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The Poet, the Rebel, and the Wardrobe Coat

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The Poet, the Rebel, and the Wardrobe Coat

Tamara Sanchez and Laura Kane (Mentor), Mount Mary University

Keywords: Couture Techniques, Functional Clothing, Ready-to-wear

Measurements- B: 34 W: 36 H: 36 L: 40

Mentor Statement: Tamara completed this project as part of my Tailoring course during her junior year of study. The project required the students to design and develop an original jacket and construct it using a combination of traditional and mass-market tailoring techniques learned throughout the course. Students were encouraged to try new techniques and incorporate traditional and non-traditional tailoring fabrics in their projects. This student took to heart the importance of fit, material selection, and hand worked detail in her project. She used a hemp fabric with an almost burlap texture and manipulated it until it behaved the way she wanted it to. Tamara handled the challenges and obstacles throughout the process with determination and passion. Her final jacket has beautiful clean lines and exhibits a mastery of the techniques she learned in the course. This garment became the centerpiece of her junior collection. Tamara's collection earned the Best of Show and Outstanding Collection awards at the University's annual fashion show this past Spring.

Designer Statement: For my junior year showcase I decided that a tailored Fall/Winter coat would become the focal point for the entire theme. Deriving inspiration from the title of a movie, I decided to name the collection, "The Poet, The Rebel, and The Wardrobe." I wanted to create a surreal vibe and an element of surprise by styling the models as if they had just stepped out of the wardrobe from Narnia or a fashionable magical land. The rest of the collection comes to fruition in the same spirit as the coat in soft monochromatic tones, focusing on juxtaposed textures, clean lines, pleat details tempered by coordinating accessories, and textile manipulations such as laser-cut and knitted leather. Each of the various faux fur and leather accessories serves its function while adding some strength and balance to the otherwise sophisticated vibe of the collection. The pleating and leather touches are sprinkled throughout, creating a cohesive look that blends and mixes with all the pieces from the wardrobe.

From the front the coat appears to be a simple silhouette with a clean structured fit. The back view of this garment comes as a surprise and leaves a lasting effect. The

style lends an air of classic elegance and quality. In detail: this garment features a layered capelet in back with a belted and pleated panel, side inseam pockets, a hidden button placket in front, stand collar, and a detachable faux fur stole with a customized faux leather belt attached. Made in a coordinating mix of natural grey hemp and wool tweed, the neutral blend makes for a versatile and chic statement coat. The inside of the coat further serves to delight and surprise with an unexpected interior lining in a colorful paisley print on a white background and a contrast lace hem finish.

For this design, I was required to use wool or woven fabrics and I had to incorporate specific tailoring and couture techniques. I started constructing the garment by draping the pleats for the back panel and then I draped and shaped the capelet over the pleated panel on the back. My next step was to draft a basic flat pattern for a coat based on my own measurements. I then used that pattern to create a muslin mockup of the front of the coat, the collar, and the sleeves. From that point, I used those pattern pieces and shaped them on the mannequin for the front part of the coat. Once the desired fit was achieved, I then created a second mock up in a similar wool fabric to test the drape of the fabric and the flare of the pleats. After the final mockup was approved, I then moved forward with the final fabric and production. The removable faux fur stole and belt were made for added flair and to balance the design details in the garment. During the process, one of the challenges that I met was initially not interfacing all of the hemp material. Upon seeing the finished garment, it did not meet my vision of the fit and structure that I was seeking, so I started over and completely interfaced, pounded, and pressed the garment throughout the entire construction process. The final steps were to finish the lace hem on the pleats and attach the interior lining both by hand. The final result was a well-constructed quality garment that is suited for warmth, longevity, and protection while achieving the desired sophistication and unique style.

