

### Costume Design Statement: *The Bacchae*

The concept of the “search for wisdom” is the main idea for the show. In my costume research, I looked at clothing from Ancient Greece and Rome. In the design, I wanted every line and shape to be very clear, so I looked at the shapes of togas and coverings from this time period and used the overall shape, but took it to a heightened level by adding some structure to the form. I feel that this does not move it out of the integrity of Ancient Grecian garb, but makes it certain that the clothing still represents the character traits well. The coloring is important because all of the characters have different coloring to them, but the shape is what unifies everyone onstage. There is a central theme of using a triangle in the garments whether it is in the shoulder or on the actual fabrication. This comes from the idea that wisdom is very straightforward. You either have it or you do not. The people in the world of the play are searching for it, but they do not know that they have had it all along. The use of shape is the metaphor and symbol for wisdom. I want most of the costumes to have little texture. Two people have some texture in the fabrication, but it is covered with a fabric, so it is not an obvious use of texture. I did not want this to break up the idea of using solid fabrication that does not detract from the story itself.