

Ashlyn Zunker

I was very fortunate to be able to be a part of the Southwestern spring Musical Sweeny Todd. I worked behind the scenes as the mic tech but was fortunate enough to get to step out one night and view the performance. The design element that I have decided to focus on for this project is costume design. I got to work very closely with the costumes due to the fact that the costumes had to work in conjunction with the microphones. I found the costumes absolutely wonderful and extremely elaborate. Each one was very time period accurate with corsets, cages, and what I called the "rump bumps." These elements worked together to great the element shape. Working hand in hand with the lighting elements we were able to create silhouettes of the characters using costumes and backlighting. Additionally, we were able to decipher the principle of design contrast of the characters. Unfortunately due to the way the show was cast there was a very small ensemble. So one character had to represent a whole societal cast. For example, Hannah played the town prostitute and she was the only one, so she had to represent the entire portion of the working class which actually was a pretty huge proportion of the women at that time. Another member played a fish seller, the Fisherman's wife. She held a slightly higher social status than Hannah. Caroline and Clara held the highest social status as high ladies of society. This was all clearly seen through the design of the costumes. The quality of the fabric used and the style of dresses all presented the contrast that was found in the London community of the time.