

# Arden Kirkland

designer, costumer, educator

469 Glasco Turnpike, Saugerties, NY 12477 (845) 247-9424 ardenkirkland@gmail.com  
http://ardenkirkland.com blog: http://ardenkirkland.wordpress.com twitter: @ardeninred

## *Design Project Highlights:*

Instructor/Costumer, Vassar College Drama Department, 2000-present  
supervising 15+ costume shop student employees for a wide variety of projects  
Costume Designer (freelance), 1989-2009 - <http://ardenkirkland.com/portfolio>  
20 years designing professionally for theatre, dance, and film  
Teaching Artist, Powerhouse Apprentice Program, 1999-2013  
Collection Manager, Vassar College Costume Collection, 1991-present  
research collection of 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century clothing, <http://blogs.vassar.edu/vccc>  
Digital Costume Project, 2002-present, Vassar College - <http://vcomeka.com/vccc/>  
developer of an online database in Omeka of a research collection of historic clothing  
Interdisciplinary Arts Curator, Vassar College, August 2010 – June 2011  
coordinator of Artist in Residence pilot program, funded by the Mellon Foundation  
Historic Costume Preservation Workshop, Spring 2010  
supervising 14 student interns to document and stabilize our collection of historic clothing  
<http://blogs.vassar.edu/hcpw>  
"Trying on History" - <http://tryingonhistory.blogspot.com>  
instructor for a small exhibition and activity, presented at least twice a year, 2005-present  
presentations to Vassar classes in a variety of disciplines, and to visiting community groups

## *Classes and Workshops Taught:*

Costume History, Costume Design, Object Study in Costume History, Basic Sewing, Pattern Drafting, The Art of Draping, Advanced Draping (focus on bias), Costume Construction Overview, Introduction to Millinery, Introduction to Dyeing, Introduction to Cutting, Introduction to Figure Drawing, Portfolio Preparation, Costume Design for Actors, Techniques for Patterning from Historic Garments, Historic Costume Preservation Workshop

## *Grants:*

Digital Archives that Count – August 2011 - July 2012 - <http://wp.me/p1lBS2-34>  
NEH Preservation Assistance Grant for Smaller Institutions, 2010 - <http://blogs.vassar.edu/hcpw>  
NITLE Instructional Innovation Fund, 2009  
Carolyn Grant Fay '36 Endowment, 2008  
Frances D. Fergusson Faculty Technology Exploration Fund, 2007 and 2010

## *Education:*

MFA-Costume Design, Rutgers University, Mason Gross School of the Arts, May 1998  
BA-Costume Studies, Vassar College (with honors), May 1993  
Visiting student, École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, France, Spring 1992

**Select Costume Design Experience:** (see <http://ardenkirkland.com/portfolio> for photos, sketches, and more information)

Bard Dance Theatre, Bard College Department of Dance, 1998-2004, 2006-2009,  
4 shows a year, faculty and student choreography (Jean Churchill, Chair)

Into the Woods, Vassar College , 2006  
co-designed by Holly Hummel

The Bread and Roses Opera, Barnard College Theatre Department, 2000  
directed by Denny Partridge

Treetales, Joy Productions at Opus 40, 2000,  
directed by Shelley Wyant

Orfeo, Bard College, 2000

Ti Jean Blues, Bard College, 2000  
directed by JoAnne Akalitis

Euripides' Helen, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY, 1999,  
directed by Chris Grabowski

The Love of the Nightingale, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY, 1999,  
directed by Sarah Ackerman

Mouthful of Birds, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY, 1999,  
directed by Rebecca Hess

A Midsummer Night's Dream, Bard College, Annandale, NY, 1999,  
directed by Richard Corley

Alice, an Agony in Eight Fits, Bard College, Annandale, NY , 1998,  
directed by Julie O'Brien

The Effect of Gamma Rays, Holmdel Summer Theatre Festival, 1998,  
directed by Hannah Fujiki DeVorkin

Driving Miss Daisy, The Colonial Theatre, Westerly, RI , 1998,  
directed by Harland Meltzer

Dance and Film, The Ohio Theatre, 1998,  
directed by Lorn MacDougal

Millenium Lounge, Playwrights Horizons Theatre School, 1998,  
directed by Liz Swados

Four Views with a Room, Starfish Theatreworks, NY, NY , 1998,  
directed by Gail Noppe-Brandon

An Empty Chair, Starfish Theatreworks, NY, NY , 1998,  
directed by Gail Noppe-Brandon (Teen Voices Program)

Duet for One, Rutgers University, Off-Mainstage, 1998,  
directed by Hannah Fujiki DeVorkin

Arcadia, Rutgers University, Mainstage, 1997,  
directed by John Going

***Select Costume Design Experience, continued:***

Sleuth , The Colonial Theatre, Westerly, RI , 1997,  
directed by Harland Meltzer

Measure for Measure, Worth Street Theatre Company, 1997,  
directed by Jeff Cohen, (highlighted in TCI magazine, 10/97)

Seeing the Light, Starfish Theatreworks, NY, NY , 1997,  
directed by Gail Noppe-Brandon (Teen Voices Program)

Death and the Maiden, Rutgers University, Off-Mainstage , 1997,  
directed by Lynne Boone

The Three Sisters, Rutgers University, Mainstage , 1996,  
directed by Mary Robinson

The Kinsey 3 (film), NYU Graduate Film, Lifetime Network , 1996,  
directed by Angela Robinson

They're Playing My Song, and The Man of La Mancha, The Colonial Theatre, Westerly, RI , 1996,  
directed by Harland Meltzer

Dance Plus, Rutgers University, 1995, choreographed by students of Lorn MacDougal

Kindertransport, Rutgers University, Jameson Theatre, 1995, directed by Lynne Boone

The Fantasticks, The Colonial Theatre, Westerly, RI , 1995, directed by John Eisner

Anything Goes , The Colonial Theatre, Westerly, RI , 1995, directed by Harland Meltzer

Faith, Hope, and Charity and Etta Jenks, Bard College, Annandale, NY, 1995  
directed by John Psillakis

Spring Awakening, Eugene Lang College, 1995, directed by Marya Mazor

Where I'm Coming From, Starfish Theatreworks, NY, NY , 1995  
directed by Gail Noppe-Brandon (Teen Voices Program)

Chickula (film), Poison Kitty Productions , 1994, directed by Angela Robinson

Gotta Dance, Juilliard Dance Division Tour, 1994, directed by students of Liz Keene

The Great Unwashed , Malaparte , 1994, directed by Max Mayer

Girltrash! , 35Bill (at Here), 1994, directed by Angela Robinson

Toño in Some People , The Public Theatre, HBO Productions, 1994  
created and performed by Danny Hoch

Berenice (film), Bard Graduate Film Program , 1994,  
directed by Michael Gitlin (shown at the 1997 Whitney Biennial)

St. Michael's Retreat (film), NYU Graduate Film, 1994

Gypsy, Gentlemen Prefer Blondes, My One and Only, Nunsense , 1991,  
New London Barn Playhouse, NH, produced by Norman Leger

## ***Teaching Experience:***

Instructor/Costumer, Vassar College Drama Department, 2000-present

- Teaching semester-long independent study classes
  - The Art of Draping
  - Advanced Draping (focus on bias)
  - Object Study in Costume History
  - Historic Costume Preservation Workshop
  - Historic Costume Research and Reproduction
- Supervising undergraduate students and work study employees in the Costume Shop
  - all stages of construction, including alterations, patterning, building, and crafts
- Leading workshops for Drama production students
  - Costume Construction Overview
  - Introduction to Cutting
  - Introduction to Dyeing
  - Introduction to Millinery
  - Techniques for Patterning from Historic Garments
- Leading workshops for Costume Design students
  - Introduction to Figure Drawing
  - Portfolio Preparation
- Leading workshops for Fashion History students
  - Historic costume construction
  - Intro to Wikimedia Commons as a resource for costume research
  - Analysis of historic costume objects

Teaching Artist, Powerhouse Apprentice Program, 1999-present

- Leading design workshops with design apprentices, and sometimes acting apprentices
- Supervising design apprentices and interns in their design and production work on 2-3 outdoor shows and 2-6 additional projects per summer

Design/Sewing Instructor, PASSWORD/Project Aware, Summer 2009

- In a total of three days, I worked with two groups of middle school aged girls to design and build a simple dress from scratch. Despite limited time, space, and resources, these girls (who had no sewing experience) each ended up with a finished dress of their own unique design.

Adjunct, Marist College Fashion Program, Spring 2006

- In this Basic Sewing class, required of all Fashion Design majors, students practiced construction techniques while making a button down shirt, straight skirt with zipper, and tote bag

Costume History Professor, Barnard College Theater Program, Fall 2001

- I piloted this Costume History class while filling in for another professor on leave. She usually taught Costume Design, but several students who were particularly interested in costuming had expressed an interest in Costume History, so I created a class that covered both History and Design. While the focus was on Costume History and progressed in the traditional chronological format, students applied their learning to design projects, both in the form of drawings and small scale draped models.

## ***Teaching Experience, continued:***

Design/Sewing Instructor, Boys and Girls Club of Saugerties, Summer 2001

- another program I piloted, for middle school age students in a summer day camp
- we used different activities in design and construction to explore issues of body image, stereotyping, and individuality

Visiting Assistant Professor, Vassar College Drama Department, Fall 1999

- Filling in for a professor on leave
- Teaching Costume Design
  - paper projects
  - supervision of realized designs for 1 Drama Department show
- Teaching Independent Study in Advanced Costume Design
  - projects for theatre involving challenges such as non-traditional materials
  - projects for TV / film
- Design of 3 Drama Department productions
- Supervising undergraduate work study employees in the Costume Shop
  - all stages of construction, including alterations, patterning, building, and crafts

Costume Shop Supervisor and Instructor, Bard College - Theatre and Dance, 1998-2000

- piloted separate tutorial programs in Theatre and in Dance
- progressed from exercises and paper projects to realized projects of student written / directed / choreographed work
- supervising undergraduate students and work study employees in the Costume Shop
  - all stages of construction, including alterations, patterning, building, and crafts

## ***Curatorial Experience:***

Collections Manager, Vassar College Costume Collection, 1991-present

a research collection of 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century clothing, <http://blogs.vassar.edu/vccc>

"For Better and For Worse: 16 Decades of Wedding Wear at Vassar" exhibition curator, 2013

"Fashioning an Education" exhibition curator, 2011 (for Vassar's Sesquicentennial)

<http://vcomeka.com/vccc/exhibits/show/fashioning/introduction>

Historic Costume Preservation Workshop (NEH funded), 2010, <http://blogs.vassar.edu/hcpw>

supervisor of 14 student interns documenting, stabilizing, and exhibiting clothing artifacts

"A Glimpse into Vassar's (Secret) Closet" exhibition, May-June 2010

<http://vcomeka.com/vccc/exhibits/show/glimpse/intro>

Digital Costume Project, 2002-present,

developer of an online database in Omeka of a research collection of historic clothing including ObjectVRs (3D views), <http://vcomeka.com/vccc/VR/1992.014/1992.014.htm>

Database administration - Filemaker database – Vassar College Costume Collection, 2002-present

"Trying on History" small exhibition and activity, at least twice a year, 2005-present

presented to Vassar classes in a variety of disciplines, and to visiting community groups worked with students to research a gown from the 1910's and reproduce it in a larger size

<http://tryingonhistory.blogspot.com>

Curator and Exhibition Designer, "Vassar Girls and Other Women: 1854-1925," June 1993

Intern, Costume Institute of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1990

## ***Costume Shop Management Experience:***

Costumer, Vassar College Drama Department, 1999-present  
Costume Shop Supervisor, Bard College - Theatre and Dance, 1998-2000  
Stock and Rentals Manager, Rutgers University Costume Shop, 1995-1998  
Assistant Shop Manager, The Juilliard School Costume Shop, 1994-1995  
Costume Shop Supervisor, NY Stage and Film (Powerhouse Theatre at Vassar), 1993-1994

## ***Other Costume Experience:***

Institutional Member  
Costume Society of America  
United States Institute for Theatre Technology

Assistant Designer, Upright Citizens' Brigade, Comedy Central (TV)  
Des: Carey Bennett, 1997

Assistant Designer, 1993-1998  
NY Theatre Workshop, NY Stage and Film, Playwrights Horizons, and the Juilliard School

Giant Puppet Construction, Superior Concept Monsters, 2000  
Sewing of Sandworm for Dune portion of NYC Halloween Parade

Milliner  
The Rivals, Rutgers University Mainstage, Des: Joo Hee Lee, 1998  
The Immortal Hour, Juilliard Opera Center, Des: Constance Hoffman, 1995  
She Stoops to Conquer, Juilliard Drama Division, Des: Michael Krass, 1995  
L'Incoronazione di Poppea, Juilliard Opera Center, Des: Donna Zakowska, 1994

Prosthetic Make-up, Mrs. Malaprop, The Rivals, Rutgers University, Des: Joo Hee Lee, 1998

Wig Styling, Musical Comedy Murders of 1940, Rutgers, Des: Frank Chavez, 1997

Painting/Distressing  
The Grapes of Wrath, Rutgers University, Des: Danielle Castronovo, 1998  
Duet for One, Rutgers University, own design, 1998

Stitcher/Cutter  
The New York Shakespeare Festival, 1997  
Carelli Costumes, 1996  
State Fair, Fiddler on the Roof, Michael Bottari and Ron Case, 1994-1995  
The Juilliard School Costume Shop, 1993-1994

Wardrobe Supervisor, Playwrights Horizons  
Moe's Lucky 7, 1994  
Young Playwright's Festival, 1993

***Skills:***

Technical costuming: draping, flat patternmaking, costume reproduction, advanced sewing, cutting, fitting, dyeing, millinery, crafts

Technology/Software: HTML, CSS, XML, XSL, Photoshop, Filemaker, Omeka, Wordpress, Drupal, Oxygen, Object2VR, Microsoft Office, Blackboard, Moodle, Prezi, Twitter, YouTube, ContentDM, Blogger, Zotero, iMovie, Wikipedia/Wikimedia, Greenstone, CollectiveAccess

Also: ObjectVR photography, social media, grant writing, screencasting and other user guide creation, stabilization of textile artifacts for display, exhibition mounting for clothing artifacts

Languages: French (basic conversation/reading)

***References:***

Holly Hummel, Costume Designer and Senior Lecturer Emeritus

Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY, 12604, home: 845-452-7486, hohummel@vassar.edu

Ed Cheetham, Producing Director, Powerhouse Theatre

Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY, 12604, work: 845-437-5902, edcheetham@vassar.edu

Jean Churchill, Professor of Dance

Bard College, Annandale, NY 12504, work: 845-758-7933, churchil@bard.edu