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Everyone: Costumes, Hair, and Makeup: Minerva Teichert Award Winner 2021

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EVERYONE: Costumes, Hair, and Makeup

Minerva Teichert Award Winner 2021

EVERYONE WAS A VIRTUAL ZOOM PRODUCTION WITH an all-female cast that played live on March 11–13th, 2021, produced by the Brigham Young University theater department and directed by Megan Sanborn Jones. Due to COVID restrictions and precautions, none of the cast or crew met in person at all throughout the process of creating this piece. Penned by Ty Hawton, “Everyone” is an adaptation of the sixteenth century morality play entitled “Everyman.” The show follows Everyone on her journey to death. In the story, Messenger sends Death down to earth to call Everyone to her reckoning. Everyone is unprepared and goes on a search for someone who will vouch for her at the final judgment. She calls on Friend, Cousin, Kin, and Riches, but none will come with her on her journey. Knowledge introduces her to Charity, and after giving away all her worldly wealth, Everyone is joined by Senses, Beauty, Strength, and Wit, who promise to go with her as far as they are able. They each fall away before the end of the journey, and in the end, the only one she needs beside her is Charity.

Costuming “Everyone”

This show was a challenge to design not only because it was entirely virtual, which is a newly emerging field due to the recent pandemic, but also because all of the characters are archetypal manifestations. The director wanted to stay away from stereotypes in our portrayals, and as a team we chose very specific personalities to fit each archetype. For example, Senses, Beauty, Strength, and Wit represented the four stages of life for women: childhood, young adult, motherhood, and old age. Senses was a little girl, innocent and playful. Beauty was inspired by the natural beauty of the

earth- flowers, trees, rivers, etc. Strength was a new mother, complete with a messy bun and a newborn wrapped close to her chest. Wit was a loving grandmother, eager to bake cookies and comfort those around her. The four actresses who played Friend, Cousin, Kin, and Riches also played Senses, Beauty, Strength, and Wit, which added another element of difficulty. Due to the virtual nature of the show, each actress had to learn how to do her own makeup, put on her own wig(s), take her own measurements and do her own costume fitting, plus do all her costume changes alone. The nine actresses had twenty-two different costumes during this short, 45-minute production.

Makeup

There is nothing simple about doing makeup for a Zoom production. It is a new medium that combines techniques from both stage and film in a unique way. Basically, the actresses use a ring light and a green screen to allow for more digital effects. The light washes out skin entirely, turning the actress a glowing, ghostly shade of white. Dark features pop, but even the darkest blush is difficult to detect. As a result, the actresses had to brush contouring powder over every inch of skin that would be seen—face, neck, ears, even hands—in order to show up at all on camera. In person they looked ridiculous, but on the Zoom screen they looked just right.

Designing Messenger

Messenger is an ethereal being, dressed in a flowy white blouse with a white pearl headband. Her makeup is stylized, with white dots above her perfect eyebrows, white eyeliner to help her eyes pop, and white glitter across her cheekbones, forehead, and lips. As the designer, I decided to test this look out on myself before teaching it to the actress. I tried white swirls along the sides of my face, which we soon realized would never be seen, as the actress faced forward the entire time. The initial test run allowed me to make changes that would make it easier for the actress to copy the look.

Designing Death

Death's makeup needed to be feminine and creepy, but not scary. It also had to be simple enough to teach virtually. When I tried the look on myself, I used black eyeshadow to create a skull-like appearance, white face paint to create teeth, and black glitter on my cheekbones. The

smokey eyeshadow and false lashes made the look distinctly feminine. As we entered tech rehearsals and the lighting became more stable, we realized that the dark shadows were popping too much. Blending them out a bit more helped create the look we wanted.



PowerPoint slide depicting the “Death” character makeup.

Costumes

Costuming a Zoom show is a unique challenge because you have to fit an entire character’s look into a very small amount of space. As the actresses are only seen from the chest up, you basically get to work with a neckline and some jewelry. Additionally, each character had to be recognizable, distinct, and different from the actresses’ previous look. This meant searching for a variety of necklines, colors, and accessories that would suit each unique character in the production and finding a way for them to work together harmoniously.

Designing Everyone

As the main character in this story, Everyone needed an iconic look that was both universal and timeless, but also fit her trope as a wealthy young business woman. After many ideas were exchanged, the director and I settled on a gorgeous blue velvet jacket, white button-up blouse, and shiny bustier, combined with a fabulous multi-strand necklace and large matching earrings. Unfortunately, we discovered in the process that the bustier couldn’t be seen at all in our Zoom-square limitations, and it had to be cut from the final look.

Designing Cousin and Strength

It was a challenge to come up with a look for each individual character that would be simple enough for the actress to transition to in just a few minutes, but that also looked markedly different from each other. Cousin was an annoying, busy-body aunt, complete with a red beehive wig, cat-eye glasses, and a neck scarf. Hannah, our actress, had her long hair in braids so that the wig would sit right. She transitioned to Strength by quickly taking off the wig, taking the braids out, and throwing her hair into a classic messy bun.

Designing Riches and Wit

Riches was my favorite character to design. She wore 8 different necklaces, 8 different rings, a fascinator hair clip, and large earrings in addition to her sparkly tank and gold jacket. The tank we ordered for her turned out to be too big and had to have the shoulders pinned up, whereas the jacket was far too small and wouldn't fit over her arms. Without time to order replacements, we had to make do. Thankfully, the jacket sat perfectly over her shoulders and looked even better than it would have over her arms. Elizabeth, our actress, had quite the challenge in removing all those pieces to transition to Wit, for whom she wore a wig, but with practice she was able to nail that difficult costume change.”



PowerPoint slide depicting the character design for “Riches” and “Wit.”

Want to see more of Karaleigh's makeup work?
View the full PowerPoint:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1fh_y11d-n1fHW7yMKb7WDT61Z-kF_dkrg/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=116175919524134593168&rtfpof=true&sd=true

