

## **How to Design Costumes**

*By Emily Hyppönen*

1. Make sure you have a clear idea of the costumes. Know the character and the director's vision for the costumes.
2. Double check measurements for all actors, especially for large groups, because some of them are probably wrong.
3. When actors whine about their costumes, pretend like you care a little but you don't need to do anything. A lot of them will complain about the looks of it, but that's just their opinion. If they actually need alternations, there is usually a parent who is willing to help.
4. When ordering costume parts for large groups, ask everyone their size, and tell them what you're ordering. (Some people might be a medium in shirt size, but small in skirt size.)
5. If you're a co-costume designer, just forget about pride. The other person is usually right.
6. Make sure you emphasize to the actors that costume parade is a final check, not a first check. Have them all show you their costumes a couple weeks before costume parade, so they have time to re-order and return things that are wrong.
7. When you first clean the costume room, it will stay clean for about 2-3 days. During shows, it's pointless but still try to keep it organized and useable.
8. Have actors label their costume rack tags and their costume piecess, because people will take things from each other, and it ends up in a big loop.
9. Write down who borrows what from the costume room.
10. Have a cast list, and write down everything you buy for everyone, so you will have a record to create their costume bills.