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### Shakespeare's fairies set in 1950

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## Shakespeare's fairies set in 1950

In costume design, sketching and rendering is part of the process to create characters. In order for audiences see and feel the character come alive through the actor, the costume must be made with craftsmanship and attention to detail. When the concept statement for a production of the play *A Midsummer Night's Dream is* set in the 1950s, the costumes must reflect the themes in that time period.

The purpose of this project is to develop a character concept for three fairies in this play with the theme set in 1950. Through historical research, a selection of visual images are created by using a sense of feeling, such as aroma, texture, color, line and shape, in order to discover the essence of these three fairies. The costume for the queen of the fairies, Titania is inspired by Rosa Parks, who refused to give up her seat on the bus in 1955; The Fedora hat was a popular menswear in the 1950 fashion, so the king of the fairies, Oberon, is a golden scarecrow wearing a Fedora hat with a raven feather on it to represent intelligence, and this scarecrow image represents the field as a provider; and the Baby Boom (1946-1964) is the theme used for Puck. The innovation in this design is to make Titania's costume in the modern period, Oberon's costume by using some actual hay and to paint it with gold paint. Puck's costume is based on the social security card color. Adopting the modern look and real life topics to the fairies will encourage younger audiences to connect and appreciate classical literature.

Rita Sam-Venn