

FOR THE THEATER WEBSITE Spring 2011

Howard Vincent Kurtz

Professor Kurtz (B.F.A. Clarion Univeristy of PA, M.F.A. Penn State Univeristy) joined George Mason Univeristy in 1993. His previous work experience includes several years as a draper in New York City, creating costumes for Broadway, Hollywood films, and television.

Professor Kurtz was honored to receive the George Mason Univeristy Outstanding Excellence in Teaching Award and numerous Outstanding Service Awards from the Theater Department. Other commendations include the Fenwick Library Fellowship for Research Award for his research topic, *The Costume Designer's Search for Inspiration*.

Professor Kurtz's current research projects include the history of a relatively unknown Czech American designer, an examination of the designer's clients on both sides of the Atlantic, and a study of societal modes of dress as reflected in the historical context of his designs. The outcome of Professor Kurtz's research will result in publications for scholarly journals, lectures presented in public programs, and a proposed grant for an international traveling exhibit of the designer's work. Other ongoing projects include the development of a textbook on costume design and preparations for historical costume exhibitions and catalogs.

Mr. Kurtz is a professional union (USA) costume designer and has designed costumes at many regional and local theaters in the Washington DC metro area. He is the Artistic Associate in Costume Design for the Olney Theatre Center, Olney, Maryland. Howard was honored to receive the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Costume Design for Theater of the First Amendment's production of *Dream of a Common Language*.

In addition to his academic and professional work in costume design, Howard is the Associate Curator of Costumes and Textiles at the Hillwood Museum and Gardens in Washington D.C., the former residence of the Post cereal heiress, Marjorie Merriweather Post. His responsibilities include the cataloging and conservation of the collections and the preparation of exhibitions. In 2009 Howard curated *An Invitation to the Ball: Marjorie Merriweather Post's Fancy Dress Costumes of the 1920s* to great critical and public acclaim. He is currently preparing a new exhibition entitled, *Wedding Belles, Three Generations of Post Family Dresses, 1874-1958*, which will open in June of 2011.

Howard is a member of United Scenic Artists, United States Institute of Theater Technology, Costume Society of America, and American Association of Museums.

Visit Professor Kurtz's website at hvkurtz.com