



Pamela Workman—Costume Designer for “The Wizard of Oz”

What do you consider to be this production’s biggest challenge?

Our biggest challenge is the size of the cast. We are typically out of dressing room space for the Fall Musical. Now we have added 9 children to cast who need their own dressing room space. We are utilizing another building on campus to create room. With a show this size we are looking at 118 individual costumes with each costume having about 4-5 pieces. So an approximate total of 600 individual pieces to acquire and track.

What about this production excites you the most?

I am most excited to see the end result of this unique collaboration. We are mixing a variety of effects in this production. I am working with an excellent Wig Designer and Makeup Designer. Alyssa and Hannah come into this production with lots of energy and original ideas.

Which costume did you have the most fun with?

I had the most fun with Glinda or maybe Wicked or possibly the Trio or the Monkeys. Glinda’s dress was fun, trying to find ways to nod to the original but keep my own aesthetic. We also used a dye technique with ice. A slow process because of literally waiting for ice to melt, but so very worth it. The Wicked Witch has a fantastic 3 tiered collar that I am ALL about. Emily, the actress, is also phenomenal in that she really gets into the costumes. She works them into her character instead of just wearing them. The Trio had their own set of fun quirks. Tin Man needs to smoke, Lion has a mane, and Scarecrow needs to be able to move real well. As to the Monkeys.....well, who doesn't want to see a Monkey in a Utilikilt?

How much of a role did the 1939 film play in inspiring your designs? What inspired you the most?

I nod to the film but do not take from it. The number one request that Jim and Heidi had was we not recreate the film. My research does not look at previous designs. I know the audience would expect Dorothy in gingham. But the size of the checkers and the style of dress is still up to me to decide. I am inspired by Lolita fashion for Dorothy and have chosen to use a large scale gingham. As a designer, it is not my job to recreate someone else's work. My job is to give our production what it needs to successfully tell our story.