



Job Description: Costume Intern
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 53rd season includes Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman*, Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen*, and Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*.

At Des Moines Metro Opera, the Design & Production Internship is a concentrated nine-week training and work program. Over the nine weeks interns participate in talkbacks with directors, designers, and production staff. Interns also attend several classroom workshops including refining a resume and portfolio, networking, websites, freelancing, and production contracts; as well as receive hands-on instruction in skill-based workshops which include rigging for the stage, welding, and stage painting. All the while interns are working alongside 50+ staff and design members from professional theatre and production companies, helping interns expand their professional network of contacts.

Principle Duties and Responsibilities:

- Assist the Costume Shop Manager in the preparation and running of all Mainstage and 2nd Stage Series Productions. This includes building, altering, fitting, repairing, washing and general maintenance 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.
- Moving costume supplies into The Blank Performing Arts Center and returning them to storage at the end of the festival season.
- Assist with maintaining an inventory of costume stock throughout the season.
- Maintain clean and safe workspace.
- Attend all Intern Talkbacks and Workshops.

Dates of Internship:

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

Compensation:

Daily stipend of \$75/day during the festival season.

\$300 travel stipend to be paid upon arrival.

DMMO will provide single occupancy air-conditioned dormitory style housing during the festival season.

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:

- Currently enrolled in or graduated with BA/BFA in Theatre or equivalent professional experience.
- Experience working in a costume shop.
- Proficiency in hand and machine sewing.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Must be at least 18 years of age to apply.

Physical Requirements and Working Conditions

- Ability to lift 50 pounds unassisted or with the help of a team
- Ability to operate domestic sewing machines
- Work includes periods of sitting, standing, working in low light, and climbing stairs/ladders.

Application Process:

Submit resume with three references and cover letter via email with the subject "Costume Intern" 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.