

WHEN did you start Kamini's creations?

For ten years, I was a homemaker. But the creative person that I was, I spent hours making fancy clothes, bedcovers and toys for my kids. They participated in various competitions and I designed their costumes, for which they invariably won prizes. The costumes were always appreciated, and other parents noticed my talent and approached me. I thus stumbled upon my vocation. I had plenty of costumes, and I began by giving them on hire. With the increasing demand, I started customised designing too.

What do you offer and who are your clients?

I have costumes for children between one year and 12 years, made in various fabrics. The collection includes birds, animals, water creatures, flowers, dwarfs, witches, pizzas, hamburgers, chocolates and fruits. Besides, I also make on specific requirement for school plays and shows. I have made costumes like the Lion King, Alice in

made a fish caught in a net; for space, I made an astronaut with a rocket. Besides drafting, 3D-imagination skill is important, for ultimately the costume has to look good and be wearable. I also make my own papier-mâché masks, provide wigs. Accessories are very important. I suggest

What are the qualities required to be a costume designer? What is your advice to young aspirants?

For me, designing for children is a passion. It's a creative work. One must enjoy creating with fingers. One has to be child at heart and love interacting with children. Drafting, cutting skills, stitching and visual ability are a must. A designer has to constantly reinvent, so I watch children's



dress'em

up

She creatively transforms your kids into 'prize-winning' flowers, pizzas or even hamburgers! **Purnima Goswami Sharma** talks to fancy dress designer Kamini Asrani while she dresses yet another kid

make up tips for children to suit the costume.

movies and read fairy tales. My son is into theatre and my daughter is a fashion designer, so I take their suggestions.

What are the challenges in this field?

I don't look upon designing as work at all. It gives me tremendous satisfaction when children come to me with a smile and say they won a prize. So, the challenges seem minor. However, sourcing different kind of fabrics becomes difficult at times. Explaining the design to the karigars, who actually make the costumes requires lot of patience to get the right look.

What is the scope in this field?

There is immense scope, as children require costumes for fancy dress, shows in school, theatre and television, and for theme parties. Parents usually prefer to hire than do it themselves. Besides, it is used as teaching aid in play-groups. One can also start teaching costume designing ultimately a lot depends on the person's abilities.

Wonderland, Puss in Boots and on theme of pollution. My clients are parents, schools and also theatre groups."

Tell us something more about costume designing.

I create on the subject given, for instance on pollution, I



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