



Totally not Harley

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Keywords: Couture techniques, textile innovation, and ready-to-wear

Mentor statement. This piece was for designed her senior fashion show and aimed to interpret and create garments inspired from characters' costumes. These garments were inspired by the character Harley Quinn, from Batman. I was the advisor for the class and the fashion show, and her collection was amazing. By meeting its purpose, her collection was a success at the show and received many compliments from the visitors and external judges. She worked hard to develop the concept and design and to make a real product. The reasons for choosing this work were: 1) quality: the quality of the work was excellent, and her efforts were exceptional in the time it took to make the garments; 2) cohesiveness: the concept, design, and construction techniques were all very cohesive and precisely constructed. The colors and the half-divided images were inspired from character's costume, which were reinterpreted into a dress. The original was a tight bodysuit. The pointy details of the character's costume were expressed with the patterns and the pointy V-shape on the center bust line. The material represented the shiny and strong bodysuit look of the character's costume by using the horsehair and the petticoat with shiny taffeta; 3) aesthetic properties and visual impacts: the design purpose of developing the movie character Harley Quinn was interestingly interpreted into the garments. The checkered patterns and bias stripes were all connected with each stripe, interweaving the pieces together to create the pattern. Horsehairs were used, and a petticoat was made to create the structured silhouette of the top and the bottom. The three colors and patterns were interestingly combined, creating the fun and mysterious look—yet it is also very wearable. People loved her collection, and her show was selected as one of the favorites among the visitors at the fashion show.

Design statement—purpose. The purpose of this design is to incorporate modern design with a historical twist. This design served as a challenge for me because I have never created a puffed sleeve before, let alone a Juliet sleeve. I also had a hard time with the corset; I never worked with patterned fabric before, so trying to match the stripes and diamonds up on their respective sides were also a tough challenge. Totally not Harley was inspired by Batman's Harley Quinn's color palette of the red, black, and white of her body suit. The design concept was to use Harley's color palette while incorporating the historical harlequin and jester's garments, such as mismatching fabrics and crazy, busy patterns.

Aesthetic properties and visual impact. The overall garment is very busy with the contrasting patterns, even along with single colored pieces; but I believe that this garment is very eye-

catching and follows concepts of modern design and historical context. At first I only decided on black and red, but having all red/black checkers and stripes seemed boring; but after experimenting with some scraps fabric, I really liked the contrast of black/white checkers and red/black stripes on the corset. Having a very busy top means that the bottom should be calmer, so I went with a two-toned circle skirt.

Process, technique, and execution. One side of the corset is a hand-made striped patterned fabric containing black bridal satin and a red taffeta; each colors were a block of fabric with interfacing, cut on bias, and sewn together. The other side is a hand-made black and white checkered pattern. The fabric store did not carry the checkered pattern size of my liking, so I created it myself using Heat'n Bond Lite on white fabrics and cutting out squares. The skirt contains 2 circle skirts that are attached by the center front and at the center back with a black invisible zipper. The shrug is lined and has a collar with a hook and loop-detachable tie. Each sleeve is also sewn with 2 layers of quilt batting to keep its shape. The ends of the puff sleeve is attached to the main sleeve with a Velcro, so that if the puff is not as dramatic as desired, the wearer can insert more stuffing until it is the desired shape.

Cohesion. The mismatched patterns were inspired from the jesters, harlequins, and Harley Quinn. The Medieval jesters of the Middle Ages can be compared to the circus clowns of today. The medieval jester's garments were fairly loose coats with tights that were different colors while Harley's outfit is skin-tight. My outfit is meant to be a contemporary outfit using both elements with a little personal touch. My brainstorm ideas involved things like puffed sleeve, multiple colors, patterns, embellishments, and simplicity.

Originality and innovation. Jesters, harlequins, and Harley have been around for ages; there are so many designs that came from the same concepts, but different color palettes. I wanted to include a "same, but different" aspect to the concept, which was how interpreted one-piece garments into a two or three-piece garment. The jacket is the main connection between past and present. One can wear the corset and skirt with the jacket to have that "medieval feel," or one can wear just the corset and skirt in different looks.

Measurement and dimensions: Bust – 33", Waist – 28", Hip – free, Shrug Length – 9", Corset length – 12", Skirt length – 16 ", and US Size 6

