



**Job Description:** Costume Craftsperson/Dresser  
**Reports To:** Costume Shop Manager, Wardrobe Supervisor, Costume Director

**Summary:**

Des Moines Metro Opera is a major summer opera festival located in Indianola, IA. The company produces 3-4 new productions each season in a summer repertory schedule, presented within the intimate 467-seat theatre at the Blank Performing Arts Center. Our 53<sup>rd</sup> season includes Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman*, Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen*, and Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*.

**Principle Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Interpret costume designs to create items needed for shows, including but not limited to: hats, jewelry, footwear, armor, foam structures, mechanical costumes, puppets, masks, belts, fans and purses.
- Alter or distress bought or in stock costumes per the Costume Designer's designs.
- Assist in the preparation and running of all productions. This includes the building, alternating, fitting, repairing, washing, and general upkeep of costumes used by DMMO.
- Work under the Wardrobe Supervisor as a dresser during the run of shows, prepping costumes and assisting in quick changes as needed.
- Move costume supplies into The Blank Performing Arts Center and returning them to storage at the end of the festival season.

**Dates of Employment:**

Monday, May 26 – Friday, July 25, 2025.

**Compensation:**

\$700/week during the festival season, overtime after 50 hours at a rate of \$16.80/hour

\$300 travel stipend to be paid upon arrival.

DMMO will provide single occupancy air-conditioned dormitory housing during the residency period.

**Skills and Knowledge**

Any Combination of education and experience providing the required skill and knowledge for successful performance would be qualifying. Typical qualifications would be equivalent to:

- 2+ years of experience working in a costume shop.
- Proficiency in hand/machine sewing, distressing, making/altering hats and shoes.
- Minimum BA/BFA in Theatre or equivalent professional experience
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills

**Physical Requirements and Working Conditions**

- Work includes periods of sitting/standing, working in low light, and climbing stairs/ladders

**Application Process:**

Submit resume with 3 references and cover letter via email with the subject line "Craftsperson" or by mail to:  
Production@dmmo.org

**Deadline:**

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Applicant screening process to begin immediately.

As an Equal Opportunity Employer, Des Moines Metro Opera celebrates diversity and inclusion. We do not discriminate against any employee or job applicant on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, creed, gender identity, sexual orientation, pregnancy, disability, age, veteran status, political affiliation or philosophy. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply.