



Far Away

Hat-making in UWEC's Costume Shop

Student: Katie Griffin ❖ Advisor: Amanda Profaizer
❖ Department of Theatre Arts ❖ University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Far Away, by Caryl Churchill

This play tells the story of Joan as she struggles to understand her duties as a hat maker for prisoners of war in a dystopian world. She begins to realize that she only has a job because of the war. As the story develops, it is clear that the war has spread to include all aspects of nature.



During the play, the characters exchange dialogue while building hats. Three hats for each character were built so the actor could have a buckram frame, a 'work-in-progress' and a finished hat.



Research

In order to gather ideas for construction and materials, hundreds of pictures were stored so that the costume designer and each hatmaker could find some inspiration.

Creating a hat



Some hats were constructed by stretching buckram over a head block. The buckram is then covered in a soft fabric to create a smooth surface before the final fabric covering can be put on.



Materials needed:

- Buckram
- Fabric
- Elastic
- Felt
- Glue
- Ribbon
- Glitter
- Needles
- Thread
- Thimble
- Feathers
- Patience
- Creativity

Other hats were created using an old, existing hat for a base and building on top of it.



Ready to wear

Collectively, 27 hats were used onstage during the play.

