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  {Mr Liam Farnsworth.} | 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  {Fang} | * 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  {Mr Reginald Buckingham] | 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**  **{ Mr Farnsworth }** | 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 {Mrs} | 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, cutdown  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

**Men's fashion**

Drawing of Victorian men 1870sDuring the 1840s, men wore tight-fitting, calf length frock coats and a waistcoat or vest. The vests were single- or triple -breasted, with shawl or notched collars, and might be finished in double points at the lowered waist. For more formal occasions, a cutaway morning coat was worn with light trousers during the daytime, and a dark tail coat and trousers was worn in the evening. The shirts were made of linen or cotton with low collars, occasionally turned down, and were worn with wide cravats or neck ties. Trousers had fly fronts, and breeches were used for formal functions and when horseback riding. Men wore top hats, with wide brims in sunny weather.

During the 1850s, men started wearing shirts with high upstanding or turnover collars and four-in-hand neckties tied in a bow, or tied in a knot with the pointed ends sticking out like "wings". The upper-class continued to wear top hats, and bowler hats were worn by the working class.

In the 1860s, men started wearing wider neckties that were tied in a bow or looped into a loose knot and fastened with a stickpin. Frock coats were shortened to knee-length and were worn for business, while the mid-thigh length sack coat slowly displaced the frock coat for less-formal occasions. Top hats briefly became the very tall "stovepipe" shape, but a variety of other hat shapes were popular.

During the 1870s, three-piece suits grew in popularity along with patterned fabrics for shirts. Neckties were the four-in-hand and, later, the Ascot ties. A narrow ribbon tie was an alternative for tropical climates, especially in the Americas. Both frock coats and sack coats became shorter. Flat straw boaters were worn when boating.

During the 1880s, formal evening dress remained a dark tail coat and trousers with a dark waistcoat, a white bow tie, and a shirt with a winged collar. In mid-decade, the dinner jacket or tuxedo, was used in more relaxed formal occasions. The Norfolk jacket and tweed or woolen breeches were used for rugged outdoor pursuits such as shooting. Knee-length topcoats, often with contrasting velvet or fur collars, and calf-length overcoats were worn in winter. Men's shoes had higher heels and a narrow toe.

Starting from the 1890s, the blazer was introduced, and was worn for sports, sailing, and other casual activities.[1]

Throughout much of the Victorian Era most men wore fairly short hair. This was often accompanied by various forms of facial hair including moustaches, side-burns, and full beards. A clean-shaven face did not come back into fashion until the end of the 1880s and early 1890s.

