

Costume Plot

NANCY POTTS COSTUME DESIGNER

Says brilliant costume designer Nancy Potts "This show has been for me the 'Great Design Trip' - (Like no other costume design project I've ever faced. No ordinary run-of-the-mill Broadway 'Ego Scene' here - ideas come from every where and everyone - most of all from the kids themselves. They have a firm understanding of themselves emotionally and visually, and it would have been against all the show stands for to force on them hackneyed Broadway costuming techniques. Always I've had and still have - for we change the costumes constantly - a sense of continually creating together. It has allowed all of us to be more inspired than we ever could have been alone. Theatre is the art of collaboration - but not until HAIR. Do I think that art was fully realized?"

HAIR

The American Tribal-Love Rock Musical

Book & Lyrics by
Gerome Ragni & James Rado

Music by
Galt Mac Dermot

CLAUDE: 'Basic' consisting of bleached levis, headband with feather. Moccasins. Striped 'Indian' blanket. British union jack as loin cloth (nylon 8" x 12"). (Opening)

2. Pants painted w/fluorescent colors; gray shirt; feathers (red, white, blue) in headband; beads. (Moms and Dads)

3. Blue levi pants w/braid down each leg; blue collarless shirt; brown vest; belt w/buckle; cowboy boots; cape w/hood (brown). ("Bless You")

4. Chiffon multi-color cape, very large. (Be In)

5. Gorilla suit w/head, hands, feet. Medals pinned on. (II)

6. Uniform coat, DB, dark blue w/red trim. Gray T-shirt painted with fluorescent (must fluoresce). (Walking in Space)

7. Khaki US Army uniform: shirt, pants, black belt. Stitched together w/zipper for fast change. Cap sewn to shoulder.

BURGER: 1. Blue levis, bleached and fringed. Black trunks. Brown fringed leather loin cloth. Arm band. (Opening)

2. Black cloth coat w/fur collar, military patches sewn on sleeves and back center. Brown flop hat. (Movie set)

3. Dark blue uniform tunic, DB lapel. Helmet, metal WW I.

WOOF: 1. Tan pants, gray vest, brown belt. (Opening)

2. Special fringed leather jacket, red/white/blue. White flop hat. (Crazy for the . . .)

HUD: 1. Black pants (grayed slightly) with fur tails tied around knees. Fur vest. Fringed mocs. Headband. (Opening)

2. Alternate pony vest.

3. African print shirt and headband. (Movie set)



- JEANNIE:** 1. Dress, floor length, long sleeve, hand painted. Headband. Padding on elastic girdle (baby). (Opening)
2. Gas mask. (Carbon Monoxide)
 3. Sari, red and gold. (Be In)
 4. Gray flop hat; mustache. (Custer-Walking in Space)

- SHEILA:** 1. Blue work shirt w/Army sgt. stripes. Levis, bleached dark blue, fringed. Mocs. (Opening)
2. Different basic for Act II.

- DENNIS:** 1. 'Basic': tan pants, torn T-shirt (gray), beige knit under shirt (over T-shirt) (Opening)
2. "Margaret Mead" costume: brown fur coat w/dress sewn in; Black red cross shoes; gray hose; white purse; white beads. White gloves. White large handkerchief. Earrings. Glasses. Hat w/flowers, net. (Alternate coat for warm weather)
 3. Floral jeans, frayed, Blue uniform coat, short DB, red trim. (What a Piece of Work)

TRIBE: 'Basic' outfits: pants (various colors, bleached, frayed, etc.); assorted shirts, T-shirts, etc.; various vests, sleeveless coats; fringes, arm bands, beads, etc. Some have moccasins. Headbands. Items are patched, dyed, etc.

SPECIAL COSTUMES:

1. Moms: Chenille robes; nylon tricot nightgowns; hair nets w/rollers.
2. Dads: Plaid flannel robes; bald pates w/hair fringe.
3. Mother: Black fur coat
4. School Principals: black graduation gowns and caps.
5. Hubert: dark suit (2 pc), shirt, tie. Black high shoes, brown hat.
6. Prop (Sheila): yellow shirt (one torn each performance)
7. Joe: DB blue uniform frock coat; dark blue flop hat (Crazy for the . . .)
8. BE IN costumes: various theatrical and antique costumes with sequins, spangles, colorful but muted.
9. Police uniforms: in style of the city in which company performs. (Optional)
10. Electric Blues: 10 belts and one theatrical jacket which flash. Bikini outfit. 6 mirror outfits of silver lame. (One maxi dress, one mini dress, three shirts and pants, silver fringe vest.) White boa.
11. Supremes red sequin dress. (White Boys) (Body stockings optional)
12. Gary: beige jacket w/military collar (What A Piece of Work)
13. Joey: WW II metal helmet, rifle.
14. Army blankets.
15. Walking in Space:
Drummer Boy (Woof): short military jacket
Washington (Burger): long, full velvet cape (red, white, blue); tricorin w/wig sewn in.
Indians (Tribe): Five colorful bonnets, full. Elastic under chin.

Grant: Grey military overcoat w/shoulder cape, lined w/red (cape); grey kepi.

Lincoln: Red-white-blue striped pants w/stars; black silk top hat; black tail coat; pigtails on band; confederate flag (used as hankie); dark glasses.

Booth: Black coat

Gable: brown leather flying helmet.

Scarlet O'Hara: red chiffon scarf

Butterfly: Navy or black bonnet

Africans: Native shields, spears (props), brown flop hats

Buddhist priests: saffron skirt w/drape; latex cap.

Nuns: Black veil sewn on white plastic band w/chin strap. Rosaries.

Spacemen: white plastic helmets, ray guns

Green Berets: beret, machine guns

Viet Cong: coolie hats

Parents: Black overcoat, snap brim hat; suit on hanger. Dark coat for mother.

HAIR premiered on Broadway April 29, 1968, at the Biltmore Theatre, presented Michael Butler and featuring costumes by Nancy Potts. The foregoing plot is based on Miss Potts' costumes for the Chicago company, which recently became the national touring company. The colors, as originally presented were muted throughout.

At 29, Nancy Potts has to her credit over 36 Broadway and Off-Broadway productions. Nominated for the Tony Award three times, she has, for the past several years been the exclusive designer for New York's distinguished APA-Phoenix Company. Among her designs were the highly praised productions of *The Misanthrope*, *The Showoff*, and *Pantagleize*, which earned both the Maharam Distinguished Design Award and the *Saturday Review* Best Costume Award. Miss Potts' extreme versatility is exemplified in the designs she created for **HAIR** (which won the Theatre Yearbook Award for best costuming in 1967-68), and her costumes for last season's *La Strada*, and the Helen Hayes-James Stewart *Harvey*.

