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Rubeo's Costume Designs

Valkyrie's Asgardian armor makes her a brave female warrior who seems to possess some comical storylines that embody the politics of gender. Looking at the photo, one gets the impression that Valkyrie maintains a low profile and is not vital to the message that the designer is trying to put across. However, her demeanor contradicts what she seems to be at first, and this makes her a central figure that controls the whole narrative. In Valkyrie, the warrior character of women emerges and it shows how the age of information has encouraged women to fight in order to disrupt the social order that relegates them to a second-class status. Costume designs communicate important information about the cultural context of a creative work (Pantouvaki, 181). It is notable that when Rubeo designed Valkyrie's costume, it was around the time United States was on the verge of making history by electing its first female president; in addition, this time was significant because it was the first time there was a female contender for the presidency on the ticket of a major political party.



Hela's villain costume captures Stutman (19)'s suggestion of how technology engenders social change. The integrated closures on Hela's costume makes it appear as she has a glove that will assist her in close combat, and this aspect enhances the designers depiction of women's resolve to fight for social change. The glove makes Hela seem not only sexy but also dark, and her big headpiece suits motion capture since it makes it easy for her to maneuver and act well. With her conspicuous headpiece, there is no doubt that Hela is the goddess of death who is out to stop the emergence of retrogressive practices in society, and, therefore, kill an emerging culture. One aspect of this emerging culture is the overthrow of democracy by the corporate elite and a clique of powerful political lobbyists who do not wish to relinquish their stranglehold on the political system.

With the changes in the American political landscape, the bad culture that Hela is trying to kill is on its deathbed, meaning Hela has achieved her mission. The Grandmaster's gold robe has a single sleeve, and this sleeve's distinct symmetry suggests that he is an intelligent, creative man. The grandmaster's costumes indicate that there is need to think differently about how to approach contemporary problems because the current paradigm facilitated the emergence of a repugnant social order that all people are now fighting to change. The Grandmaster's costume brings out the classic, smooth and earthly demeanor of Asgard.



Thor looks like a new person considering the armor in his possession. Thor voluntarily exiled himself to Asgard, and as he ends his exile, he seems to have no choice except to change his armory. The position of Thor's arms indicates his agility, and this exemplifies the qualities needed to survive in a changing cultural context. Through Thor, the designer shows that people need to take drastic steps in order to overthrow the emerging social order that elevates personal liberty over common societal good. Voluntary exile is a drastic action that should motivate people to sacrifice their comfort and take the hard steps needed to restore the ideals governing a good society. When Thor ends his exile and changes his armory, it means that the progress the society has made requires new ways of dealing with contemporary problems, and, as such, the old techniques – and hence his old armory – have become obsolete.



Loki's robe covers his body and signifies separation from the things happening around him. That Loki can afford to cut himself off the world at a time society needs him most suggests that he is weak. He also lacks the sense of urgency that one would expect of him when Hela, the goddess of death, is wreaking havoc on the people. To Loki, the most important thing at a time of great societal suffering is to exile himself in safe place. The designer uses Loki's costume to show how people have abdicated their responsibility to forestall the emerging social order that disregards the principles of justice and fairness as the key tenets of managing social affairs. Valkyrie's armor adheres to her shape and brings her out as a superhero. Her posture indicates that she is ready for battle, and her high heels suggest that she is out there to kick ass. Valkyrie and Hela's costumes show that the designer believes in women as the central figures of the struggle for a new social order who, unlike in previous years, have refused to sit back and wait for other people to fight on their behalf.