

Running Costumes

The show must go on.

Doing a show

The designs are done, the costumes are built and the show is in tech. What happens now? There are a few jobs to do here:

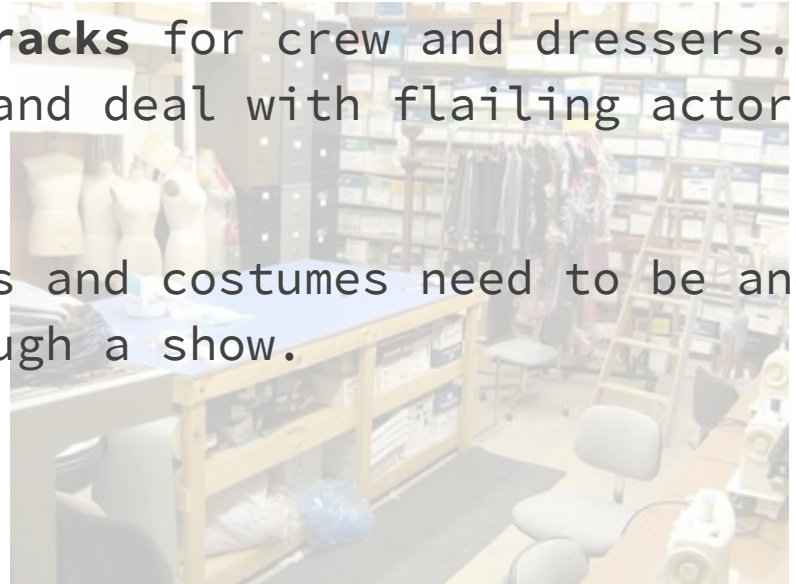
Wardrobe Supervisor, Wardrobe Crew, Dresser.

Each of these positions run the costume side of the show and have specific tasks. Just like every job in theatre, from show to show, these jobs may be rearranged, combined or just plain not exist.

Wardrobe Supervisor

A Wardrobe Supervisor is the person in charge of costumes backstage. They make sure all the costumes are maintained and repaired, they create the **tracks** for crew and dressers. Knowing how to sew, run a crew and deal with flailing actors is needed for this position.

Tracks: a list of where dressers and costumes need to be and what to do chronologically through a show.



A Sample Track

Act 1:

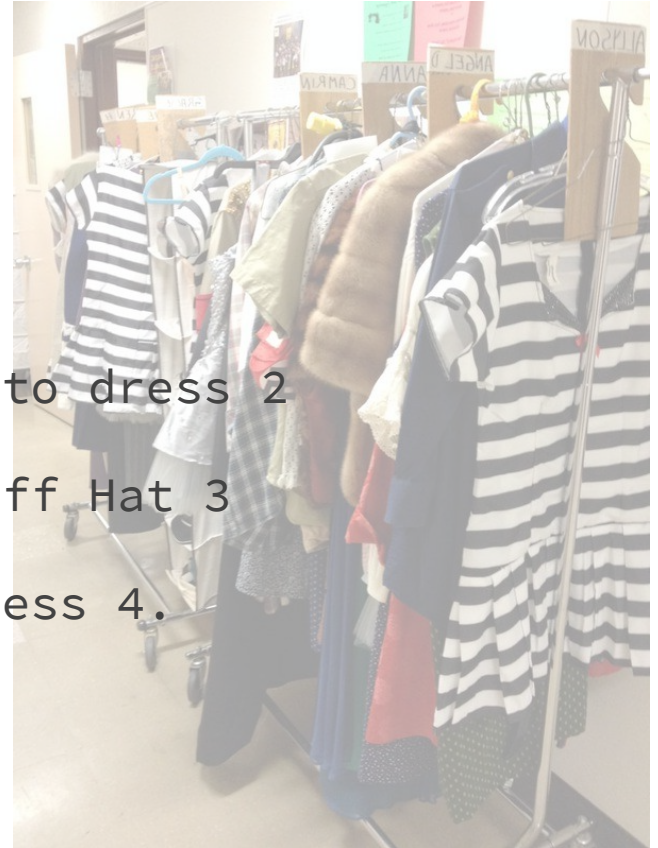
3 minutes: Actor X CSR. Quick change into dress 2

4 Minutes: Actor Y USR. Ready to hand off Hat 3

15 Minutes: Actor X DSL. Change into dress 4.

Act 2:

Etc, Etc.



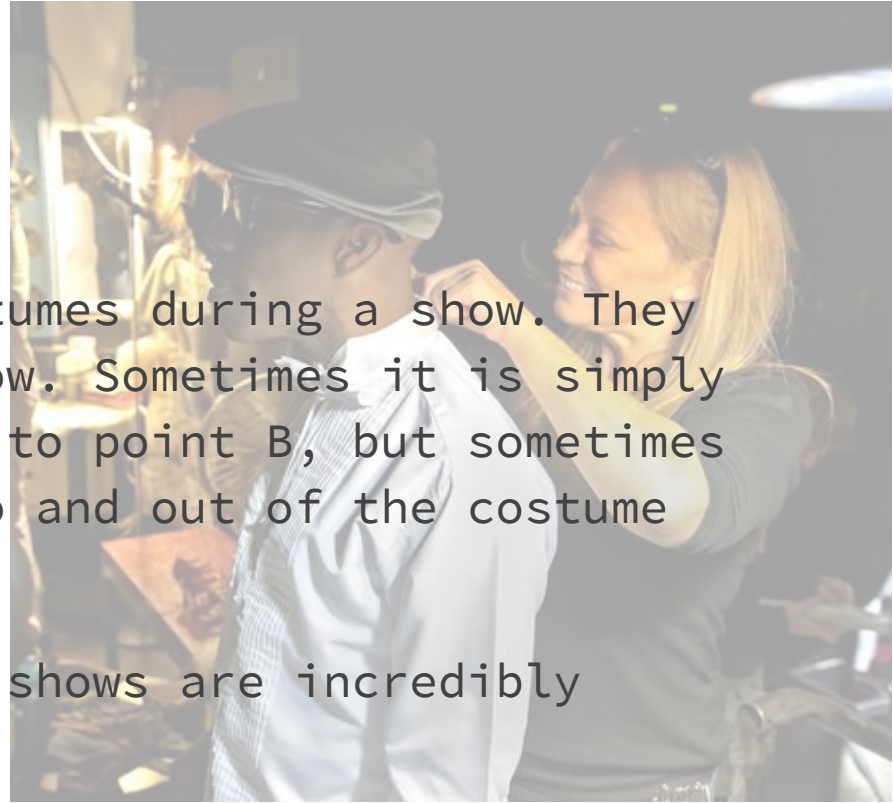
Wardrobe Crew

Wardrobe Crew are the second in command to the wardrobe supervisor. They may oversee dressers and usually have their own tracks to follow. In addition, Wardrobe crew also assist in the repair of costumes.

Dresser

A dresser helps actors with costumes during a show. They will be assigned tracks to follow. Sometimes it is simply bringing a costume from point A to point B, but sometimes it'll be assisting them get into and out of the costume itself.

Not for the light hearted, some shows are incredibly stressful as a dresser.



Some Things

Quick Change: A very fast change of costumes. We're talking literally seconds from going offstage in one costume and coming back onstage for another. Making a quick change work is one of the biggest challenges in costuming a show.

Safety Pins: Safety pins are the quick fix for any broken costume.

