4-2013

Designing Costumes for The King Stag

Sarah Hanson

Designing Costumes for *The King Stag*

Sarah Hanson
Advisor: Siobhan Bremer
Theatre Arts

My research comes from three places: Commedia dell' Arte style theatre, medieval period clothing, and current children's movies. The costumes for the University of Minnesota, Morris spring children's show *The King Stag* are unique and imaginative in order to ensure that the show is as magical as possible for the children who attend. This show is a fairy tale about King Seren searching for a Queen who really loves him. When King Seren finds his love, the jealous Prime Minister casts a spell turning King Seren into a stag and himself into the king. Chaos breaks out in the kingdom but eventually everything is sorted out. The original intent of this script was to be performed in the Commedia dell' Arte style, which originated in Italy in the 16th century and was characterized by masked "types," but our pre-production discussions at UMM led us to a less traditional approach. The director of *The King Stag* liked the look of movies with three-dimensional animations made by companies such as Pixar or DreamWorks, so much of my inspiration designing these costumes comes from *Brave* and *Shrek*, as well as other classic Disney movies such as *Snow White*. The style of these costumes loosely reflects the setting in medieval England, but the costumes also include unexpected elements to add to the spectacle. My designs reflect elements from a combination of all these areas.

King Seren

A Medieval King Halloween costume
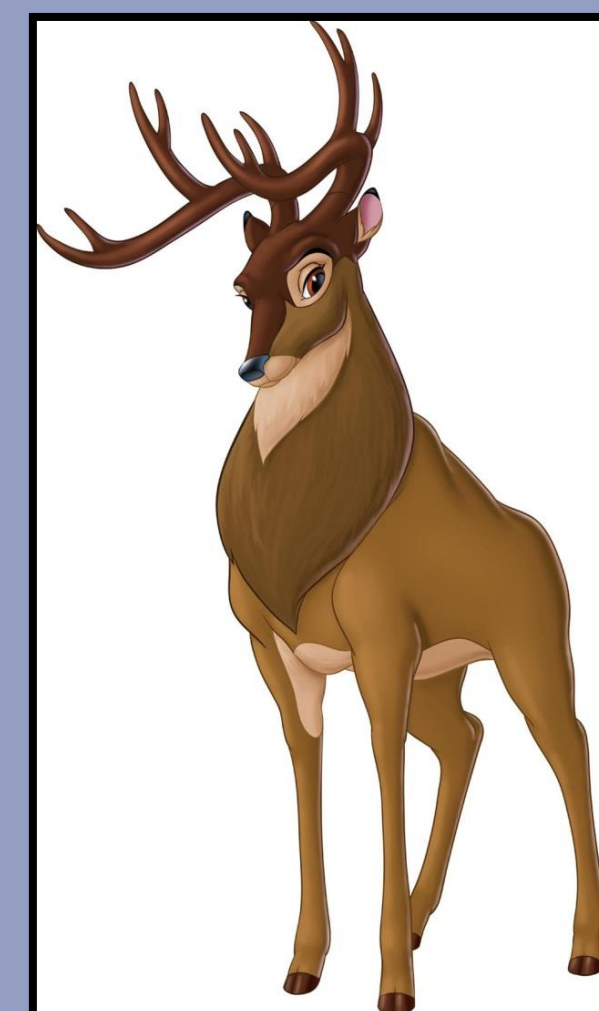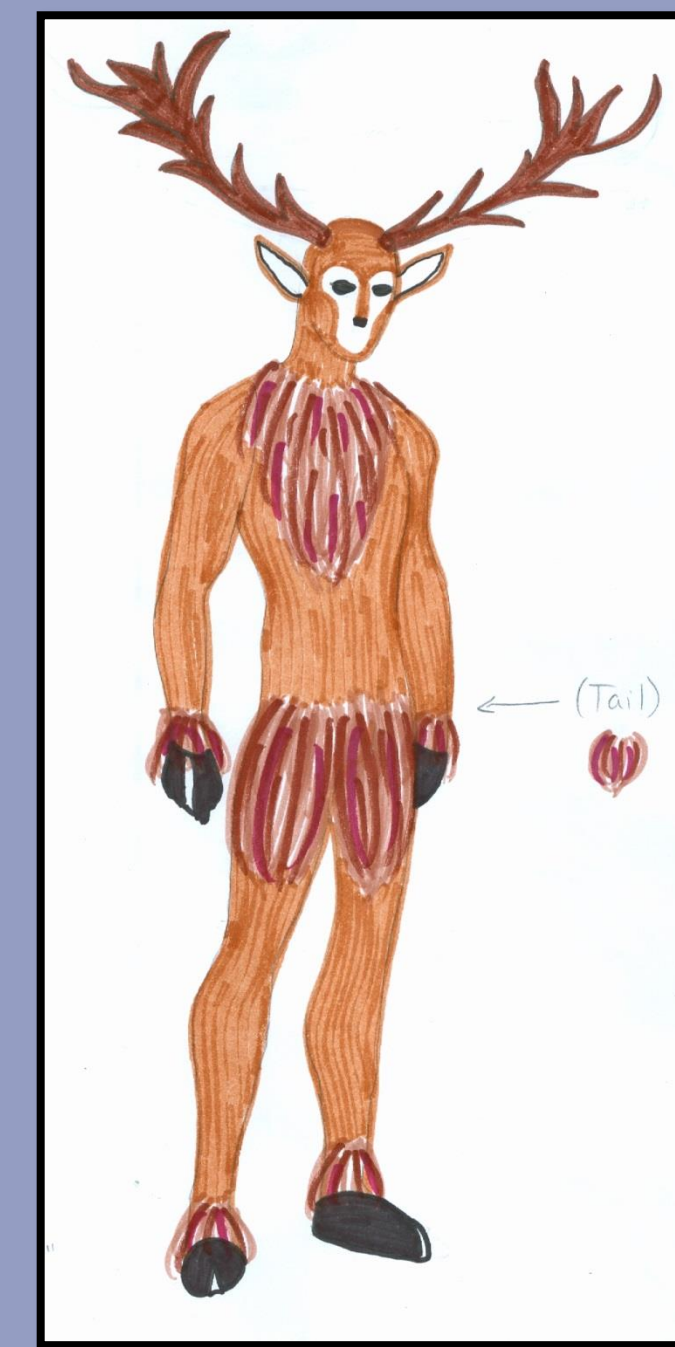http://www.halloweencostumes.com/noble-king-costume.html

Rendering

Completed Costume

Stags

The Great Prince, from Disney's *Bambi*
http://disney.wikia.com/wiki/The_Great_Prince_of_the_Forest
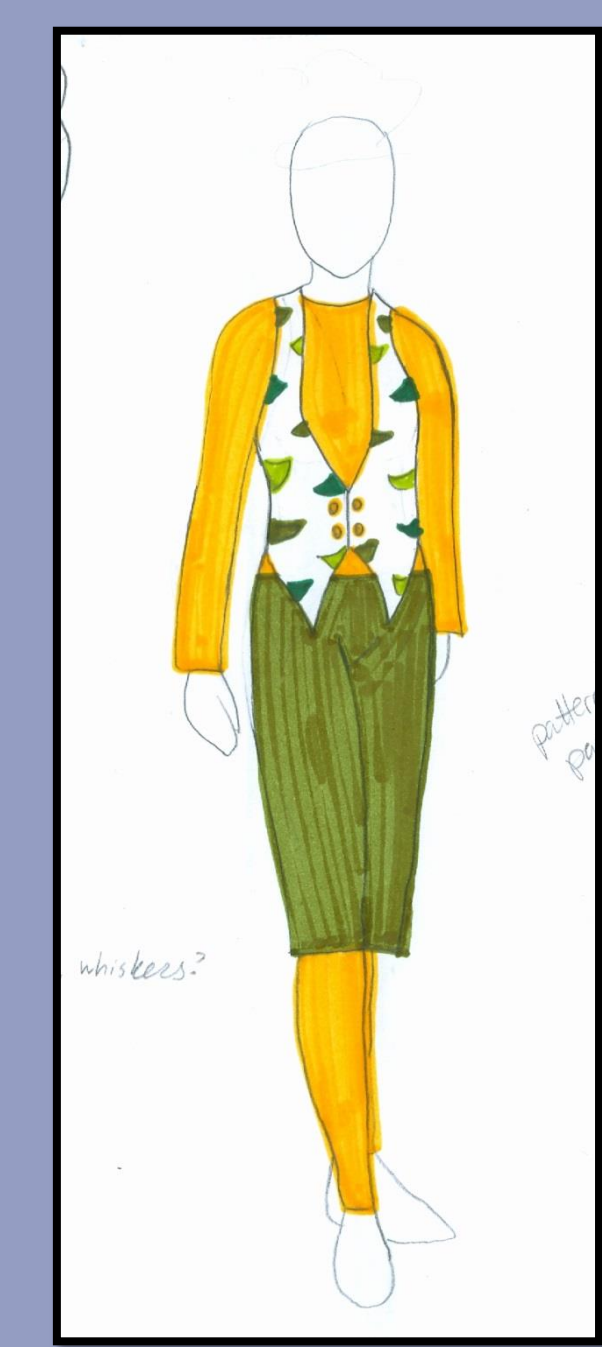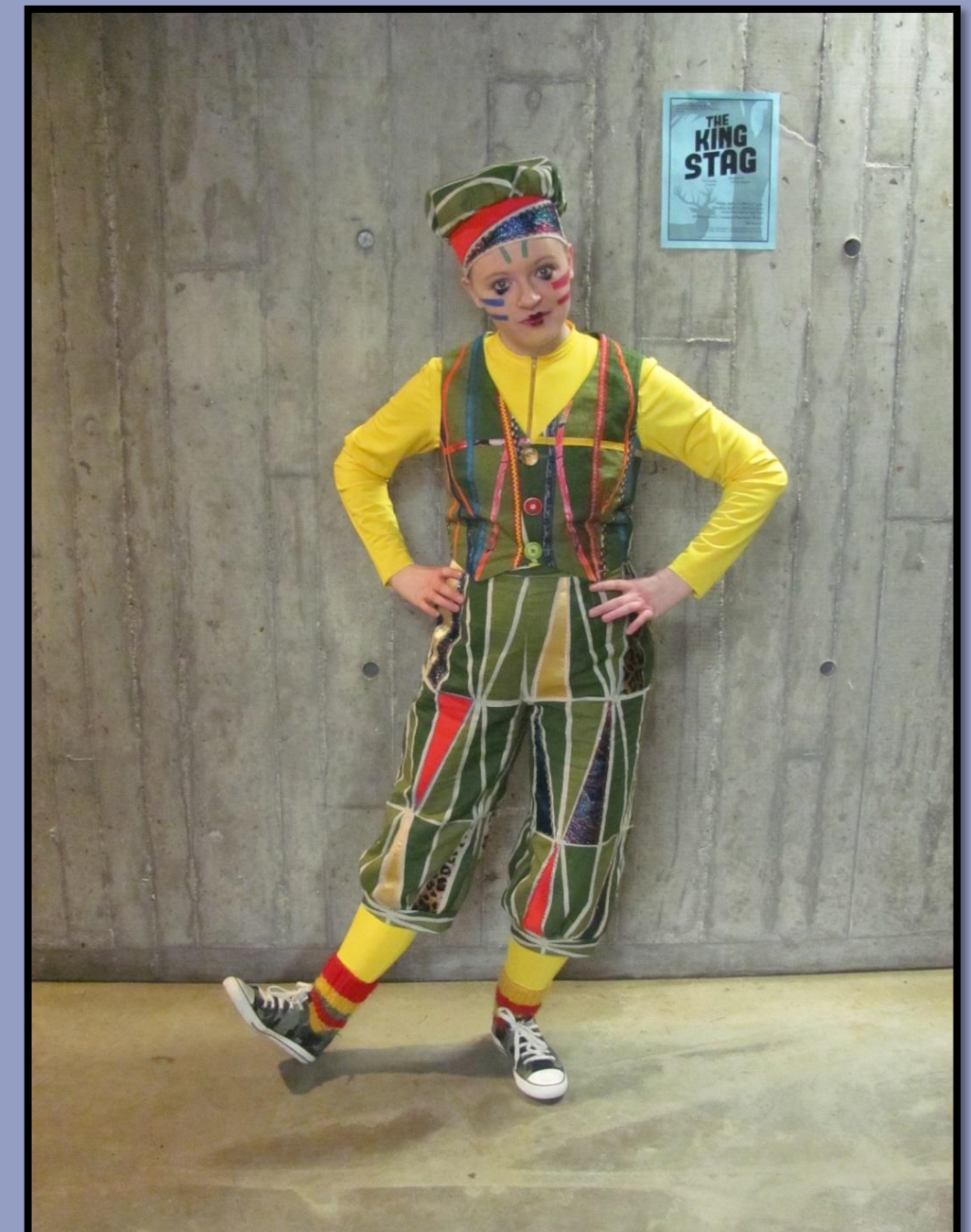
Rendering

Completed Costume

Truffles

Harlequin, the servant and trickster in Commedia dell' Arte
http://manmonster.centerblog.net/rub-antiquite-la-commedia-de-larte--3.html

Rendering

Completed Costume

Periglio

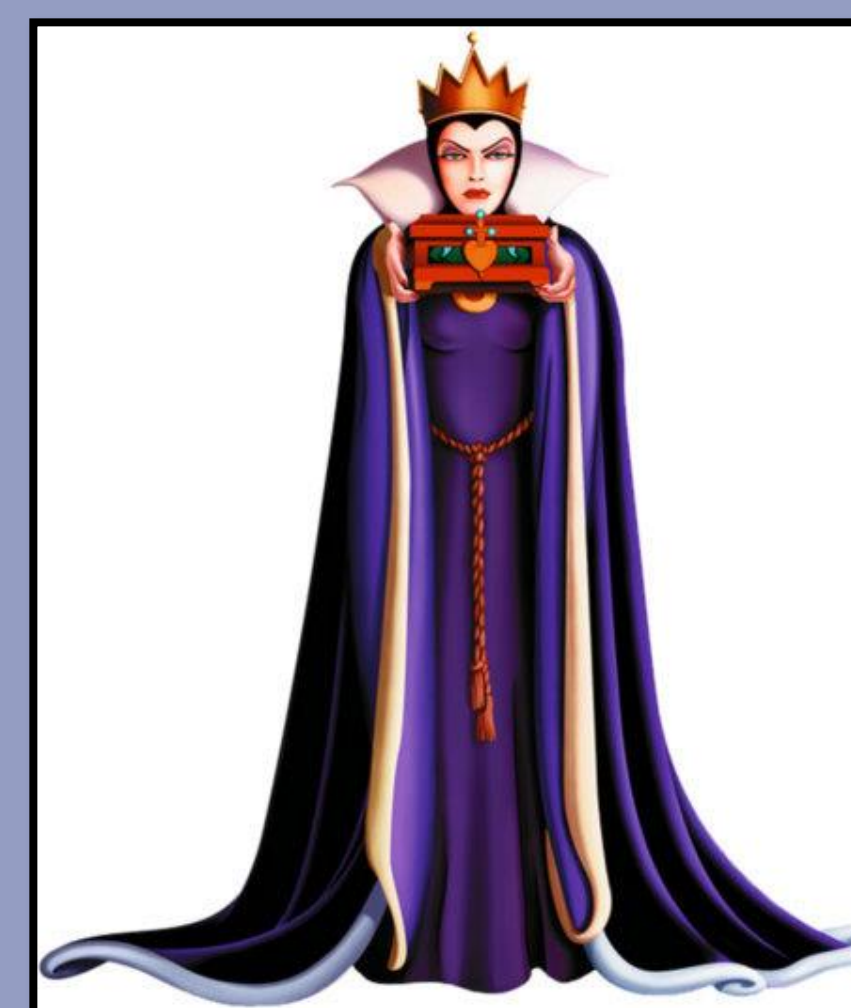Jafar, from Disney's *Aladdin*
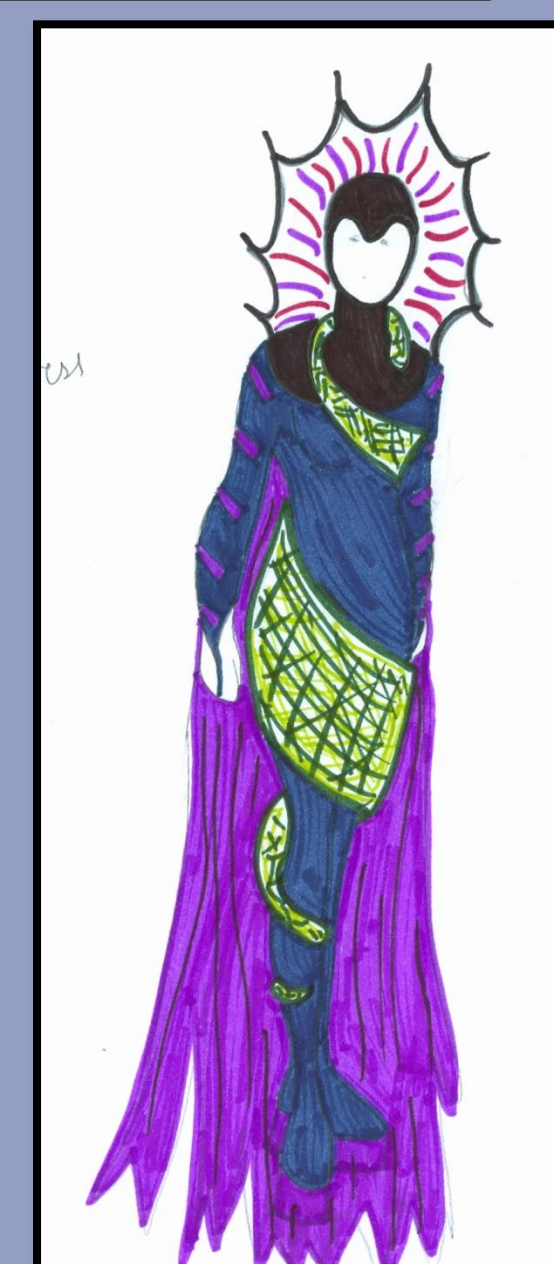http://disney.wikia.com/wiki/Jafar

Rendering

Completed Costume

Mistress of Shadows

The Evil Queen, from Disney's *Snow White*
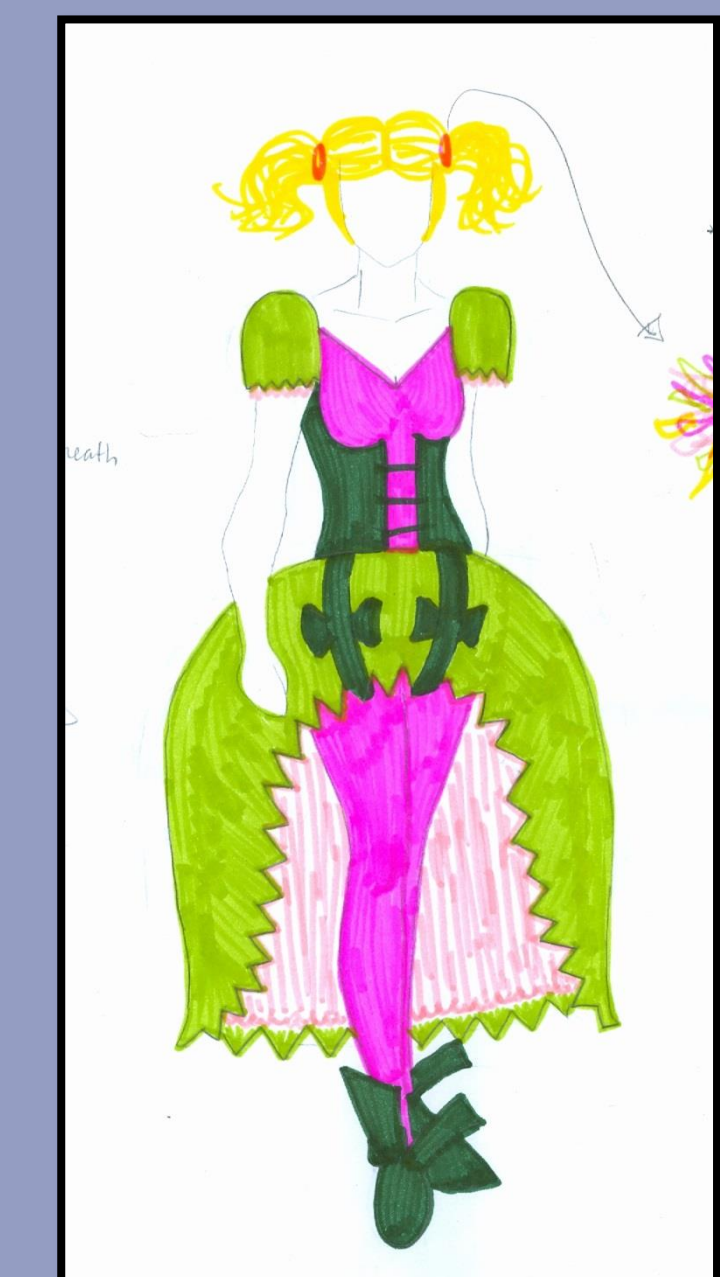http://disney.wikia.com/wiki/The_Evil_Queen

Rendering

Completed Costume

Emmi

Colombina, a comic servant in Commedia dell' Arte
http://www.clubantiquari.org/maschere/arlecchina.htm

Rendering

Completed Costume

Larissa

Jasmine, from Disney's *Aladdin*
http://disney.wikia.com/wiki/Princess_Jasmine

Rendering

Completed Costume
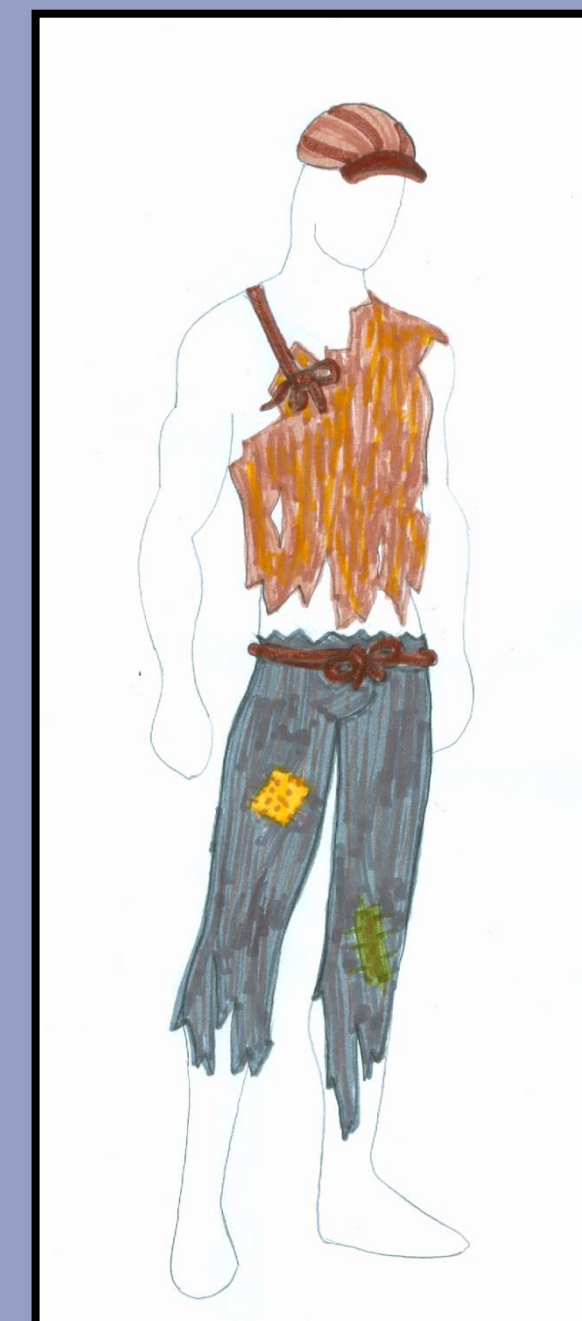
Old Man

Medieval Peasant
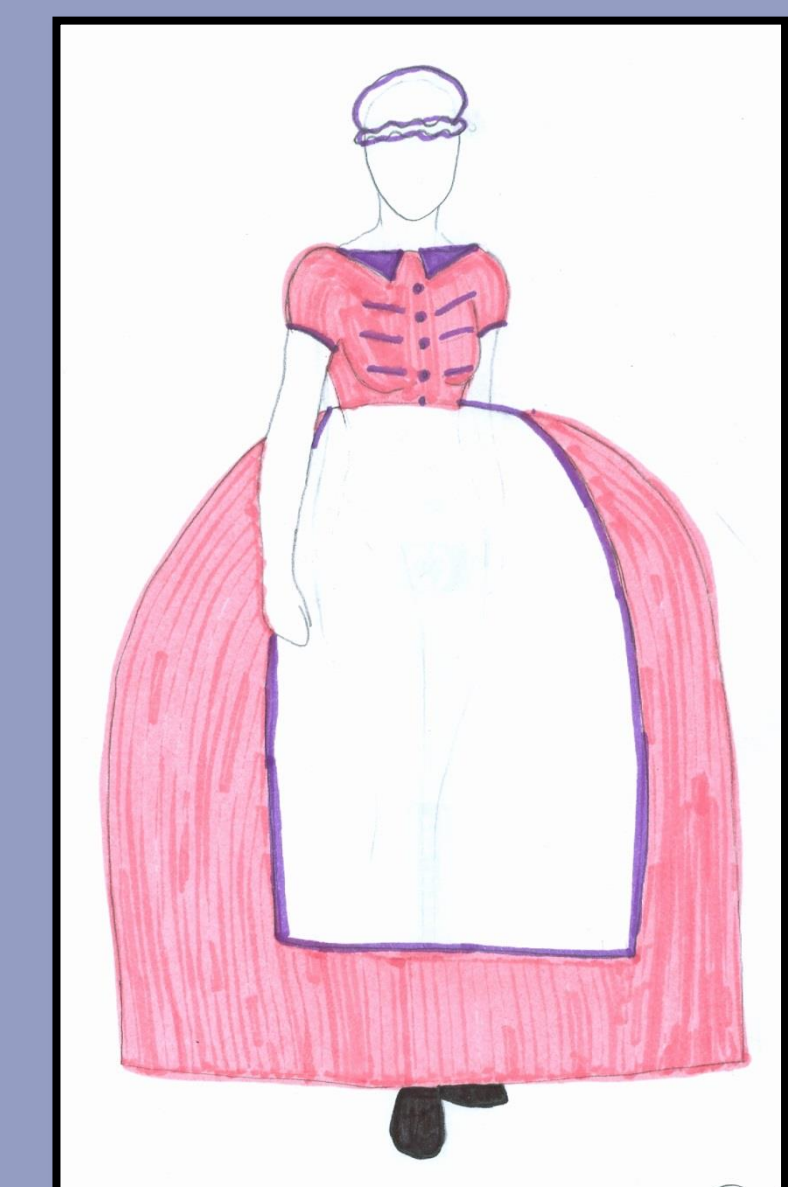http://karenswhimsy.com/medieval-clothing.shtm

Rendering

Completed Costume

Briggi

Brighella, the best of off the servants in Commedia dell' Arte
http://renaissance.mrugala.net/page_01.htm

Rendering

Completed Costume

Thank you to Liz Spohr, Rose Peterson, and the UMM costume shop staff for making these designs a reality!