

Oh, the Places You'll Know: CSS Theatre Costume Shop

SHINEDALA BERG
SBERG1@CSS.EDU

Not a lot of people know that there is a costume shop in the theater building here at St. Scholastica full of magical costumes that have been worn by past and present St. Scholastica students. The costume shop is a very important part of theatre, as without a costume shop, there is no production.

The costume shop is located in the "Little Theatre" right behind Tower Hall. The "Little Theatre" used to be the St. Scholastica gymnasium. The costume shop itself was the weight room until the BWC opened.

"They were actually doing productions on the stage upstairs and had to dodge weightlifting equipment while doing costume changes," said student worker Sydeny Hennes.

Every costume in the costume shop has been created for time periods all the way from the Victorian era to the present.

The costume shop has another room attached to it where the team keeps four sewing machines, two sergers, and lots of fabric to make the costumes. There are currently three stitchers working in the costume shop with Sasha Howell, who is the supervisor for the costume shop.

The costume shop is a great place for "students to get some hands on skills that they might not get anywhere else on campus," said Howell. Howell teaches students to sew, manage wardrobe, manage the stock and manage the sewing machine for the costume shop.

Howell explained how some students come into the costume shop with not much knowledge of sewing or some kind of craft. "I like to call us makers instead of seamstresses," said Howell, to combat the stereotype of women being the ones to sew. Howell invited anyone who wants to be involved with the costume shop and make costumes for productions.

If students are interested in learning how to sew and make costumes for the costume shops, they can do a work study and get paid for their work. Or, they can take a practicum first and learn how to do sewing and costume design. When they are done with the practicum, they can move up to a work study since they have the skills. Students will need to sign up for the Theatre Practicum course, if they want to be involved with sewing and costume design.

The costume shop team is part of "Give to CSS Day," where the shop is asking for a generous donation to help them purchase dress forms for the costume shop. The donation will help the team to get dress forms that will have "a bigger diversity and capacity to dress a variety of genders and sizes," said Howell in the YouTube video.

If ten Saints participate in the "Give to CSS Day" project for the theater, a donor will make a three hundred dollar gift. This will help to put money towards the costume shop team to purchase the dress forms and improve the experience for all student performers. For more information to help the costume shop team, go to www.css.edu/givetocssday to begin your donation on March 25.

To watch the video, go to the College of St. Scholastica YouTube channel. Every bit of money donated will make a huge impact for the theater community here at St. Scholastica.

Club Spotlight: Crochet and Knitting Club

SHINEDALA BERG
SBERG1@CSS.EDU

There is always a perfect time to learn how to knit and crochet and create something wonderful with your own hands. Crochet and Knitting Club, which began in 2013, has been a perfect club for members to join here at St. Scholastica to unwind after a long day of classes or school work.

Crochet and Knitting Club is a "fun club for people with all levels of skill (we will teach anyone who is interested)," said Makayla Jacobsen, the president of the club. If members don't have supplies to knit or crochet with, the Crochet and the Knitting Club has it covered—they will supply members with materials they will need to create their project.

Members who are a part of the club have created amazing projects like "hats, scarves, washcloths, blankets, shawls, stuffed figures, rugs, socks and so much more" said Jacobsen. Some members have chosen to bring crafts like calligraphy, cross-stitching and embroidery to the meetings.

During 56 Nights, Crochet and Knitting Club will have activities where they will use yarn in different ways instead of knitting or crocheting. "This past November our [club's] 56 Nights was making decorative yarn balls," said Jacobsen.

COVID-19 has brought some hard times, but the Crochet and Knitting Club has been doing great. Jacobsen said, "Overall our club has been doing really well. We have had many people show up to our events both in person and through Zoom." The Crochet and Knitting Club has around ten to fifteen active members who are a part of the club.

The club meets every Wednesday night from seven to eight on the third floor of Tower (3121) and members can also join on Zoom for crochet and knitting. During the meetings, the club will pick a movie to watch every week while they come together to knit or crochet.

The club also meets every other Friday in the Student Union for "knitting and nibbles," which is another part of the club where members will work on their knitting projects and eat some snacks at the same time.

Crochet and Knitting Club's signature look always starts with a meme on their email list, and if new members want reminders on meeting times or some silly memes, email crochetknit@css.edu. Crochet and Knitting Club also has an Instagram account: @css_crochet.