

# Costuming Snowflake

by Pat Allen

Photography by Sean Allen

The beauty of winter and especially snowflakes were the inspiration for my costume on Darlene Lane's lovely Meredith. Each snowflake is unique and no two are alike, yet all are beautiful. This is how I feel about costuming Meredith. No matter how she is costumed, with possibilities as limitless as snowflakes, she will always create beauty.

Meredith's cloth body was the ideal "canvas" for my costume. I selected from my local craft store several sprays of artificial flowers with silver/white leaves and petals which I stripped from their wire backing and stems. With Gem Tack, a craft glue which dries clear and flexible, I glued my collection of leaves and petals directly onto the cloth body.

The crystals along the lower leg were sewn, by hand, directly onto the body fabric before beginning to glue on the leaves. When gluing I worked from the bottom of each leg and arm up towards the top of each, slightly overlapping each leaf or petal with the row before it. The

largest leaves and petals were used to fill in all the background to cover as much space as possible. The smaller leaves and petals were applied on top and used to accent and decorate as you would use trimmings. A few leaves were added at the waistline, only glued at one edge to the body, forming a demi-skirt in the front.

Small narrow strips of fur band the sleeves and form a choker style necklace.

To make the headpiece for my Snowflake Meredith, I first created a buckram base. Buckram is a heavily sized netting found in fabric and craft stores that when dampened can be easily shaped. It dries hard and is used in millinery work. To shape the headpiece I covered Meredith's head (with pate) with saran wrap. A rubber band around the neck kept the saran molded to the head so that the finished cap would be covering the entire "hair-area" to the lower nape of the neck. When dry, the buckram was cut to its final shape. Onto the base, as with the body, large leaves and petals cover the



Continued on page 47



background and smaller pieces embellish.

The wings were bought at a craft shop. They are a nylon fabric stretched over wire. I painted them with a glitter fabric paint and then glued on sequins and the granular-type glitter. Feather wings taken off birds found in the craft stores would work as well. The same glitter paint was used to “frost” the entire costume and headpiece. Tiny snowflake ornaments from the Christmas aisle were used to further embellish.

I enjoyed this project so much I was actually disappointed when I finally ran out of space on which to glue anything else. But now I have the beautiful winter fairy that as a child I always believed made the world glitter and sparkle after it snowed. ♥

*Thank you Darlene*