



# Lauren Haskins

Red Velvet

By: Lolita Chakrabarti

Theoretical Costume Design

Received Honorable Mention for  
Theoretical Costume Design at  
KCACTF Region 8 (2021)

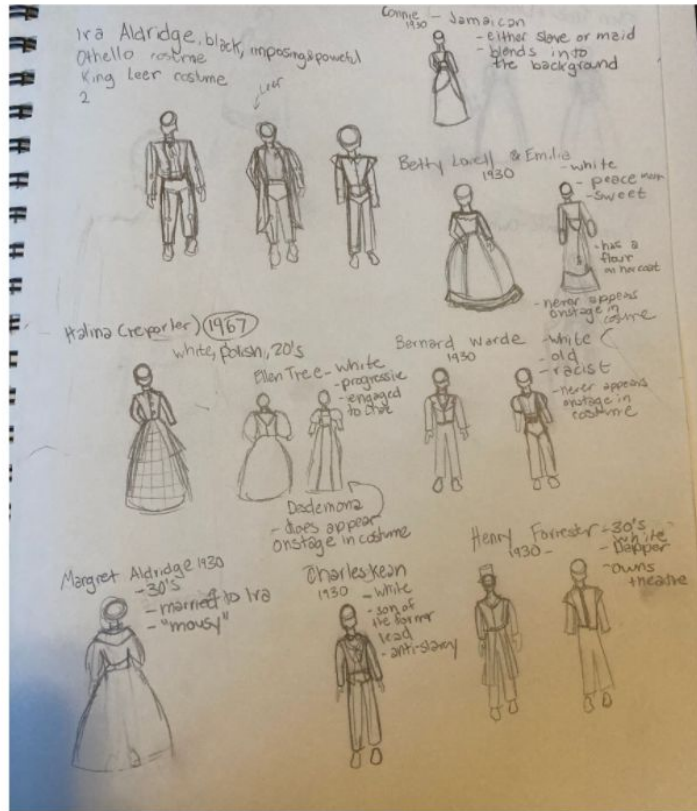
# SYNOPSIS

The play starts in 1867. A reporter named Halina interviews Ira Aldridge about his role as Othello 34 years prior. After this scene we are transported to 1833 to the same production of Othello Halina and Ira discussed in the first scene. Henry Kean the actor initially in the title role fell ill and a replacement was needed. The theatre's owner Pierre LaPorte brings on Ira Aldridge to play the part. This was a bold move because of the civil unrest during the anti Slavery protests. Ira Aldridge goes on for his first night with his co-star Ellen Tree. Prior to the show the owner asked Ira to ease the audience into the idea of him onstage and to perform at less than maximum intensity. Ira didn't hold back and gave a fiery and impressive performance. The next day the reviews came in and the response was negative, focusing primarily on his race. Laporte decides the production must go dark. Ira is furious that LaPorte would play into the critics' arrogance. For the final scene we are taken back to 1867. Ira prepares to go onstage as King Lear, but this time he performs in white face.

# CONCEPT STATEMENT

The 1830's was a time of much civil unrest and within the play Red Velvet we get to see a cast of characters react to the anti-slavery protests happening around the theatre. Each character has their own opinion and their own personalities. My concept for this production was to use the vibrant colors and patterns of the 1830's to evoke emotion in the story and support the storytelling of each character's personality and social status.

# ROUGHS



# HAIR, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES

1833



# DESIGN/RENDERING PROCESS

Rough Sketch



Watercolor



Digitally Altered Final Rendering



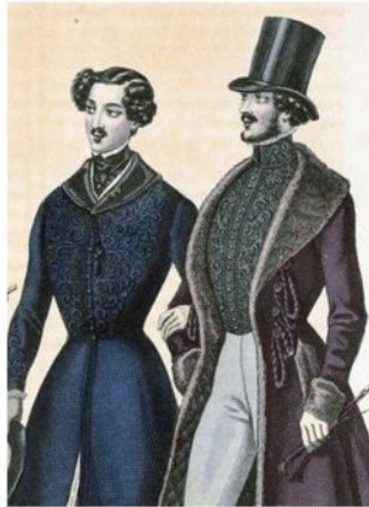
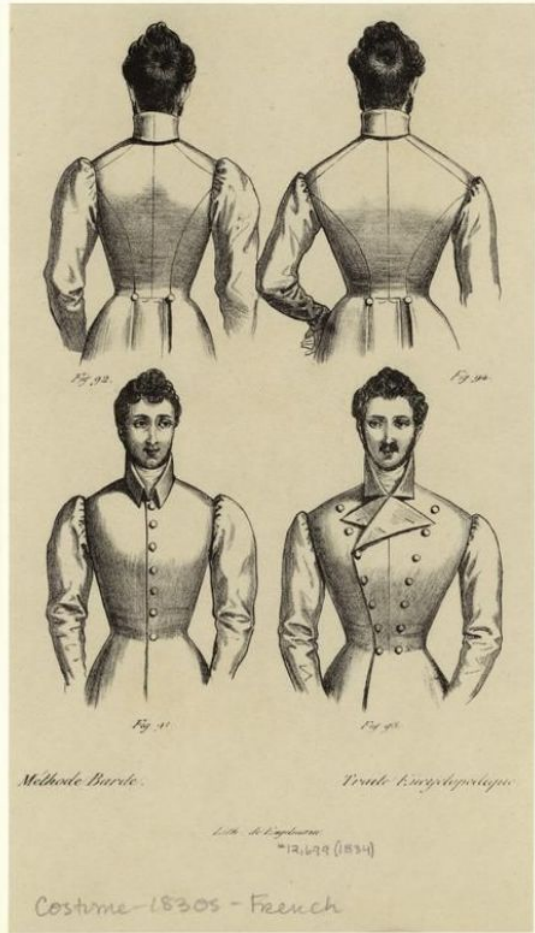


# Red Velvet

Halina



INTELLIGENT, INQUISITIVE



# Red Velvet

Idra Aldridge



COMMANDING, PASSIONATE





# Red Velvet

Idra Aldridge



# Red Velvet

Desdemona





*MOUSY, QUIET*



*THOUGHTFUL, TRY'S TO NOT STAND OUT*



SWEET, PEACEMAKER

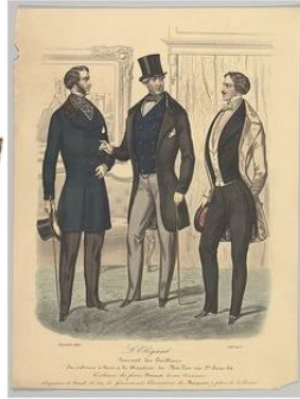


FORTHRIGHT, TALENTED





DAPPER, WELL OFF



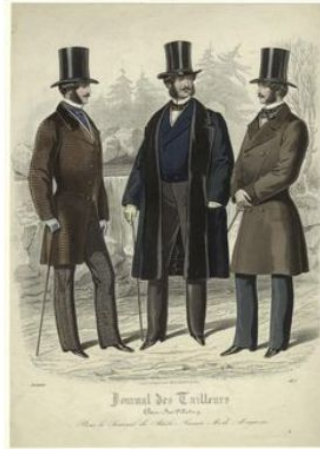
OLDER, CONSERVATIVE





*Red Velvet*  
Charles Kean

WIRY, PROGRESSIVE



*Red Velvet*  
Henry Forestor

YOUNG, EDUCATED



# REFERENCES

Bradfield, Nancy. *Costume in Detail. Women's Dress, 1730-1930*. Written & Illustrated by Nancy Bradfield. 1968.

Cunnington, C. Willett. *English Women's Clothing in the Nineteenth Century*. 1990.