The Purpose of Costume

- ❖ Inform the audience about the characters
- ❖ Reflect the action on stage.
- ❖ Give information about the time period.
- ❖ Emphasise meaning.

Things for a designer to consider:

- ✓ Material – What is the particular item made out of? Does it reflect the character and their status?
- ✓ Size – Does the costume fit? What size is the actor? Does the size reflect the circumstances of the character?
- ✓ Fit – Does the item fit appropriately? Will it interfere with the performance? Does the fit reflect character?
- ✓ Shape – Does the shape of the item reflect the fashions of the time period?
- ✓ Accessories – handbags, hair accessories, jewellery, belts etc.
- ✓ Hair and Make-up – How are they styled? What do they say about that character at that moment? Wigs?
- ✓ Colour – Do the colours work for the time period, character and style of piece?
- ✓ Colour Symbolism – How do the colours reflect the character's personality or emotions or the play itself?
- ✓ Condition – Are the clothes dirty? Holey? Pristine? Wrinkled?
- ✓ Texture – What can be seen by the audience? Do the textures work? Do they hinder the performers?
- ✓ Actor comfort – Can the actor perform their role effectively?
- ✓ Script requirements and character personality – Does the script name any specific items needed?
- ✓ Time period and context – Does the costume reflect the time period and context of the piece?
- ✓ Location – Is the scene outside? Does the performer need a coat? Is it in a school?
- ✓ Realistic or stylised? – What is the style of the piece? Does the costume support this?