

Lace and embroidery

Dressing down (or dressing up) - I have appeared on stage locally twice in "Fiddler on the Roof". It is set in rural Russia in the 19th century, and we in the cast were dressed appropriately – that is, as peasants whose clothing was not elaborate at all. Just watch the film to check this out. I also, by the way, had to grow a beard for this part, the only two occasions I have done that.

This made me think about the other theatrical productions I have been in. The costumes were an integral part of the productions, and the wardrobe mistress was always a key member of the team. It was always the case – at least for me – that during rehearsals, I would do the best I could. But once we got to the dress rehearsals and the actual performances, the donning of the costume was the turning point which transformed me from an actor into the actual person I was portraying.

John Whiteley