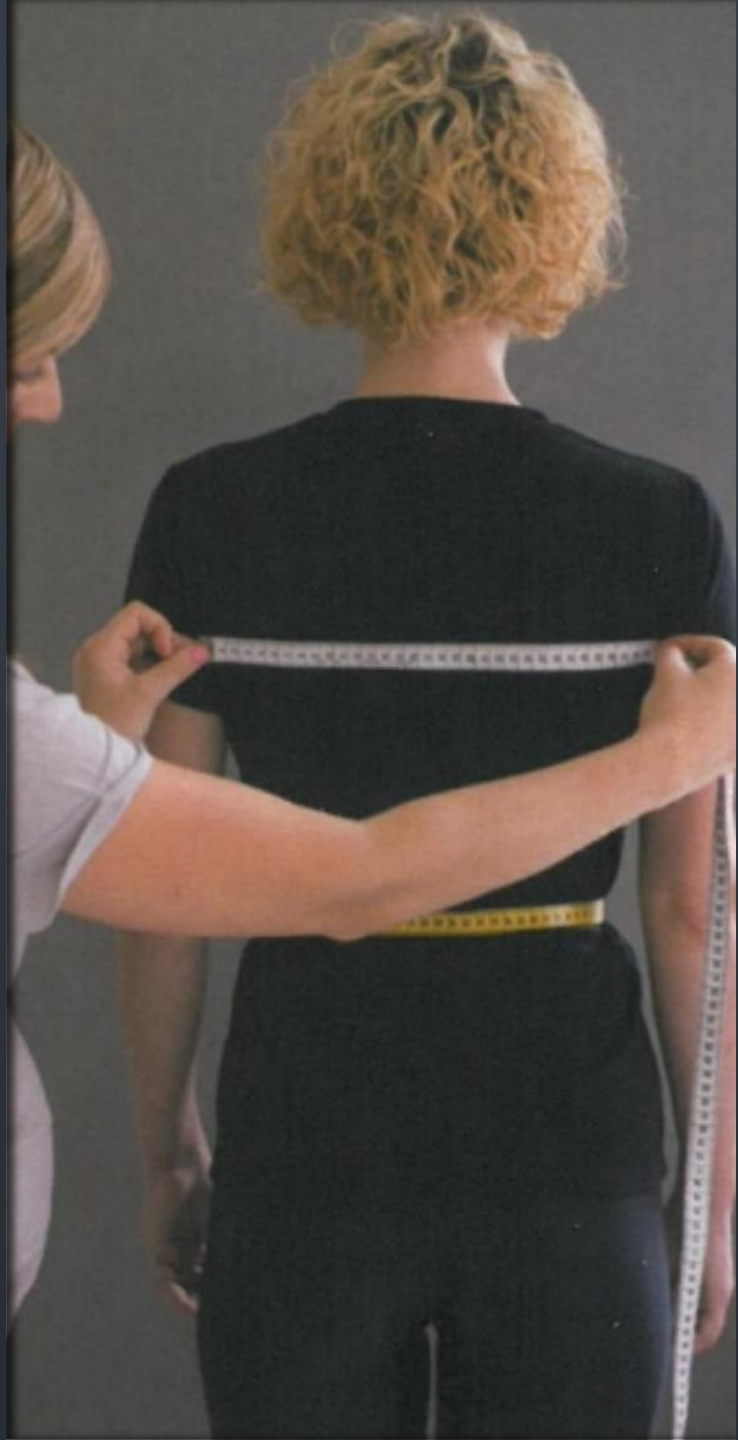


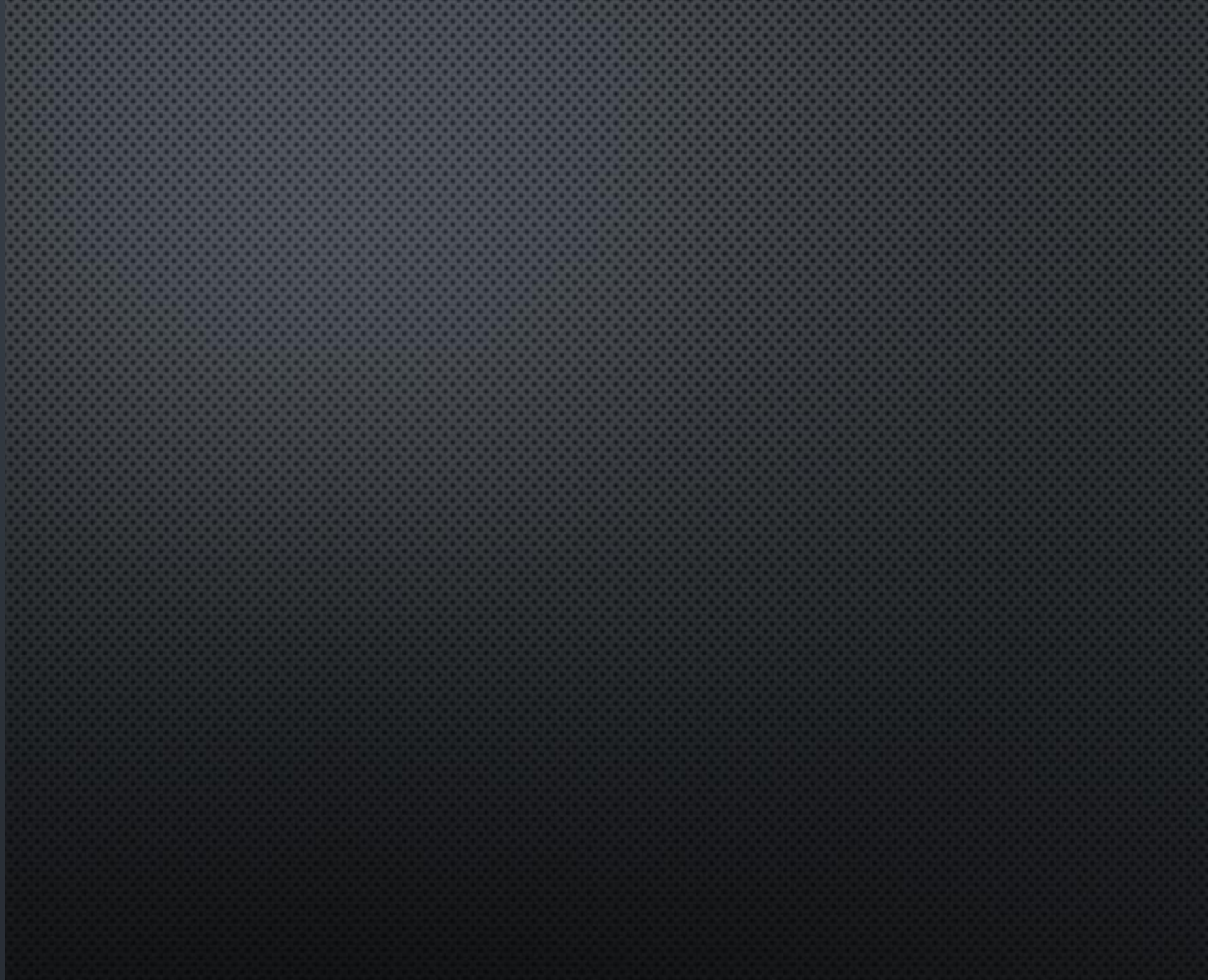
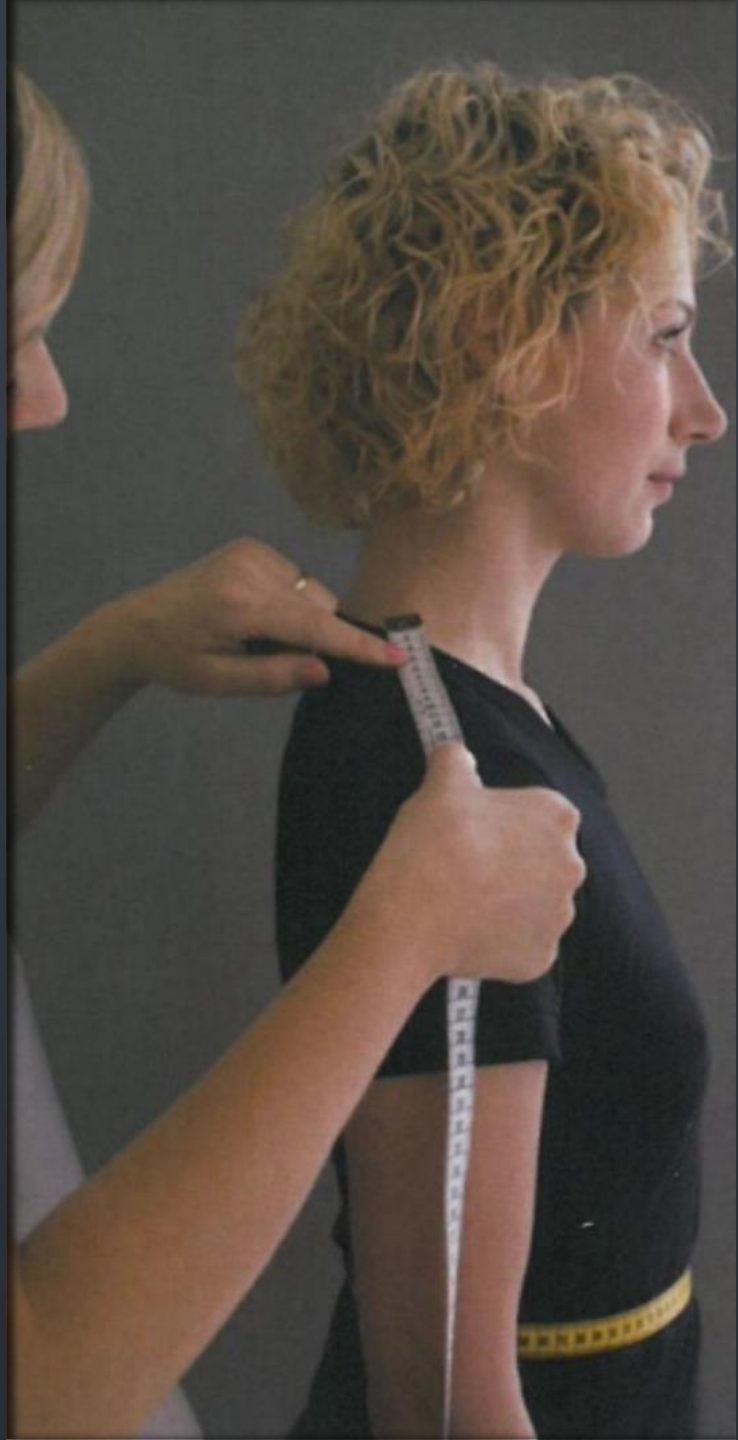








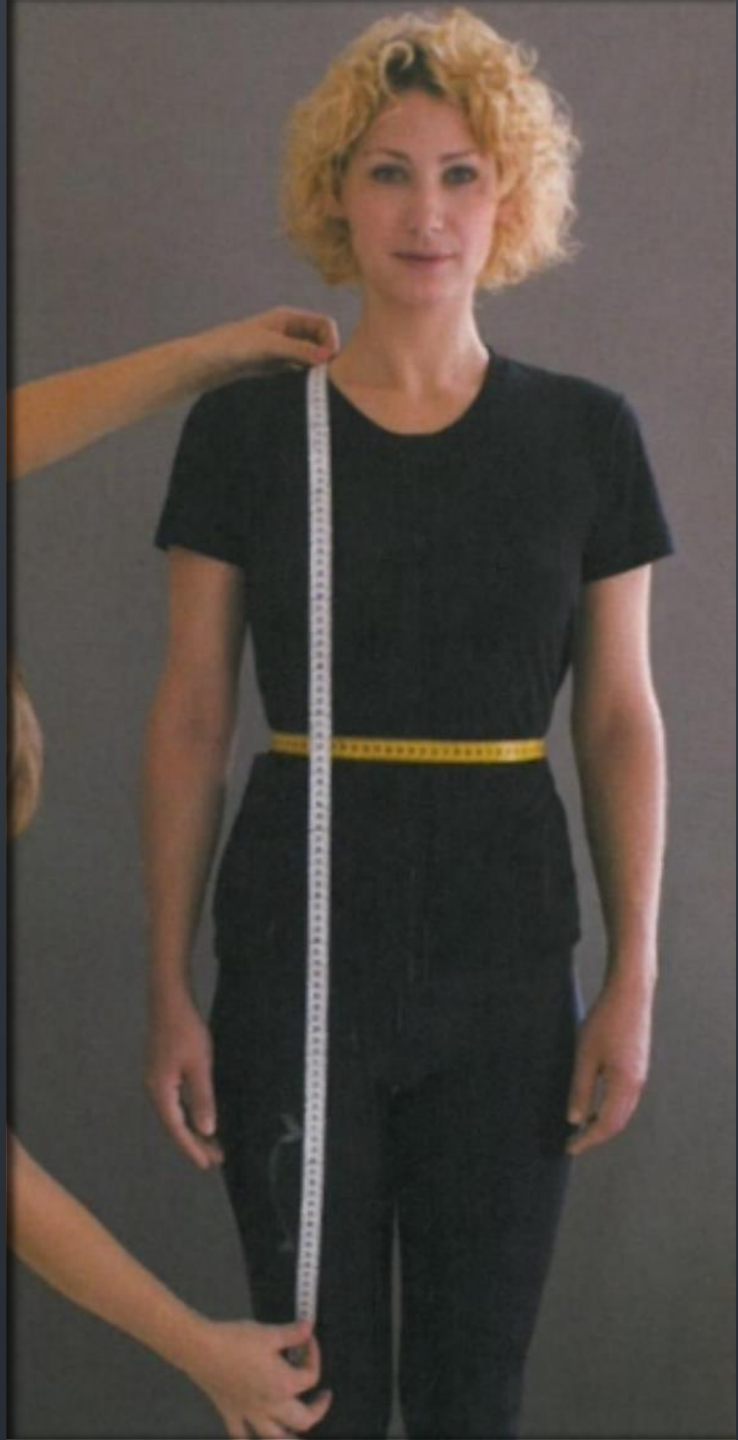












STUDY TASK

- RESEARCH ROLES WITHIN THE COSTUME DEPARTMENT AND DOCUMENT HOW THEY DIFFER IN THEATRE, FILM & TV SETTINGS.

ANY QUESTIONS?