



Spindles of Stardust

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Keywords: Functional Clothing, Couture Techniques, Ready-to-Wear

Measurements: 32" Bust, 26" Waist, 36" Hip, 70" Finished Length

Mentor Statement

As a teacher, I decided long ago to invest in my students outside the classroom. In the classroom, students are given information, facts, knowledge, and taught techniques, but it is outside the classroom where often times critical thinking, problem solving, the ability to work independently, practice effective communication, and gain experiences in collaborative projects take place. It is outside the four walls of the classroom, where one can have a positive and lasting impact on a student's professional life. Most call this being a mentor. From the beginning student just learning to sew to the most academically advanced student, each needs to be recognized as a developing professional and be coached to improve their skills and find success in their work. I enjoy creating extracurricular opportunities such as special community donation drives, global sewing projects, and designing for our annual fashion show. Extracurricular opportunities allow for collaboration of ideas between students and myself in a non-academic arena, yet we are learning together, and my students gain confidence in their skills for future success.

Designers for our annual fashion show, Count Down to Chic: Cosmos Fashion, drew inspiration from the beautiful, marvelous, majestic, and yet mysterious universe. They allowed their creative minds to take them to different regions of the cosmos and envision futuristic apparel as well as embrace technological advances within the fashion industry. This student's work was chosen for its quality sewing techniques, melding of fabric choice with theme, functional, and transitional pieces.

Spindles of Stardust

Inspired by spiral galaxies across the infinite universe, Spindles of Stardust was created to encompass the beauty and intricacy residing within the skies above – details which we often overlook. In a magical sort of dance, weightless and lustrous swirls of aged stars boast elegance in a moonlit sky. This concept is laced throughout the piece, taking a classic concept of design and creating something new and beautiful. From the gold thread woven through the brocade fabric of the bodice to the sparkling coils of gold embellishing the straps and belt, the design elements of a spiral galaxy are embodied. As single specs of stardust intertwine and extend from these galaxies, sixteen individual panels of gold and beige organza are joined together and fan out from waist. The panels have been artfully twisted and stitched at the base of the belt, spiraling down to create a skirt that moves with the weightless gracefulness of that which is void of gravity's embrace. New techniques have been incorporated into the design to improve the functionality and versatility of the piece. While the solid gold fabric serving as the underlay of the skirt is fully attached to the bodice, the panels of organza are sewn into the belt of the dress, which is a removable element. This design innovation allows for the dress to serve as a dual-design. Thus, while the piece was initially designed to be worn complete with the intricate overlay of organza, the wearer can opt for a simpler, less ornate form of the dress. The removal of this portion of the skirt also allows for regular upkeep of the dress, such as steaming and pressing, to be done with ease and efficiency. In this imaginative design, the gown boasts of beauty and quality, while incorporating functional elements that couture-style garments often neglect. This gown serves as a statement piece for the designer, who has previously been inspired by natural phenomena common to the naked eye, such as trees

and flowers found in everyday landscapes. While these are indeed beautiful, they are admired by many. In the creation of this piece, the designer has been inspired by that which remains unseen by the naked eye, drawing attention to the unacknowledged radiance that exists in the universe. The intent of the creation is to highlight that which is extravagant and luminous - to mimic spiral galaxies which we know of but can seldom observe for ourselves.

Reference:

The complete photo guide to sewing. (2009). Minneapolis, MN; Creative Publishing International.

