

TRAINING COSTUMIERS

The Toi Whakaari Costume Construction course equips students with industry-level skills in all forms of costume construction and production, allowing them to confidently seek employment in the theatre, film and allied industries. It is an intensive vocational and highly practical full-time, two-year diploma programme.

The course:

- Equips graduates to work within established costume departments in film, TV, opera/ballet/dance/drama companies or to work on a freelance basis in NZ or overseas
- Gives students experience working closely with designers and interpreting their work
- Provides students with an understanding of the history of dress and textiles
- Supplies learning opportunities through participation in a wide range of performance projects
- Provides opportunities to gain further practical experience and industry knowledge through professional industry secondments

Costume Construction students benefit from working with students of performance design, acting, entertainment technology, performing arts management and directing. Through key relationships with the NZ School of Dance and The Film School, student costumiers also have opportunities to collaborate with contemporary dance and film students.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants for the costume construction course must turn 18 before the course begins, however special consideration will be given to those finishing Year 13 in the year of application. There is no upper age limit and candidates of all backgrounds with or without prior technical experience in theatre may apply.

Information about fees and application forms are available at www.toiwhakaari.ac.nz. All applicants must fill in the application form and attach 4 current passport sized photos, two written references and a 500 word statement outlining why they wish to study costume construction. Applicants are also asked to send in a portfolio of sewing and textile work. For guidelines on this portfolio see www.toiwhakaari.ac.nz. The closing date for applications is 29 September.

All applicants are interviewed to assess their sense of vocation and vision in relation to a career in costume construction.

"I fully support the training of a new generation of Costume Practitioners at Toi Whakaari, and look forward to welcoming graduates with fresh ideas, enthusiasm and a good grounding in costuming to our industry."

JANE HOLLAND, COSTUME DESIGNER, XENA, CLEOPATRA 2525, HERCULES, SIONE'S WEDDING

"There is a high level of expertise required in the construction and finishing of costumes for theatre and screen and the skills for this cannot currently be found in the local industry. The dedicated course now offered by Toi Whakaari is a crucial step in rebuilding this necessary and valuable tradition."

JOHN SENCZUK, HEAD OF WAAPA, EVENT DESIGNER, SYDNEY NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATIONS 2005

"The construction of costumes, undergarments and accessories is a fascinating area of study and requires a high level of specialised practical skills. To learn these skills within the vibrant environment of Toi Whakaari (while mixing with actors, dancers, designers, directors and technicians), is a particularly empowering way to start a successful career."

PENNY FITT, HEAD OF PERFORMANCE DESIGN (EX BRISTOL OLD VIC THEATRE SCHOOL, DESIGNER PENUMBRA, THE TRIAL OF THE CANNIBAL DOG)

the
church

PROVIDING GRAPHIC DESIGN
AND CREATIVE ENERGY



TOI WHAKAARI: NZ DRAMA SCHOOL

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TOI WHAKAARI: DIPLOMA IN COSTUME CONSTRUCTION



TOI
whakaari
new zealand
drama school



THE COURSE

During the first year, students take workshops in sewing, pattern making, draping, costume props and accessories, mask making and millinery. They take classes in history of costume, fabric printing, soft prop making and body padding and research particular garments and fabrics. There is also a costume design project that is approached from a maker's point of view. The students use industrial sewing equipment and work to the standards of a professional company as assistant costume supervisors on Toi Whakaari productions; including fitting, dressing and maintaining costumes.

During their second year students learn to interpret costume drawings to realise design concepts and work alongside student designers to supervise and produce costumes for Toi Whakaari productions and related performance projects. They advance their work in pattern cutting, costume construction and other specialist skills, and prepare a portfolio and exhibit their work at the end of the year. Costume students attend a range of classes that extend their knowledge and understanding of the production process, including production management, business management, organisational structure and occupational health and safety.

The second year of the Diploma involves students undertaking industry secondments with professional performing arts organisations in particular areas of interest. This includes film work, commercials, theatre, opera and dance, in addition to working on TV shows like *Dancing with the Stars*.

FEATURED GRADUATE

REBEKAH CAMPBELL

Rebekah was one of the first graduates of the costume construction programme. Since graduating she has worked on several productions including *Sleep/Wake* directed by Sam Trubridge and *Vula* by Nina Nawalowo which both featured in the 2008 Fringe festival.

She recently worked with On Stage Project as the Costume Co-ordinator for the production *The Wasps* directed by Toby Papazaglou.

She is now working part time for several months at Get Frocked a costume hire store which directly works with the industry.

Over the next few months Rebekah will be working as a costume mentor for Young & Hungry, working with and mentoring 13-30 year olds to create theatre in a professional environment.

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"MY TIME AT TOI WHAKAARI WAS EXTREMELY UNIQUE, HAVING STUDIED IN 2 FIELDS THERE, COMPLETING 4 YEARS OF TRAINING AND BEING A PIONEER OF A BRAND NEW COURSE. THE COSTUME COURSE TAUGHT ME ALL THE SKILLS AND MORE TO BEGIN WORK AS SOON AS I GRADUATED. AS A COSTUMIER YOU WORK WITH DESIGNERS, DIRECTORS AND ACTORS – SO WE MUST BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE, BE FLEXIBLE, INTERPRET CONCEPTS AND THEN CREATE. TOI HAS SHOWN ME THESE ROPES AND GIVEN ME SUCH A STRONG FOUNDATION TO BECOME A MULTI SKILLED ARTISAN." REBEKAH CAMPBELL

COURSE OUTLINE

YEAR 1

- Costume textiles and technology
- Costume construction
- Costume props and accessories
- Costume workshop practice
- Production process
- Costume design process
- Costume history
- Costume dyeing printing and finishing techniques
- Pattern making
- Cultural and theoretical studies

YEAR 2

Applied Costume Technology:

- Millinery
- Costumes for dance
- Costumes for film
- Corsetry and undergarments
- Specialty and special effects
- Costume workshop management
- Major work
- Secondment
- Cultural and theoretical studies

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IMAGES Cover – *Twelfth Night*, Director: Vanessa Byrnes, Designers: Jon Coddington and Hermione Flynn. Inner left to right – Kylie Chow in millinery class; Rebekah Campbell's major work; costume construction class of 2007; costume construction students in class with tutor Kaarin Macaulay; *A History of American Film*, Director: Jeff Szusterman, Designers: Daphne Eriksen and Robyn Yee.