Claire Carden

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I am a London based costume maker and recent graduate from Royal Central School of Speech and Drama where I trained in pattern drafting, garment construction, and design interpretation. I have a passion for circus and burlesque costume and I also have experience in menswear, fabric dyeing and painting, and historical fashion.

Education

Royal Central School of Speech and Drama (RCSSD) London, Oct 2023-June 2026
Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Costume Construction, 1st Class

University of the Arts London London, Sept 2022-June 2023
UAL Level 3 Foundation Diploma in Art and Design, Design for Theatre, Screen and Performance specialization

Work

Pink Depford Design Vallejo, CA July 2024-Sept 2024
Costume Intern

- Collaborated with the designer and the rest of the construction team to create costumes for private clients as well as California Shakespeare Theater's production of "As You Like It."
- Drafted patterns, created toiles, and assisted in fittings to personally make costumes for multiple actors and clients

Sugar Magnolia Powder Room Larkspur, CA June 2023-Sept 2023
Sewing Assistant and Tutor

- Tutored the shop owner in basic machine and hand sewing skills, increasing the amount of sellable inventory and supporting sustainability goals.

Marin Pottery/Studio 4 Art San Rafael & Novato, CA March 2022-Sept 2022
Studio Assistant and Camp Counselor

- Facilitated an organised and productive environment for customers and members.
- Taught art skills to children and teens including hand sewing, pottery, street art, and drawing.

Work Experience

Royal Opera House London, March 2026
Costume Production Men's Work Room Experience

- Practiced bespoke menswear construction techniques such as different types of trouser closures and pockets
- Embellished a costume with hand-sewn rhinestones for the 2026 production of Siegfried
- Recreated a decoration from a past costume to use on a costume for the 2026 production of Mayerling

Volunteer Experience

Colostomy UK
Volunteer
London, Feb 2026-Present

- Supports people impacted by any kind of stoma surgery through phone calls providing practical and emotional support and advice.
- Represents the organization at events and support groups.
- Provides input on materials the organization publishes such as handbooks covering specific topics.

Camp Oasis
Volunteer Counselor
WA, Aug 2023

- Co-counselled a cabin of 7 young IBD patients for two weeks, facilitating daily activities for group bonding and confidence building.
- Supervised daily electives, keeping campers safe and engaged.
- Provided a safe space for campers to learn more about their disabilities and how to advocate for themselves in health settings.

Additional Information

Technical Skills: Design interpretation | pattern drafting | sewing techniques | fabric dyeing and breaking down | costume supervision | wardrobe and dressing | photography | rigging for theatre and circus
Activities: Costume Construction Class of 2026 Representative, RCSSD (Oct 2023-June 2026) | Vice-President, RCSSD Jewish Society (Oct 2024-June 2026) | President, RCSSD Fiber Arts Society (Oct 2023-July 2024) | Vice President, UAL Jewish Society (Nov 2022-May 2023)

References available upon request