



Meet Jane Wood, Ballet Victoria's costume master and designer who brings characters to life with colours, fabrics, decoration, and details. She finds the perfect balance between functionality and beauty amidst the technical complexity of costume design.

Having seen her work up close, I can't understate how skilled she is. Every costume she creates is a work of art. Combining ballet and costume design, an entire world of characters springs to life on stage.

Wood has a fantastic understanding of the differences between ballets and the costuming needs. She shared how for *Carmina Burana* the dancers aren't costumed as individual characters differing from *Nutcracker* or *Frankenstein*. This piece prioritizes music and movements using the costumes to emphasize the choreography.



The design and creation process doesn't change across ballets. Yet, Wood noted that fitting and alterations remain complex for each performance. Every costume is made-to-measure to fit the dancers perfectly. The costumes go through many adjustments and fittings to be ready for the stage, which can sometimes be a last-minute scramble.



Wood knows her craft inside and out, empowering the dancers to become their characters. It looks simple from the outside, but I know just how difficult it is (after attempting to make a skirt). Her work needs masterful skills and an eye for design to create a character from fabric and thread.

My last question for Wood was what she wanted the audience to know or experience. Her response?

She wants the audience to experience the music, choreography, and costumes of *Carmina Burana* as a cohesive experience. This shows how much she cares about every Ballet Victoria performance. She hopes everyone has the best experience when leaving the theatre.

The upcoming Tea for Tutu performances (full audience), has Jane Wood and the Ballet Victoria dancers excitedly preparing to welcome guests to Kirk Hall. Next week, I will share the experience of Tea for Tutu with you.

- A.Y.

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<https://www.rmts.bc.ca/production-detail-pages/2025-royal-theatre/carmina-burana/>