

DIANE MALONE
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COSTUME DESIGNER
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ARTIST STATEMENT

This project will be Anton Chekhov's *The Sea Gull*, produced by The Classic Theatre of San Antonio in February, 2016.

The play was written in 1896 and will be done in period. This production will require the usual research into the period and style, and it will probably entail purchase or rental of vintage pieces to fulfill the design concept.

As a costume designer, I believe the costumes for a play must fulfill several functions:

1. Collectively, the costumes must make a statement about the play: its style, its location, its mood. The costumes for *The Sea Gull* must show us the period, the place and the class of the characters.
2. Individually, costumes must make a statement about the character: age, gender, class, rank, occupation and even something about the character's personality. Nina and Masha, though both of similar age and class, would not dress similarly. Chekhov supplies that contrast in the text with one character alluding to Nina's white dress while another asks Masha why she always wears black.
3. As a whole design, the stage is the canvas and the costumes on it collectively must demonstrate the principles of design by using the elements of design: line, shape or silhouette, mass, texture, color and ornament. The choice of these elements determines the final design of costume.

Costume design does not exist in a vacuum, but is a part of the total theatrical production. Costume design will work closely with scenic and lighting design for total visual coordination. Ultimately, I believe the costumes for this – or any other – production should be appropriate for the play and the characters, and they should help the director tell the story.