Stereotype Victorian Melodrama Roles and Costume circa 1880-1900

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| ***ROLE*** | ***Explain the costume – style/colour/fabric/purpose*** | ***How costume was influenced by: fashion of the time/customs, values, beliefs of the society*** | ***The purpose of the playwright*** |
| Handsome hero | Cane, gloves  Morning coat waistcoat [light colour, embroidered, trousers[not matched]  Silk top hat,  Square toed black leather shoes | Status – well educated, university training in a profession but still lives at home, father dominant  Wealth | Kind to his mother, follows society rules but more flexible as a new colonial society |
| Common Villain | * Flat, cloth cap * Tough tweed wool trousers, * Lined fustian jacket * Cotton shirts * Worsted [wool]stockings * Hobnail boots | Show social class/status  NZ produced wool – home-made stockings  Physical labour – been a sailor, uneducated | Look poor, rough, threatening |
| Exotic Villain | Black cape  Cane, gloves  Jacket, vest, trousers[not matched]  Bowler hat | Middle class but aspirations to change his status- wears evening cape in black silk but a lower class bowler hat: shows he is an outsider | Cape concealing – symbol of distrusted aristocracy. Typical villain clothing |
| **Overbearing father** | Cane, gloves  Frock coat, Vest  trousers[not matched]  Silk top hat  High-collar shirt  Cravat [old-fashioned]  Black oxford lace-up shoe | Status – expensive fabrics, formal dress shows importance, wealth. Head of family so could not be frivolous or fashion chasing | Family roles: father knows best – plot twist shows hypocrisy |
| Vulgar rich | Drawers=long under-pants  Lace morning cap or more elaborate evening cap  Petticoats- calico & cambric  Outdoors- very frilly bonnet  Jewellery – pearls, matching bracelets, brooches, rings  Voluminous shawl  Black – mourning  Chatelaine,Mourning brooch | Show how factory machinery had made elaborate clothing [lace,frills, buttons, bows] cheap and accessible. Upwardly mobile- how servants could become business owners | Comic effect and also to show her vulgar ambitions  Lace/ribbons became cheap/popular when machine made |
| Servants:{Poor but honest} | Starched, white cotton aprons and caps, wooden clogs and, patched, cut-down darned clothes darned  Ladies maid – couldsew, care for clothes, better clothes but modesty required – dark colours & narrow skirts. | Dirty jobs to do-keep dress clean [few clothes as washing difficult] | Many servant types from maid of all work to expensive French maid.  Must be subservient – curtsey, bow, speak little |
| **Music hall actress**  {Miss Yolanda } | Flounced skirts, corset  Printed muslin  Bare shoulders in evening dress | A performer – so costume is risque, provocative – shows legs, ankles. Bright colours | Show her as a moral woman despite her occupation |
| **Invalid mother {Mrs F}** | Full skirts- many petticoats and/or a crinoline; tight corset;  Clothes cover her head to toe  Lace cap- married women only  Gloves at all times to protect skin [fair skin shows status]  Black for older women  Fan | Extreme modesty– covering the body; corsets make her frail & fainting; shown the confined and controlled life of upper-class woman  Cover to maintain fair skin | Fainting- tight corset, physical and social constraints |
| **Heroine {Miss Anne}** | Cotton undergarments  Long heavy skirts  Apron- embroidered or of rich satin fabric [at home]  Parasol  bonnet | Well-brought up middle class girl, polite and decorous | Status and role of women, |
| **Respectable spinster**  **{Miss Prim}** | * Gowns * Petticoats/shifts/   Chemise of cotton or flannel   * Handkerchiefs * Neckerchiefs * Stays * Black worsted stockings * Bonnet * Narrow skirt | Social role of women- education becoming respectable job but must dress modestly and “know her place” | Rational Dress reform  Temperance Society  Morality & modesty |
| **The entrepreneur**  **{Mr Harry Fortuso}** | “Oh the would be swell…with their trousers cut so tight/ a short flash coat in light tweed  Bowler hat “a black bellhopper tile”  Waistcoat-bright colour elaborate, embroidered  winged collar shirt and big knotted tie or even a bow tie  Exotic hairstyle- moustache/ sideburns/fringe beard  A cane [really smart] | Men’s cliothing had its fashions- bright waistcoats, ties. | Opportunities in trade/ colonys to become wealthy.  Young, thrusting entrepreneur |

**Vocabulary:**

* Crinoline- a cage shaped petticoat stiffened with steel wireBodice –dress top- tightfitting, waisted
* Corsets- to achieve a fashionable tiny waist tight corsets were worn; made of whalebone or steel in fabric casing, laced tight, made breathing difficult
* Sleeves: many styles of sleeve: pagoda, puff, gathered, plain, cuffs, legofmutton
* Bertha – a soft collar of lace or transparent fabric worn over an evening dress
* Trim: fringes, braid, piping, bows
* Pastel shades, dove gray, white for young women/ Black for older women/ mourning
* In 1856 anailine dyes were invented and colours became bright.
* Evening fabrics: silk, velvet, brocade, taffeta
* Day fabrics: cotton, muslin, linen, gingham, wool/cotton mix
* Parasols,Gloves,mittens,Hats
* Fichu- a small, modest shawl, triangular, lace or net to cover a low décolletage
* Voluminous shawls & coats [pelisse] in silk/indian cotton. Goat fleece[angora]
* Chartalaine – attached to waist- keys, scissors, watches, thimbles
* Men’s watch on chain, with extras, eg: cigar cutter
* Mourning jewellery – brooches with the deceased’s hair/picture
* Hairstyles: only unmarried girls wore their hair loose, married woman wore hair up
* Stockings: White or pale Silk stockings expensive/ cotton- middle class/home-made knitted wool stockings [working poor]
* Bonnets/ Hats/ Caps- [for married women] lawn, lace, embroidery; morning caps worn all day; evening caps- more decorated; black ribbons for mourning {must cover head in public]
* Vest = waistcoat