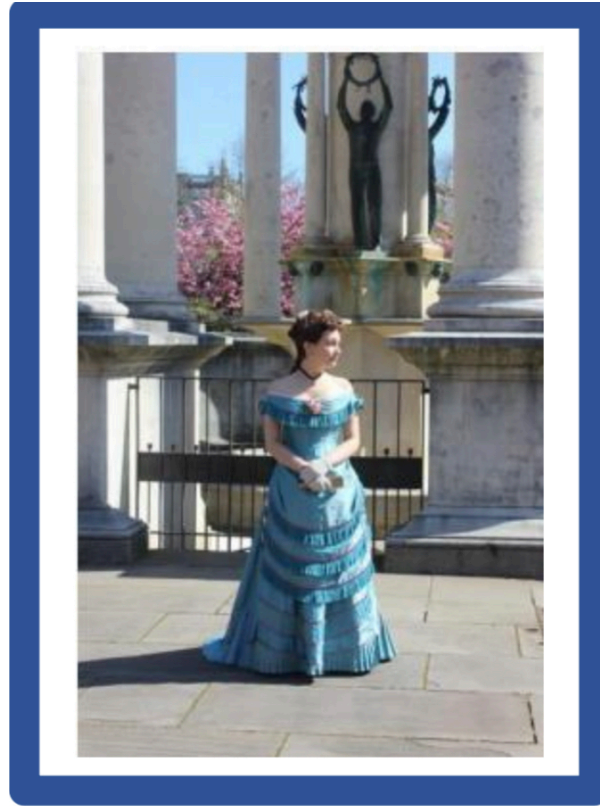


## **Meara Hamlin**

**Winner of WLCow Stage and Drama Award at RWCMD 2022.**



### **Cosprop Placement Report**

Cosprop is a costume-making and hiring company for film, television, and theatre. They have a workroom, where new costumes are produced, an alterations department, and a hiring department. The hiring department is where pre-existing costumes can be hired from their collection. During my work placement I spent two weeks working in the workroom.

On the first day I was given a tour of the different departments and I was introduced to the people in the workroom who I would be working with. I was told I would be sewing an 1860s ball gown as part of a large order that they were working on for a production and given the materials and pattern to begin sewing. I was mentored by Thais, one of the workroom employees. She oversaw my work and answered any questions I had. I

spent the two weeks sewing the bodice, sleeves, and skirt of the gown. By the end of my time there I finished the dress except for the bertha. The bertha, or decorative collar goes over the bodice. This was completed after I left. On the last day of my placement, I was told that I was the fastest two-week student they had ever had. My supervisors also expressed that they were impressed with the high quality of my work. I was told most students only complete the bodice in two weeks and not the skirt.

As I was going into the placement, I had been unsure if I would be making something for a production, or for Cosprop's costume stock. I was happy to learn that my dress is going to be used in a television show. All the employees working in the workroom were very kind and were happy to speak with me and talk about what they were working on, which I appreciated and learned a lot from. I greatly enjoyed working in the workroom environment, being surrounded by costume makers all creating beautiful costumes. Everyone there was talented, friendly, and happy to engage with me, which made me feel very welcome and excited about my future in this industry. I felt very lucky to be given an entire dress to work on and I was very happy to receive compliments on my work from the staff in the workroom and from the owner of Cosprop, John Bright. I was told he does not often give compliments, and so I was very honoured and proud to hear this. During my time there I was also allowed to look through and photograph pieces from their extensive costume stock collection which productions hire from. I photographed a number of dresses and suits from different periods to use as reference for my current projects and future work.

Overall, I had an incredible experience during my time at Cosprop. I learned so much by working in and watching the day-to-day workings of a professional costume workroom and speaking to and observing the costume makers there.

Whilst the dress that I made at Cosprop can only be shown after the production has been aired, I am attaching some photos of the dress I completed for my final exams in Cardiff.

**Thank you so much for awarding me the Stage Award and making my attendance at this placement possible.**