

The stakeholders are the primary people that influence my design and product. They are people who give me feedback, these people have a mixture of perspectives as they are my friends, choreographer and family.

**Friends-** My friends are extremely important stakeholder as they aren't afraid to speak their minds. This is something that I will benefit from because if they felt as though one of my designs was ugly, not practical or wouldn't suit me, they would tell me, this means that I would be able to have the most successful outcome as possible. My friends are very 'in' with the fashion and they know me very well. They would be able to advise me positively while considering all aspects of use for my product.

**Family-** As I am under 18, my family are my caregivers. Their stakeholder opinion would focus largely on cost of the product. My family are very vocal when I waste my money, this means that I would be ensured of purchasing material that would aid my design the most. My family would have opinions on the appropriateness of my garment and would tell me if it was inappropriate, encouraging me to change my design in order for it to be successful.

**Choreographer-** The choreographer is a main stakeholder in this design as this product is being made specifically for their dance. Their opinion would alter the form of the product as their opinion would be specifically just for looks. The choreographer also knows what judges are looking for as they are currently working in the industry. This is extremely important for my performance.



1

Social considerations

Competitions on stage around New Zealand. All theatres in New Zealand are indoor which means that the environment is controlled. Where the dancers are, backstage, the temperature and environment is an average heat, although when dancing it gets really hot. As dancing is an art that gets judged on its beauty, I need to ensure that when I'm dancing on stage underneath the hot lights, the colour and fabrics won't pick up my sweat and the adjudicator and audience won't be able to see my sweat on my costume. The fabric that I chose for my product will need to be able to slip on and off easily. After dancing on stage and sweating and having the heat of the stage lights on me means that when I get off stage I will be sticky, say I had a quick change, my garment would need to be able to come off my body with ease. Although being able to come on and off easily, since the environment of use for this product is a theatre, inevitable there would be an audience of varying ages and genders meaning that the product would have to function well and the risk of a wardrobe malfunction would be extremely low. This means that when making my garment I would benefit from having clips in order to secure the costume onto my body. Having clips means that when I need to take the costume off I can unclip it, leaving the garment loose and easy to remove. When on stage I can clip it to my desired tightness, ensure safety and practicality on stage. Having clips would also be extremely useful in order to alter the size if I grow at all during the time of using the product.

Competitions are family friendly, my costume would have to meet a lot of criteria. I would have to fit my age and maturity as well as appropriate enough for young people to watch the performance without being inappropriate. I will be representing my dance school and town in this costume as I would use it at nationals.

- Able to alter tightness
- Appropriate to look at for all ages
- Fabric that is a colour and material that doesn't pick up on sweat.



1

Physical considerations

**Appearance-** My product needs to be suitable for on stage wear, this means that it has to be pretty and feminine and have some applique on it. My product also needs to look good on stage under the lights and in photographs that get taken at competition. This is a key attribute that must be considered during the production of my costume. It is also important that my product stands out in a competition as there are so many dancers with the same costume. It is essential that this costume stands out as well as fitting with my dance style as it is a crucial part of a successful garment that is memorable to both the audience and judge panel.

**Materials-** Strong and durable material so it doesn't rip and lasts long. Materials also need to be suitable to move freely in and a colour that suits my dance and doesn't show my sweat. It is also really important that the materials used for my garment look nice on stage as it is a key contributor toward its final appearance and outcome. Materials that compliment my movement would be ideal (when I move it follows). This is important as it helps to add another 'layer' to the performance as it does help to heighten audience engagement and compliments the music that you are dancing to.

Key attributes

**Time-** My product needs to be completed by the end of October 2019. Time affects the quality of the product because if the product construction is rushed the product quality will become limited. I want to ensure that the quality of my product is at the highest standard possible so that it can last me a long time. I don't want to get stressed during the production of my garment due to time restraints as I don't want the quality of my product to be jeopardised. I need to manage my time properly in order to design and produce the best possible garment, able to solve all of my problems.

**Function-** The function on my product is a high priority for me. It must have a closure and be adjustable so that the garment lasts me as long as possible. This is so that if the cost of my product is high, the amount of time it lasts will counteract the cost and make the product worth it due to the quality. My product must also be appropriate to wear on stage in front of a large audience. It is extremely important that my costume is fully secure as most competitions are videographed and families watch in the audience.

If the production of my product is rushed and my budget has caused me to have cheaper materials of lower quality my product will no longer be fully functional.

## Material study

After researching my material study, I have decided to go with polyester for my briefs and top and then to add a chiffon overlay to the top and then use chiffon for the skirt/or flowy parts of the costume. This is because they are the most versatile in washing, stretchy for growth and don't wrinkle, meaning that travelling with this costume would be good as I wouldn't need to iron it before going on stage.

2



Polyester is an extremely durable material that is resistant to most chemicals, shrinking and stretching, wrinkling mildew and abrasion resistant. The fibres of these fabrics are also extremely strong. Polyester is also known to be hydrophobic in nature and quick to dry.

This material is ideal for my product as it is durable, meaning that it will last me a long time. It is also wrinkle resistant which means that it will look really nice on stage. As it is a 'quick dry' material, it won't pick up on my sweat as much/or will dry my sweat really quick. This is an ideal material



Satin is a material known for its good drape, elasticity and luxury feel. It is challenging to sew and frays easily, it also snags easily because of the long floats.

This material will be more suitable as a skirt or overlay for a base costume such as a leotard or briefs and a bra. The only problem with this material is that it isn't very durable.



Chiffon is a lightweight material made of many different fabrics. It tends to be slippery making it hard to hold but also floats nicely when moved in.

This material will be more suitable as a skirt or overlay for a base costume such as a leotard or briefs and a bra. This is very pretty on stage and 'soft'. It would be good for travelling as the wrinkles aren't as obvious as other materials.



Silk velvet has a shimmering, almost fluid surface. It also has a soft and more flexible drape. Velvets other properties include being heavy and durable.

Under the stage lights the material shimmers really nicely giving it a luxurious effect. This material would be good for both a base material and for a skirt.

## Testing and trailing

Last week myself and Ella went into town and purchased some materials for our mock up. After researching my materials and fabrics I decided to go with polyester briefs and bra and a chiffon overlay. These materials were not available at the time, so for my mock up I will be using velvet and polyester satin. I also couldn't find a stretchy diamante strip.

3

Over the weekend, I started the production of my garment. The production of my briefs and bra went smoothly and I promptly moved on to adding my applique. (My mock up needs to be presentable as I will be wearing it on stage at the end of this week) As I started the production at home, I didn't have the tools available to me that would be at school. I had to hand sew all of my applique onto my garment which took a long time but the end result was really pretty.

I didn't have a stretchy material to put on the back of my top so I was very specific in my measurements so that when my top was on it would fit perfectly. This worked really well and looked nice, it was also very secure. I tried my top on once it was finished and it fit perfect, I even danced a little bit in it and it felt really good. I then went onto to take my top off and I couldn't get past my shoulders and had to get my mum to forcefully get it off me. This then made me realise that I needed to find either a stretchy back or attach it with a clasp. As I said before I couldn't find stretchy material so resorted in stitching a hook and eye so which made taking it on and off really nicely. Sewing on different hooks also meant that my product would be adjustable which suited my brief more so than my previous design.

I moved onto making my briefs with a pattern that I used last year. Unfortunately I didn't take into consideration that I had grown and so my costume doesn't fit me. I will now need to find a pattern that is more suited to my size.

I have now completed the production of my garment and will be moving on to the testing and trailing of it on stage this weekend at forum north. With this I will come back and evaluate my design and alter any specification that I need to, to ensure that my final product is exactly what I want.



Diamante around the middle of bra



Attachment of diamante back

## Evaluation against brief

My costume going on stage was extremely functional and didn't let me down when performing my high energy solo which matches my brief perfectly. The diamante straps at the back were sewn straight on. It would have been a lot better if the back of my bra was either a bra clasp or the diamante was attached via a hook. On stage this issue was no a problem I was only the aking off of the garment that was a struggle. I was fortunate that at this competition I didn't have a quick change which meant that I could take my time to take of my garment carefully, although this won't be the case at very competition. This means that my mock up did not function the way I wanted it to.

From stakeholders such as colleagues and the judge, I received many positive comments about the way it looked. It was "very pretty on stage the the sparkles looked great underneath the stage lights" - said the judge.

Although I had many positive comments about the appearance of the costume one thing I would alter when making my final piece is that the skirt will only be a half skirt (at the back) this is because the front skirt looked like a pouch and I didn't like the way it sat on my body. This may have been the fabric that was used but I really liked the way the fabric looked on stage so would rather just change the design on the skirt and keep the same material.

The cost of my materials was a total of \$34 which was cheaper than my desired costs of material.

5

I have decided that the colour was not strong enough for my dance song and a red costume would better suit my dance. My final product matches my brief. Although being sure to match my dance is also appropriate to wear in front of a varying audience as the cleavage area is covered by applique and the bottom has a skirt over top. After researching my material study I have picked fabrics that are strong a durable which means that my product will last long and it will be unlikely for my costume to break. I choose red and black for my costume as these colours are known to be "sexy". I needed my costume to be conservative but still sexy, which is why I went with this colour choice, enabling me to have a secure and conservative costume. When trying on my costume and wearing it on stage I felt very confident as I had zero costume malfunctions and it made me feel good about myself, as I liked the way it sat on my body. During construction on my garment I decided to leave the classic bra structure for optimal function. This bra structure meant that my straps were adjustable, extending wear considering growth. The total cost of my garment came to \$34 which is \$16 below my budget.

4

