

## COSTUME DESIGN

There was no “best of” award for costume design when our show Eddie and The Palaceades was part of the Midtown International Theatre Festival. But if there had been, I am sure it would have gone to our costume designer **Heather Milam**. I was so lucky she was home from Indiana for a short vacation and was an old school buddy of our Director Jamibeth Margolis.

### The Band



Her selection of costumes for the band is shown at left. The band is an over the hill rock group that got their start opening for the Beatles in the late 1960s. They are now doing a benefit concert to save the Palace Theater in the early 1990s. Milam’s selection of jeans, Ts and overshirts provides some color for the stage picture and some contrast to the monochrome suits of the 60s era. The look also sets the characters up as unpretentious and down to earth. These are the guys who will be doing

battle with the politicians at City Hall who want to tear the theater down.

### The Politicians



Milam dressed the politicians in jackets and suits, a direct contrast to the band attire. Three alderman are in tan sports jackets and the mayor is distinguished by his dark suit. Color choice? The alderman might be a little shady, but the mayor is definitely on the dark side.

The principal conflict in the show is between the band and the politicians, but there are numerous other characters and a great deal of doubling to cover those roles. The cast seems almost expansive with the many costume changes provided.



The three alderman in their suits become the Tray Amigos singing group in their white shirts and bow ties.

After punching out the mayor when he closes down their show, the band gets sent to jail. To the right in the picture below is their jailer reading his paper.



As the show moves along the jailer is also: the theater owner,



newsstand vendor



and TV personality.





Our jailer, news vendor, theater owner, TV personality is also one of the “merry villagers” in this dance routine. And that long-haired housewife on the left is just up from New York City where she is Editor of Money Magazine



At the end of the show the band has saved the theater and is celebrating by going back out on tour.

The new look of success is gold lame and tuxedos with matching pocket squares. They have beaten the politicians and they are better dressed.



Our costume designer made the cast look great, contributed to the characterization of each role and to the interest and color of the stage pictures. Drumroll... and she did it with a budget of \$500.

## About Heather Milam



Heather Milam is a member of the faculty of Indiana University since 2013 when she launched the school's M.F.A. Costume Technology program. She had previously served as the Costume Production Specialist for the University of Alabama's Department of Theatre & Dance.

A native New Yorker, Heather obtained her bachelor's degree in theatre from Ithaca College in the mid-nineties. Upon graduation, she moved to NYC where she worked making Broadway costumes at Barbara Matera Ltd. She worked as a cutter,

first hand, pattern maker and assistant draper over her years of service with the shop. She worked on such shows as *Spamalot*, *Mama Mia*, *Movin' Out*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *The Lion King*, *Aida*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Sunset Boulevard* and *Show Boat*, as well as *101 & 102 Dalmatians* (the movies), many ballets (NYC, ABT, SF), several operas, the finale costume for Cher's 2003 Farewell Tour, the Rolling Stone's 1995 Voodoo Lounge Tour and more.

Heather has also worked with the National Dance Institute, Playmakers Repertory Theatre, The Loft Theatre, Homemade Theatre, Kitchen Theatre, INCOACT, Breaking Bread Productions, Expanded Arts Theatre, Pilot House Theatre Company, Theatrefest, Pennsylvania Center Stage, Capitol Theatre, Chautauqua Conservatory Theatre Company and John Drew Theatre.