
NOTES ON CHARACTERS AND COSTUMES

BILBO BAGGINS: He is a Hobbit in his middle years, short, compact, with a well-stuffed stomach. His head is covered with thick, curly brown hair, as are his shoeless feet. He is impeccably outfitted in a bright yellow waistcoat and pea-green trousers, and wears a pointed cap, as do any hobbit extras used. He is every inch the proper country gentleman delighting in hearty meals and peace and quiet. He loves his quiet home, but something deep inside longs for adventure. Bilbo's Hobbit habits of caution and conservatism make him at times seem cowardly, but actually he is very brave, loyal and resourceful about getting the group of adventurous dwarves out of trouble. They do not realize this until near the end, so they are apt to make fun of him. To call him "The Burglar" is part of the delightful humor of the book from which the play is made. Bilbo is honest—though when he finds the Ring of Power he keeps it, sensing its importance to their quest. The Ring should not be garish. It is a magical ring and its importance lies in its magic, not in its substance. Any plain band ring will serve. For the journey, Bilbo wears a short warm jacket or cloak, and trousers (or shorts or knickers) held up by somewhat gaudy suspenders. He may or may not wear shoes—hobbits seldom wear shoes as they like the feel of the ground on their feet. At the last Bilbo puts on a gold coat (made of gold paper or an ordinary coat sprayed with gold glitter).

GANDALF: He is a great Wizard. No one knows how old he is, nor even the half of his wisdom. He wears a high-peaked blue hat, painted with mysterious signs, and carries a long staff which can emit blue fire at the end. He wears a long gray cloak with a silver scarf wound around his neck, over which his long white beard hangs

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down below his waist. He wears large black boots. His keen eyes are shaded by bushy eyebrows, which he uses effectively when matters displease him. He can look about him in time as well as space, so he is sometimes impatient with the follies of those about him. Yet in spite of all his wisdom (or is it rather because of his wisdom?) he is understanding and helpful and kind.

THE DWARVES: They are bearded, and all wear the traditional dwarf clothes. Their belts may be painted with gold or silver paint.

DWALIN: He is a dwarf with a blue beard tucked into a golden belt. He wears a dark green hood and costume.

BALIN: He is the eldest dwarf and brother to Dwalin. His white beard is scraggly and he walks with an aged stoop. He wears a scarlet costume with a golden belt.

KILI and FILI: They are look-alikes and should be dressed accordingly. They wear blue hoods, silver belts and have yellow beards. Each carries a bag of tools. They are young and bouncy, and have high, excitable voices.

DORI: He has a blond beard, a dark purple hood, and a gold belt.

NORI: He has a blond beard, a pale purple hood and a silver belt.

ORI: He has a brown beard, an orange hood and a gold belt.

OIN: He has an auburn beard and brown hood and a gold belt.

GLOIN: He has a gray beard and a gray hood and a silver belt. He is the doubter always.

BIFUR: He has a very slight chestnut beard, a pale yellow hood and a silver belt. He is the youngest of the dwarves.

BOFUR: He has a gray beard, a dark yellow hood and a silver belt.

BOMBUR: He is rather fat and a bit of a clown. He

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wears a light blue beard, a pale green hood and a silver belt.

THORIN: He is the leader of the dwarves. He is arrogant, stiff-necked and regal. He wears a black beard and a sky-blue hood with a long silver tassel, and a gold belt. Around his neck is a gold-linked chain.

GROCERY BOY: He is a not-too-intelligent hobbit lad.

THE TROLLS: They are hideous, beefy creatures, rough-spoken and dirty. They are dressed in coarse brown rags and wear necklaces of bones and other distasteful tidbits around their necks.

BERT: He is uncouth and lumpy. He wears a rough, dark fuzzy jacket and trousers and workman's shoes. Pale make-up accented with dark accent lines emphasize his uncouth quality.

ESSIE: She is the feminine counterpart of Bert. She wears a long draggled skirt and a gray, much-worn cardigan. Her hair is drawn back in an untidy bun from which straggling wisps escape.

TOM: He is a slightly younger troll. His clothes and make-up are similar to that of the others.

THE VALLEY ELVES: They are merry folk with high, teasing voices. They are dressed in bright green suits and little pointed caps. They can be male or female.

THE GOBLINS: They are cruel, wicked creatures with over-sized heads, squashed features and large mouths. They are dressed in dark clothing (tights and leotards if desired) and carry chains, whips and clubs. As the scenes are dimly lit, it would be effective if their faces were decorated with day-glow paint. It can be purchased anywhere — just ask the nearest hippie.

THE GREAT GOBLIN: If a head mask is used, the head should be extra large; otherwise a repulsive mask will give the effect. His costume may consist of black close-

fitted trousers and a black turtleneck sweater on which strong zig-zags have been painted in white or silver paint. The leader of the goblins is more imposing than the others. He has a great, stony voice, and is easily roused into frenzies of anger and cruelty.

GOBLIN ATTENDANT and SOLDIERS: They may be dressed similarly to the Great Goblin, but perhaps with a design of linked chain painted across their sweaters.

GOLLUM: He is a black, slimy water creature with bulging "pale-green" eyes. He may wear a skin-tight black rubber suit with cap but not flippers. The suit may be touched here and there with vaseline to give a wet effect and make it glisten. His make-up is greenish and his eyes may be covered with close-fitting goggles painted a watery green, or they may be outlined with white grease paint or ringed in pale green day-glow paint. He is repulsive and frightening in his coldly vicious way.

Notes

THE WOOD-ELVES: They are a different breed from the valley elves—good folk, but more distrustful and aggressive. They can be played by either sex. They are dressed in the colors of the forest, greens and browns.

THE ELVEN QUEEN: The queen of the wood-elves is beautiful and regal. She has great dignity and stage presence. In the beginning, she wears a trimly fitted suit of leaves, forest green in color. She also wears a crown of leaves and berries and carries a short scepter of carved oak. In the final scene, she appears as the Great Queen in a glittering court robe and crown.

SMAUG: He is a vast red-gold dragon. He has a huge coiled tail, sharp claws and a long white belly encrusted with a diamond waistcoat. He may wear a dragon costume or simply a dragon head mask. The body-frame of his costume can be made out of light wood, as in an apple box or a grocery crate. Cardboard is then tacked on and covered with crepe paper or cloth (possibly iridescent

plastic cloth) with scales painted boldly on it, which can be sprayed with glitter or sequins. He wears a waistcoat of the same material, which has been sprayed with diamond glitter. It has a black patch on it just above his heart. Smoke can be made to come out of his mouth by placing incense in a little tin dish and placing it in the bottom part of the dragon's cardboard mouth. This makes marvelous smoke. Also, if a second person is used inside the costume, an atomizer filled with ordinary face powder can be used. The eyes can be made of painted plastic cups, and a tongue can be made simply from painted foam rubber.