The Emperor's New Clothes

Synopsis

The Emperor is in his dressing room. All of the time. Everyday! All he cares about is clothes. The citizens of Washingland know it and the deteriorating kingdom shows it. As taxes are raised to pay for the monarch's new suits and wardrobe assistants, businesses are closed to make room for more laundro-mats and dry-cleaners. Even the clothing stores are shut down when the Emperor decides he will only wear custom-tailored suits from now on.

While some in the palace seek to gain power and money by enabling his obsession, others care enough about him to try and stop the madness. Stitches, the sweet and funny court jester and loyal, life-long friend of the Emperor, hears about his insistence on wearing only custom-tailored suits. She hatches a wild scheme to teach him a lesson. Disgruntled from losing their businesses and careers, workers in the kingdom are willing to join forces with Stitches and her friend, Sewphia, to expose the Emperor's folly. They pose as tailors who tempt the Emperor with a custom-tailored suit made of "the most amazing cloth imaginable." The fabric is said to be completely invisible to anyone who is unfit for their job or who is a complete fool. How could the Emperor resist?

While Stitches and her friends carry out the plan, they struggle with the dis-honesty. Will it even help the Emperor see the error of his ways? Will his conniving staff be exposed? Will it be worth the price Stitches and her friends pay in sacrificing personal integrity? Will truth and love prevail? Find out in this fun musical comedy adaptation of Hans Christian Anderson's tale, *The Emperor's New Clothes*.

The Emperor's New Clothes

a musical comedy

by

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Cast of Characters - Notes for Casting

Lead A – big part, in several scenes. Many lines, lots to do.
Lead B – big part in fewer scenes. Some lines, a song or two.
Chorus Mains (CM) – big part in one scene. Few lines. A song or two.
Extras
Crucial Characters – In RED

Character description	**Lead A or Lead B or CM**	**Traits**	**Vocal**	**Dance**
Stitches – Court Jester, leader of the Wild Jokers. One time close friend (maybe more than friends) of the Emperor, now being pushed away. Long time friend of Sewphia.	Lead A	M. Humorous, animated, energetic, capable of showing varying emotions. Slapstick physical comedy. Charming. Lovable. Rarely leaves the stage.	Sing OR talk in rhythm.	Move well.
Sewphia – A tailor in the kingdom. Long time friend of Stitches. Friends with Missy Buttons and Tempa Cheer. (or can do their scenes, lines, songs as Sewphia)	Lead A	F. Animated, poised, confident, smart, engaging, energetic. Kind of a caring "mother hen" type. Responsible for keeping things moving along in the story. Somewhat sarcastic in a fun way.	Must sing	Move well.
The Doubleknit Twins – Successful **C**lothing store owners, close friends of Sewphia and Stitches, they provide the "commercial breaks" and scene changes throughout the play.	Lead B	F. F. Similar Stature and coloring. Super animated and cute. Show stealers. Capable of expressing mood swings.	Must sing.	Move well.
Wild Jokers (4-8) May double as Wardrobe Assistants/ Moths/Laundry Servants	Lead A or B	Versatile, willing, animated, energetic, humorous, physically agile, loud, may have many quick costume changes. Big voices, big movements.	Group Singing helpful. Possible solo singing lines.	Able to learn dance moves

***Tempa Cheer – Runs a temp agency until she/he (Tempo Cheer) loses her/his job and is forced to be a Palace Laundry Servant. Loyal friends with Missy Buttons, Stitches, and Sewphia.	Lead B	M or F. Animated, confident, cheerful *(of course)* Energetic. Needs to move well and/or dance.	Must Sing	Able to learn dance moves and have fun with it. Lead a group.
***Missy Buttons – runs a button shop until she loses her job and is forced to run a cry cleaner'slose her business. Friend of Tempa Cheer and Sewphia.	Lead B	F. Sweet, animated.	Singer preferred	Not required.
*** If there aren't enough strong lead type actors, Stitches and Sewphia will be two main characters. Sewphia will absorb Tempa and Missy scenes, lines, songs, actions.				
The Emperor – An out of touch, overindulgent monarch who only cares about himself and how he looks in the latest fashion. His excesses are leading to disaster in his kingdom and he is kept unaware by his Chief Advisor and Royal Secretary. Too busy enjoying his pleasures, he is being manipulated by the "Yes Men" around him and does not see it.	Lead A	M (or F play M) Self absorbed, self impressed, foppish, mood swings. Lots of flourish. Not mean, but rather self seeking.	Singer not required.	Move with a flourish, always.
Honest Child - The only one unafraid to tell it like it is.	CM	M or F. Petite. Cute. Sincere.	Singer helpful. . Big Voice required.	Dancing not required.
Chief Advisor to the Emperor – Having moved her/his way into a position of power, she/he is taking advantage of the Emperor's distraction with fashion while filling her/his own pockets,	Lead A	M or F – Self serving villain.	Singer helpful, not required	Dancing not required.

meanwhile trying to control the kingdom from behind the scenes.				
Royal Secretary – Having worked her way up in a man's world, she is afraid to be honest with the Emperor or cause any conflict where he will notice, lest she loses her job or his favor.	Lead B	F – Very attractive, self- protecting, up-tight but a bit flirtatious to the Emperor.	Singer helpful, not required. Can eliminate "That Takes Care of That" song or have her talk it.	Dancing not required.
The Workers – need at least 4 of the 6 listed here, 6 preferred so no script changes need to be made.				
Farmer	Lead B	M or F - Folksy	Singer helpful, not required.	Move well.
Psychologist	Lead B	M or F – Paranoid, nervous.	Singer helpful, not required	Move well.
Doctor	Lead B	M or F - Kindly	Singer helpful, not required	Move well.
Carpenter	Lead B	M or F – A few bricks short of a load	Singer helpful, not required	Move well.
Teacher	Lead B	M or F – Firm but kind	Singer helpful, not required	Move well.
Cop (Officer)	Lead B	M or F – Tough and quiet.	No singing.	Move well.
To-the-9's – (optional) Stylish, greedy leader of the Wardrobe Assistants (Optional character. Use one of the Wardrobe Assistants for Scenes/lines/songs)	CM	M or F – Animated, Moves well. Able to learn dance moves. Cocky.	Elvis type singer required if part is cast. Otherwise, Wardrobe Assistants can handle scene alone.	Swing Dance.

Wardrobe Assistants (4-10) Happy to encourage the Emperor's Excess for their own gain. (May be played by Wild Jokers or other group)	Lead A or CM	M or F. Animated, humorous, physically agile, loud. Dancers.	Strong Group Singers.	Swing dance.
Palace Moths – (4-10) Giant, compulsive over-eater moths, over-stuffed from feasting on all the excess clothing. (May be played by Wild Jokers or other group)	Lead A or B	M or F. Not too petite. Animated. Humorous. Over the top emotional. Physical Comedy.	Strong Group Singers.	Move well.
Laundry Servants – (4 –10) Overwhelmed by trying to keep up with the Emperor's excessive laundry, they are ready to quit. (May be played by Wild Jokers or other group)	CM	M or F. Emotional. Energetic. Varying moods. Animated. Physical comedy.	Group Singers. Talk in Rhythm.	Dancers preferred. Move well.
Townspeople. Only cast IF we have an abundance of actors auditioning. Otherwise, the audience members are the townspeople.	Extras	M and F.	Group Singers.	Not required.