This past semester I worked on assisting in costume design with Matthew Lefebvre of the Theatre Arts Department. During my working with Prof. Lefebvre I had the duties of researching many costuming outlines and possibilities for the two shows *Under the Gaslight* for the Centennial Showboat’s last production and Wagner’s opera *Das Rheingold*. Along with this paper I have inserted pictures to visually depict the types of costuming that I assisted in choosing for the character in both productions.

For the production *Das Rheingold* I listened to the music of the whole show during my research to engage in the feeling of the storyline. My assignment for this show was to research the symbolism and metaphors of each godlike character in the opera and use these metaphors to create visual representations of each character’s personality through their costume. The theme that Prof. Lefebvre was going for in the gods’ characters had more of a post-apocalyptic/steampunk vibe to it, so in my searches I made sure to follow that guidance, resulting in the photos I attached below (pages 6-8). In the opera, there is a Gold Ring that allows for its owner to rule the world, so with the idea of costuming for all of the gods I had suggested to have them bound by a golden ring around the waist due to the fact that the Gold Ring in the opera had immense power over everyone. The thickness of the band would depend on how much individual gods are controlled by the power of ring/greed. The women have a gold corset
in their photos (pages 7-8) and the men have a leather male corset in theirs (that could be gold) (pages 6, 8). For all other specific points and metaphors made with each character I have attached at the end of this paper the short personality definitions as well as photo clip ideas for each character (pages 6-8).

For the show *Under the Gaslight* my primary focus was finding proper petticoats and undergarments that could be bought for usage in the women’s costuming. In the search for these I came across many sites only to find them far more expensive than what our price range was. With thorough searching in pages past the first page on Google I finally started to come across homemade brands that had a more reasonable price (cheaper than $500). Attached after this paper are the primary choices for the women’s petticoats (page 3). Also in the costuming for *Under the Gaslight* I was instructed to research a type of coat that had tiered inverness shoulders, of which I have included photos for below (pages 4-5). This sort of coat is definitely no longer in style so I has to search it under many creative names until I started to see results that mirrored the drawings that Matt had provided for me prior to my searches.

Overall, I learned a lot of new costuming necessities and ideas this past semester as well as how to properly research them. The figuring of metaphors and pivotal personality traits with the gods in *Das Rheingold* gave me more of an appreciation for all of the thought put into the costumes that actors wear. I really enjoyed my research with Matt and would like to further in costuming studies with him in the upcoming semester.
3 Tiered Ruffled Petticoat Civil War Era

18th & 19th Century Triple Cape Coat, http://www.sutlers.co.uk/acatalog/Napciv.html, 10-10-16


Wotan- ruler of the gods- has a spear made from the ash tree and one eye, both of which he gained trying to achieve wisdom/truth--he needs authority and power- complex character
Donner - god of thunder - has a hammer

Froh - god of spring - brought forth the rainbow bridge

Fricka - wife of Wotan - represents wedlock and virtue
(I gave her a couple with an eye patches because she seems like the type whose husband's pains are her pains)

Freia - goddess of youth, love, and beauty - has golden apples of youth that rot when she is kidnapped by the giants (I feel like an apple emblem on her clothing/jewelry would be visually appealing for her youth).
Erda- goddess of Earth- older than Wotan- comes up from the ground in her entrance- knowledge of past, present and future- a mystery (thought that her coming from the ground should be evident in her attire)

Loge- god of fire- is Wotan's servant- clever, guile, deceit- feels like an outsider- knows that the end is coming for the gods/knows better than the others (primarily darker clothes due to charring of fire and black/loathing feelings towards other gods)