

Stichesbysue1954@gmail.com

(781)844-9582



COSTUME PACKET

This show is set in the 1920's usually referred to as the "roaring twenties". It was a time of huge change and excess after the First World War. The clothing represents this, especially in women. Dresses were straight up and down with little or no gathering. Many dresses were trimmed in fringe. Some had a handkerchief hemline. Women wore dress shoes and nylons. They wore close fitting hats, called a cloche or a headband with a small feather. Jewelry was noticeable and flashy. Men were less formal also, wearing sweaters and sweater vests, baggy pants, suspenders. Dress shoes were worn by all. If in a suit coat, a fedora or a straw boater was worn. If just a sweater, a newsboy or sculley cap. All actors will need a coat. It can be a raincoat/trench coat, top coat or overcoat. There should be no attached hood. No slickers or ponchos. When searching, omit the results which for 'gangsters'. Those will yield mostly black clothing.

I have uploaded many images of clothing on the Pinterest Page. I have put some pins into categories. Pay special attention to the subcategory labeled UNACCEPTABLE. Before you purchase, make sure what you are buying is not on this page. <https://pin.it/e4hsdhvgehsrp3>

Pay **CLOSE ATTENTION to the requirements**. Depending on your role you may have to find 2 costumes. Any parts Pierce Players will provide I have noted. **KEEP ALL RECEIPTS IN CASE SOMETHING NEEDS TO BE RETURNED FOR SOME REASON.**

Male actors: Dress pants – no cargo, jeans, or sweat pants. No bright colors, but a check or plaid is fine. White or light colored, cotton, button down shirt with a collar. No golf shirts or T shirts. Tie; bow ties were popular. Sweater, sweater vest, or suit coat. Suspenders.

Dress shoes; no sneakers. Socks that match your pants. Fedora, boater, or sculley cap. See above note on hats.

Female actors: Dress or skirt and blouse. No logos, no T shirts. Length should be at least to your knee. No miniskirts! You may want to wear a pair of short shorts underneath the dress. No hemline should be more than 4 inches below the knee. Dress shoes. Hosiery to match skin tones. Jewelry, especially long beaded necklaces. Hat or headband. Accessorize! Female actors, if you wish to play a boy, you can choose to do so; male costumes are often easier to come by.

Party Ensemble: For this scene, you will need to have a dress outfit in black and white. Boys need a suit jacket. Girls need a dressy dress. Low heels for girls are appropriate. Hat or headband required. Lots of jewelry. These people were rich and liked to show it off. You need a regular costume also.

Stagehands: For your scene, buy baggy pants and I will cut them at the knees to make them knickers. Your socks must come up to the knee. I will speak to you as a group about sweaters, vests, etc. We want you to look coordinating, but not exactly alike. You need a regular costume alos.

Kathy's girls: I will make your dresses for that scene. You need hosiery and black dress shoes with a small heel. You definitely need shorts under your dresses. You will need a regular costume for your other scenes.

Miss Dinsmore: Dark colored suit – skirt and jacket. A blouse, preferably one where the collar is a tie. Clunky shoes and hosiery.

Teacher: A dowdy dress – like a stereotypical grandmother would wear. Plain, dark color. Clunky shoes and hosiery.

Butler: Black pants, white collared shirt, black vest (not a sweater vest) and white gloves. I will get a jacket for you, bow tie.

Maid: Black dress. Very plain. At least 1 inch below your knee. The only part that may be white is the collar. Black hosiery and clunky shoes. I will get an apron for you.

Policeman: Navy pants. I will get a jacket for you. You need a regular chorus outfit too.

Broadway melody: MC: Black pants, black button down dress shirt. I will get a jacket and hat for you. Dancers: black dress shirt, black hosiery and black shorts – I will find some and give you all the links to purchase. I will make a vest. Black dress shoes with a small heel.

RF: Dark suit and fedora. Several ties. If possible, a different suit coat that goes with your pants would be great. We should check the costume room for one. Dress shoes

Dexter: White shirt and suspenders. Newsboy cap. Neckerchief. I will make your pants. Brown shoes, brown knee socks, as the pants are brown.

Roz: A dark suit, but in period, meaning a slim cut. See the Pinterest page for examples.

Dora and Zelda: I will make dresses for your scenes, but you will need a regular chorus outfit also.

Cosmo and Don: Dress pants, white shirt, suspenders, sweater or sweater vest. Hold off getting those until I figure out colors and such. I will make any specialized things you need. Don – you need white knee socks and black shoes for your Cavalier scenes.

Lina and Kathy: hosiery and shoes.

Okay, now that I have told you what you need, how do you get it? Start by talking to your parents or guardians. They cannot help you if they don't know what you need! Call relatives. You would be surprised at what people have in their closets. Go to Savers or other thrift stores. You may find at least part of your costume there. Go surfing on the web. Amazon often has what you want. A note of caution. When you search for 1920's dresses, you immediately get flapper dresses. Although the style is correct, often they are *way too* short. Remember – hemline at your knee.

What do I do if I can't find anything? *Communication is key!!* Let me know. However, be sure you have actually looked, because I will ask you about it. When should I start? Today! Do not wait until the night

before costume check. Email: stitchesbysue1954@gmail.com Phone (781)844-9582. Feel free to text me with pictures if you are unsure. Please tell me who you are (all I get is a phone number) and what role or roles you are playing. **Prepare your costume.** Bring your costume to the costume parade *ironed and hung neatly on a hanger!*

