ABSTRACT

Title of thesis: *THE ME NOBODY KNOWS*: NAVIGATING THE AUTHENTICITY OF CHARACTER THROUGH COSTUME DESIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND'S 2014 PRODUCTION

Robert Antonio Croghan, Master of Fine Arts, 2015

Thesis directed by: Professor Helen Q. Huang, Department of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies

The following thesis navigates the primary artistic concept, design process and execution of Robert Croghan's costume design for the University of Maryland's production of *The Me Nobody Knows*. *The Me Nobody Knows* opened October 10th, 2014 in the University of Maryland's Kay Theatre. It was directed by Alvin Mayes and Scot Reese with L. Richmond Sparks as musical director. The Set was designed by April Joy Tritchler, Lighting was designed by Brittany Shemuga, and Projections were designed by Hannah Marsh.

THE ME NOBODY KNOWS: NAVIGATING THE AUTHENTICITY OF CHARACTER THROUGH COSTUME DESIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND'S 2014 PRODUCTION

By

Robert Antonio Croghan

Thesis submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School of the
University of Maryland, College Park, in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Fine Arts
2015

Advisory Committee:
Professor Helen Q. Huang, Chair
Associate Professor Faedra Chatard Carpenter
Associate Professor Misha Kachman
Associate Professor Leigh Wilson Smiley

© Copyright by
Robert Antonio Croghan
2015

Dedication

I would like to dedicate this work to my mentor Helen Q. Huang for her continual support in making me a stronger, more resilient artist. In addition, I would like to dedicate this work to my parents Gary and Ivana Croghan.

To all those involved in the University of Maryland's production of *The Me Nobody Knows*; directors, designers, cast, and crew alike, thank you for all the hard work and commitment you brought to this production.

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: Concept Statement……...1
Chapter 2: Character & Costume Research……...6
Chapter 3: Costume Sketches & Renderings……...14
Chapter 4: Fitting Photos…….62
Chapter 5: Production Paperwork……74
Chapter 6: Production Photos……111
Chapter 7: Conclusion……...128

Chapter 1: Concept Statement

The Me Nobody Knows is an American musical that demonstrates the sheer tenacity of the human spirit against oppression, drugs, poverty, abuse and neglect. Set in a multipurpose room in a sequestered part of New York City, high school students from all over the area come together for their weekly group therapy session.

Originally published as a children's book entitled, *The Me Nobody Knows: Children's Voices from the Ghetto*, Stephen Joseph edited a collection of nearly 200 short stories and poems written by schoolchildren all over New York City. Robert H. Livingston and Herb Shapiro were inspired by the book's unsentimental determination for hope, and with the guidance of Stephen Joseph, Livingston and Shapiro adapted the collection of stories into a script that is still utilized today. While the music may be perceived as outdated, Gary William Friedman (music composer) and Will Holt (lyricist) captured the candidness and honesty of these stories in a groundbreaking score embracing rock music, classical fugues, rap and jazz.

The design conversations with directors Scot Reese and Alvin Mayes began with the notion that our production was going to be modernized to speak directly to today's youth culture.

In short, my goal for this production was to create genuine silhouettes for each character, maintaining the quality and standards set forth by the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center.

First, I needed to delve into the minds of the characters. Before I started to research, I asked myself; what magazines/blogs/videos do these characters look at? Who do they aspire to be? Who do they idolize? What best represents them? Who

do they associate with in school? After answering these questions, I found pictures to support my interpretations and arranged the images into collages. During the preliminary design meetings, Reese, Mayes and I looked at the research collages and established a vocabulary to describe this production. We determined that the story should be told through a visual lens known as "heightened reality." The stories in the script are grounded in reality but the visuals are slightly augmented, intensifying the dialogue's use of excess imagery and emotions in order to create a dream-like quality. The main reason for this heightened reality, amplifying the colors and silhouettes of the garments, was based on the venue of the production. The Kay Theatre is a 626-seated theatre, containing an orchestra seat level as well as a balcony level. Reese and Mayes wanted to make sure that the same story could be conveyed to each audience member, no matter the seating arrangement.

An attribute for this design process was that Reese and Mayes permitted me to attend the casting callbacks. By allowing me this opportunity, I was able to have one-on-one conversations with each of the auditioning actors, obtaining a sense of who they are, what kind of clothes they are drawn to, how they perceive themselves by today's societal standards, etc. By the end of the callback process, I was able to combine my knowledge from each interview with the directors' top actor choices to determine who these characters were and how they were to look.

I started by identifying the garments that would reside in each character's closet. In every closet, there is a favorite garment. A pair of jeans that have the right amount of stretch over the thighs, slightly torn hem from walking around too much, a small sharpie stain on the front right pocket. A sweatshirt that has misshaped front pockets from the weight of carrying too many objects, a stretched out neckline, and a

large patch at the elbow to cover up a hole. Garments like these are considered "loved." While the dynamisms of these garments fluctuated from character to character, they served the same purpose; the garments meant to tell a story of their journey to self-discovery, not to display their socioeconomic status for the audience to judge.

One exciting aspect to the design of this production is that the actor heavily motivated each character. Throughout the show, each character has a moment of clarity, allowing their vulnerability to be seen and heard by the ensemble. By allowing multiple layers of garments (as well as jackets, backpacks, and hats), I allotted each actor to experiment with their motivation in the removal of various layers. The experimentation of the layers began during their first round of fittings. As I walked the performers through the research and renderings, I gave them advice on which layer (or accessory) seemed most important and thusly should only be removed when their moment of clarity happens. Christopher Lane and I were able to have a great conversation during one fitting about his bomber jacket. From my interpretation of the script, Clorox heavily guarded his emotions, emanating the same brick walls that surround his neighborhood. I saw his bomber jacket as his security blanket, guarding him at all times. Together, Christopher and I were able to storyboard when we see the jacket on, unzipped, and removed. A similar collaboration happened with Noelle Roy during her first fitting as Catherine. From the beginning of the rehearsal process, I discovered that Reese and Mayes were going to highlight the relationship between Catherine and Carlos. While Carlos was sent to a psychiatric treatment center, Catherine was abandoned, alone and pregnant. While she was furious with Carlos for leaving, she always kept his sweater on her for it had

his scent embedded in its fibers. Noelle, intrigued by my commentary, was motivated to create a dynamic, emotional portrayal of Catherine. I believe my interaction and guidance of these layers created a truly unique experience for each performer as well as myself.

In addition to determining the garments for each character, I was excited at the possibilities of each character's shoes. Since most of my previous designs at the University of Maryland were dance productions, I rarely designed with shoes in mind. These characters heavily rely on their shoes to navigate their lives. Shoes take them away from their burdensome lives (even if just for an afternoon at a group therapy session), carry them to school to escape their home life/neighborhood, help to escape the pressures imposed upon them by their peers and society. This is a show where the shoes were vital to telling each character's story. Once allotted the budget set forth by the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, I dedicated a large sum of the budget to shoes.

One challenge I imposed on myself was to create a couple of graphics that would be printed on fabric, and then made into garments. I wanted to try my hand at print design and learn how to blend the idea of a heightened reality with today's fashion trends. While I planned on having more garments created from my handcrafted prints, there were a small number of textiles to choose from, and since I did not want to compromise the integrity of the characters, I edited down the number of garments we were going to create. Ultimately, I created a skirt print for Rhoda, a tank top print for Clorox, and lining print for Lloyd's blazer.

Our MFA program in theatre design aims to shape its students into resilient visual artists. Through my mentors, classwork, and assistance on productions, I built

the confidence and skill level necessary to achieve a strong visual interpretation of the characters in *The Me Nobody Knows*.

Chapter 2: Character & Costume Research

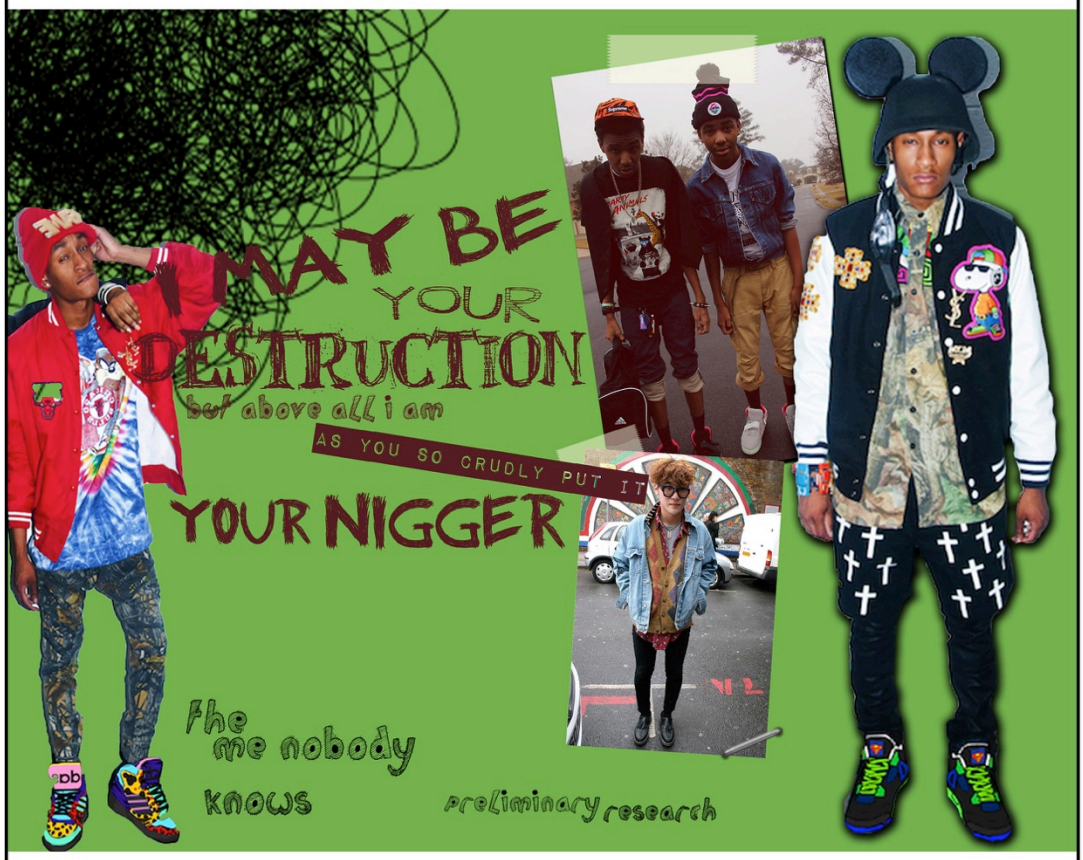
These images were arranged in configurations that reflected my thoughts about each character; i.e. who they are inspired by, what their dreams are, and what would they buy if money wasn't an object.



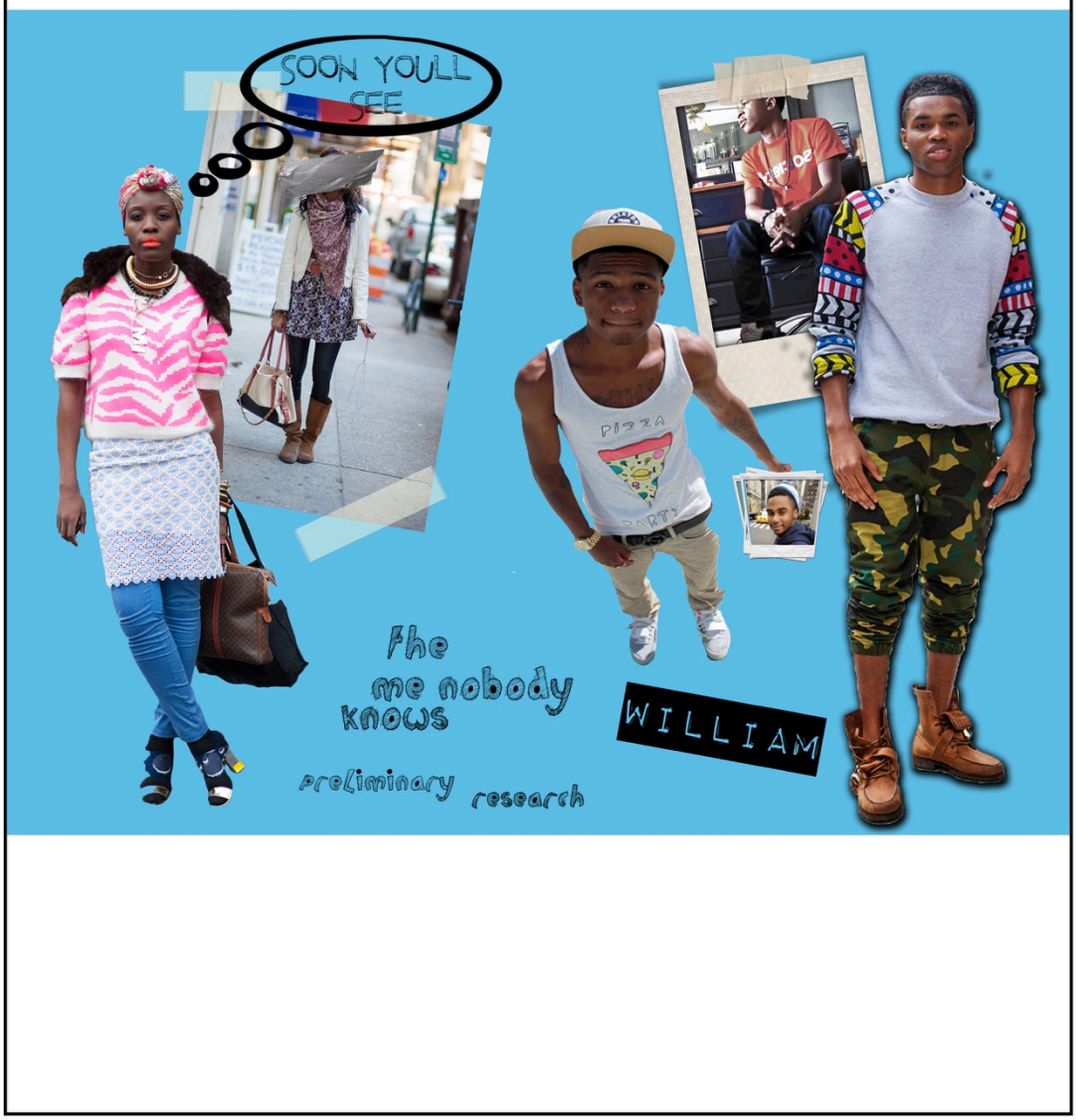
Melba



Lillian & Lillie Mae


MAY BE
YOUR
DESTRUCTION
but above all i am
AS YOU SO CRUDLY PUT IT
YOUR NIGGER
the me nobody
knows
preliminary research

Clorox



Nell & William



Carlos



Catherine & Rhoda



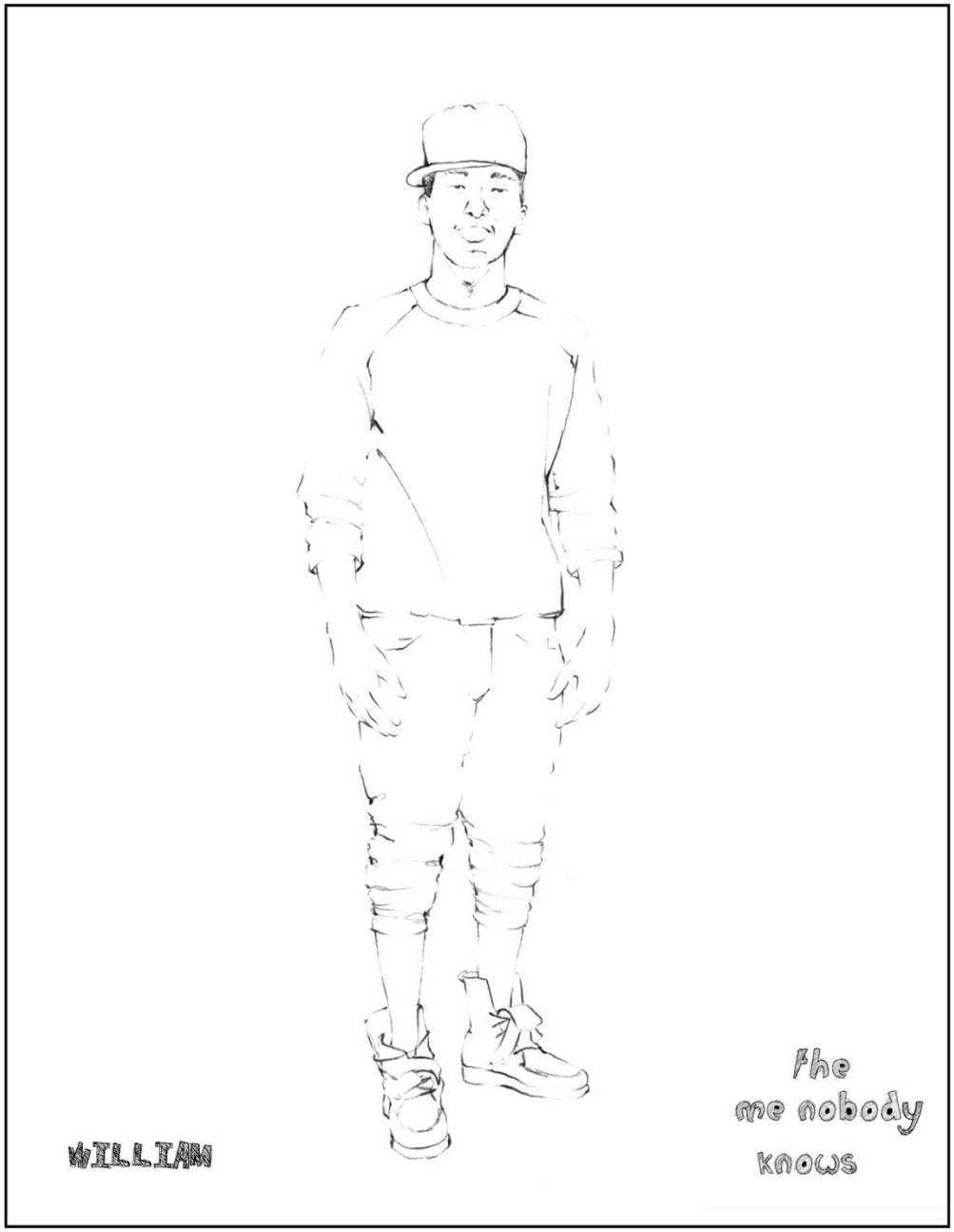
Benjamin & Lloyd



Donald

Chapter 3: Costume Sketches & Renderings

The following pages include; preliminary costume sketches, revised preliminary costume sketches, final costume sketches, and final costume renderings. The final costume renderings were submitted to both the Directors and the Costume Shop.



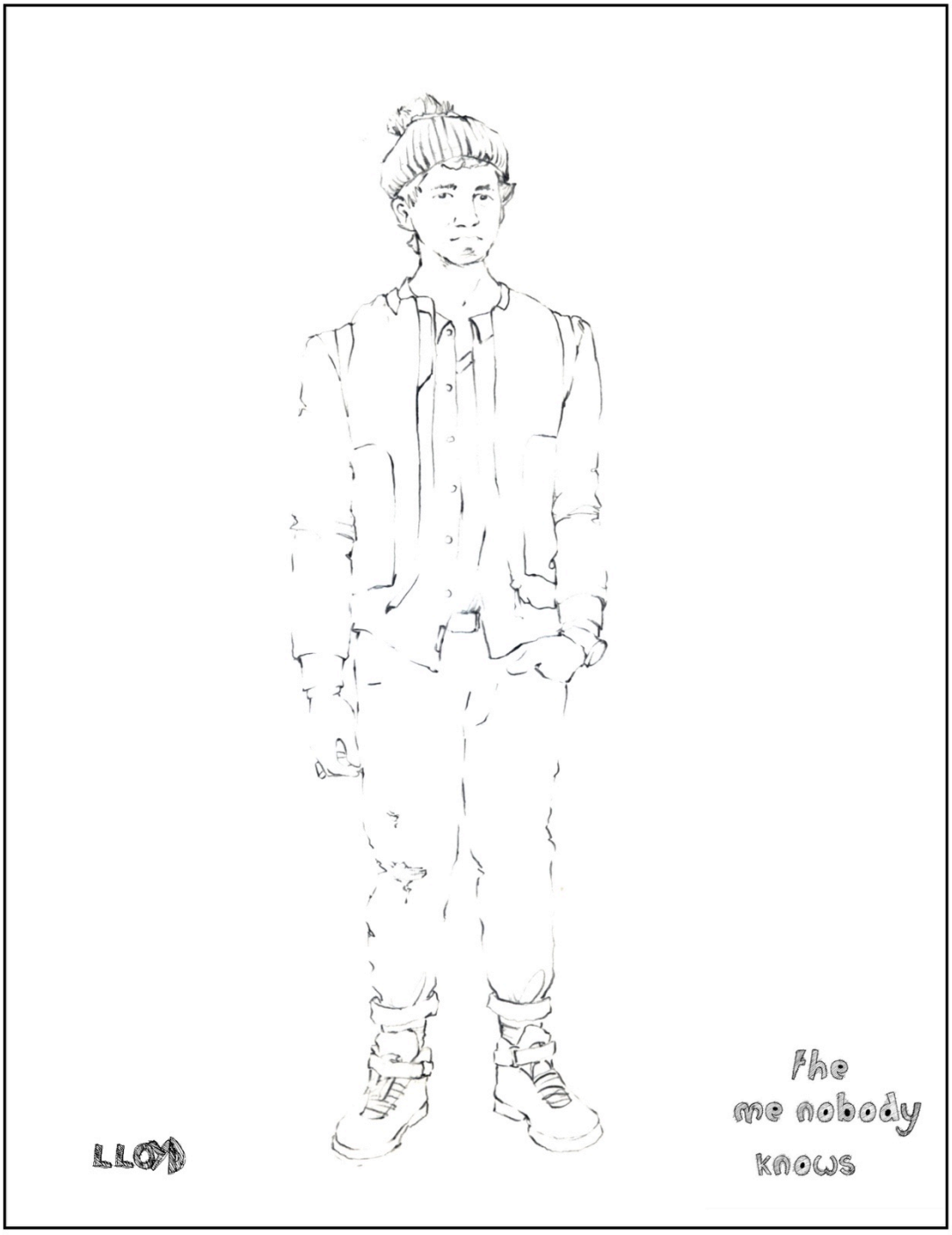
Preliminary Costume Sketch – William



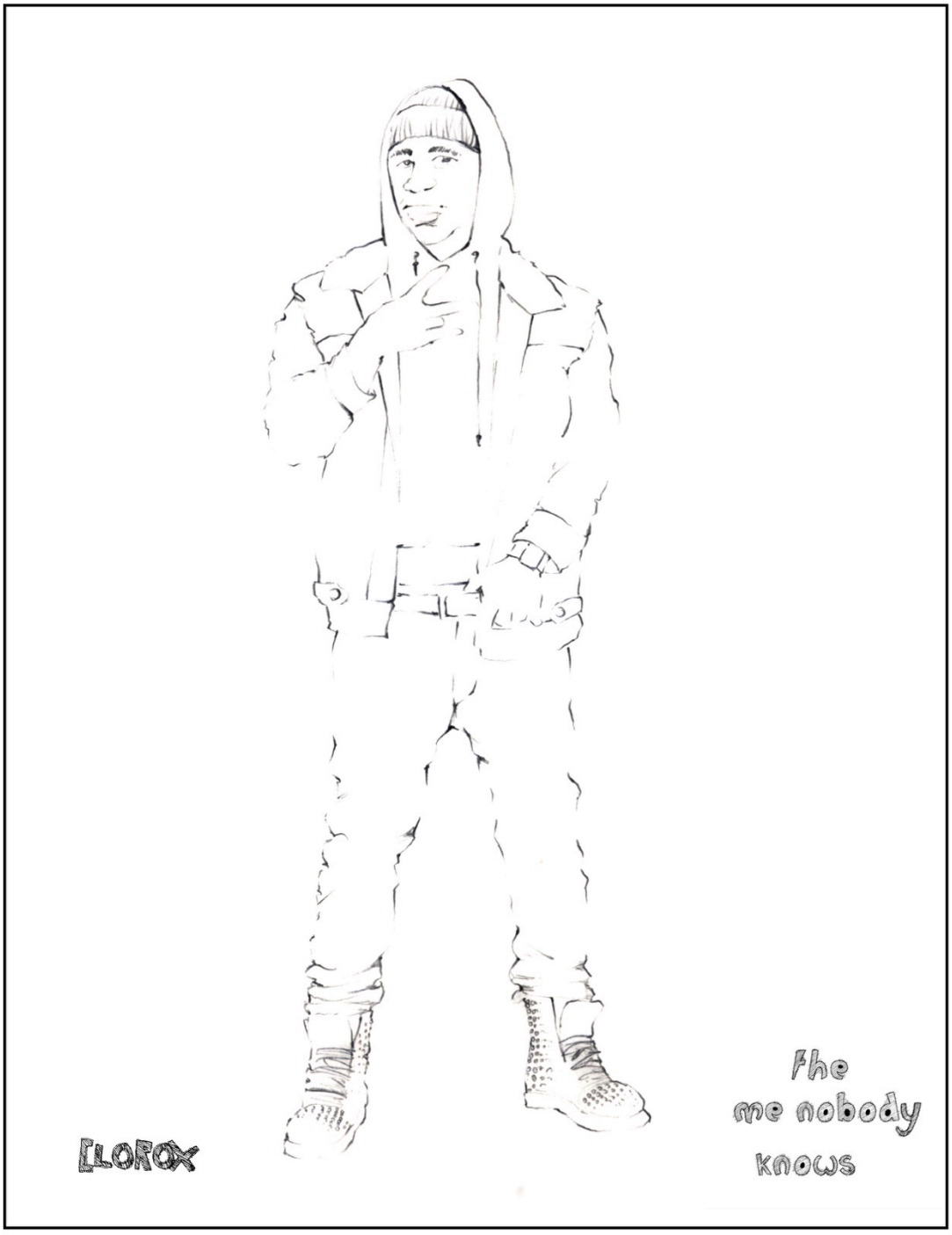
Preliminary Costume Sketch – Rhoda



Preliminary Costume Sketch – Nell



Preliminary Costume Sketch – Lloyd



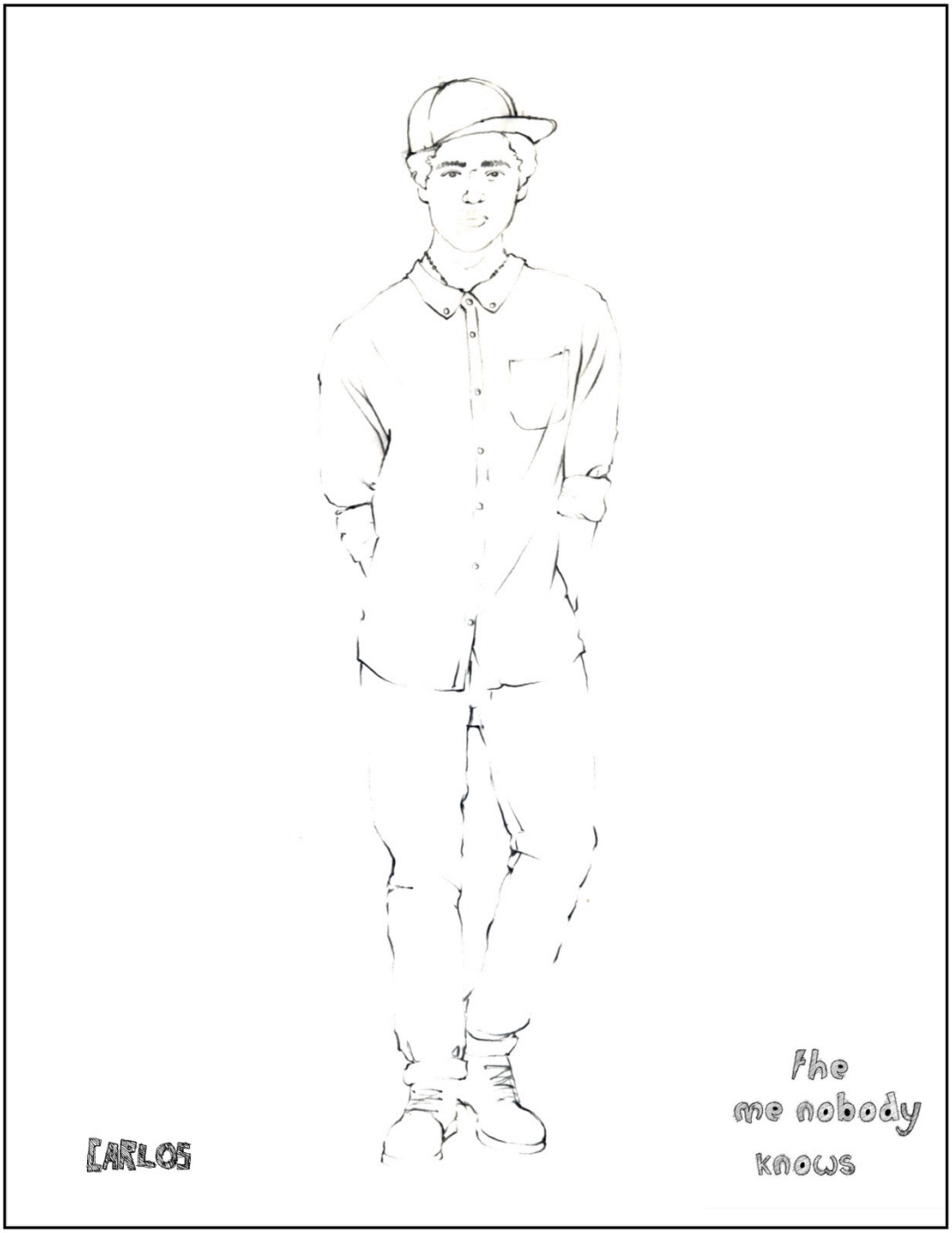
Preliminary Costume Sketch – Clorox



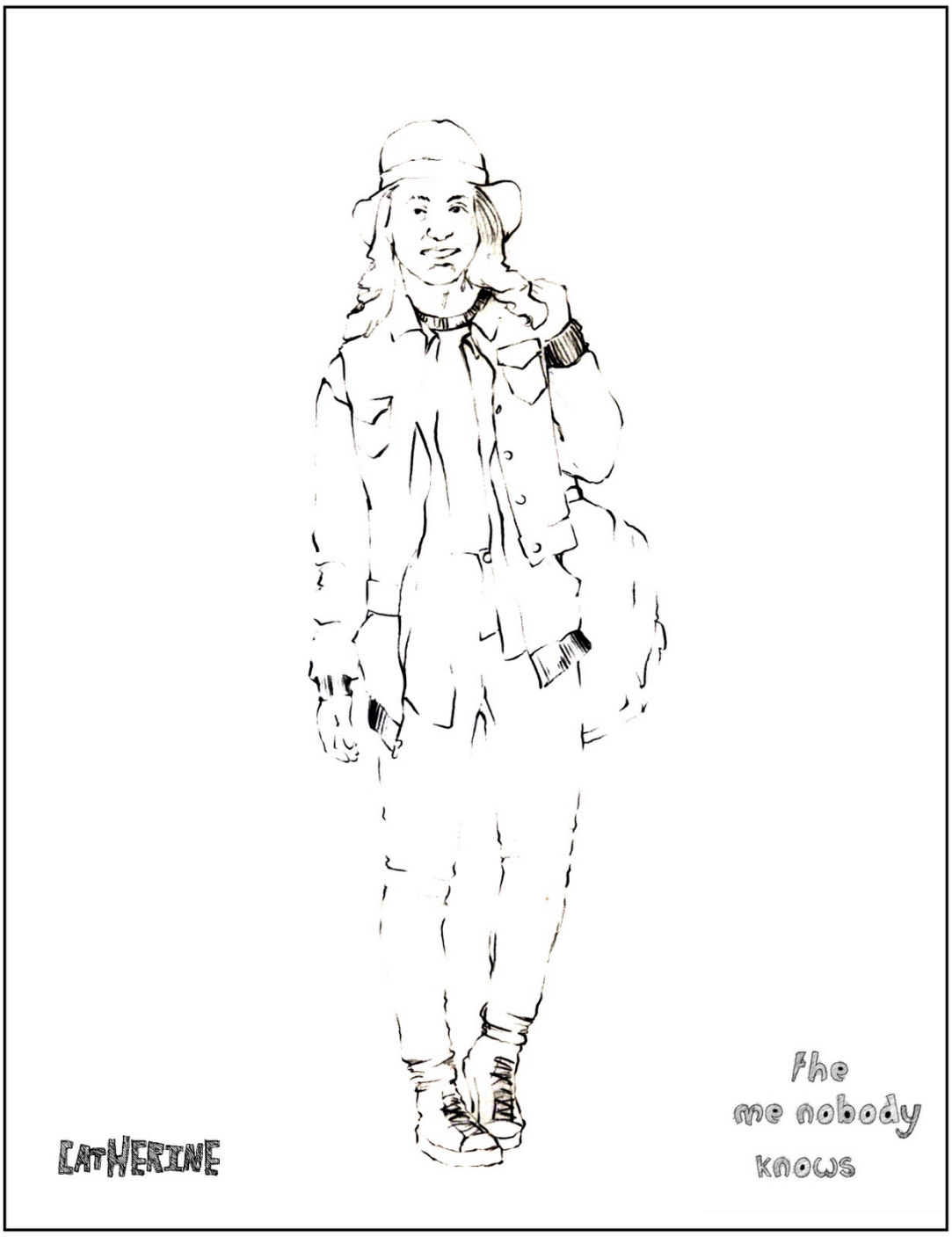
Preliminary Costume Sketch – Lillie Mae



Preliminary Costume Sketch – Donald



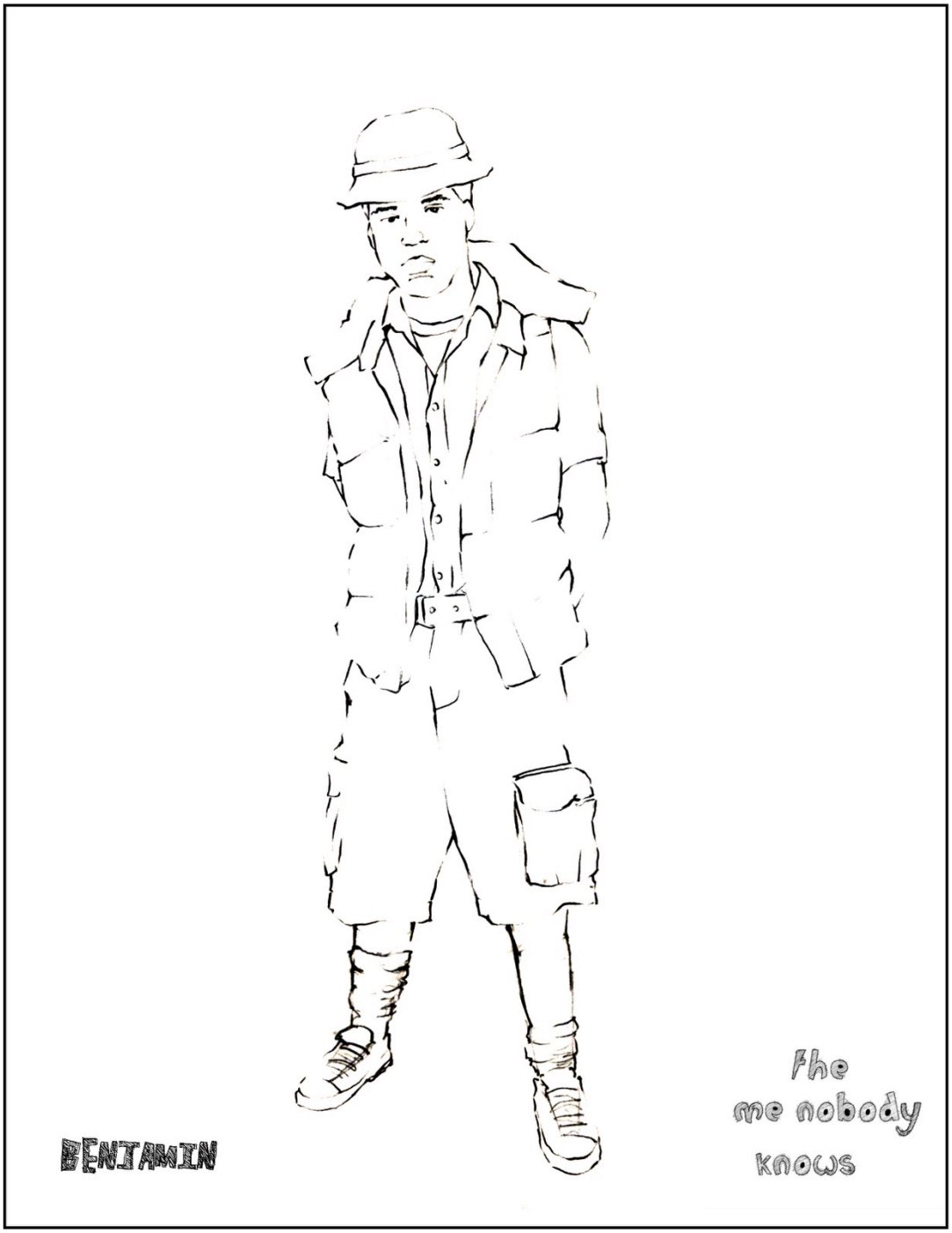
Preliminary Costume Sketch – Carlos



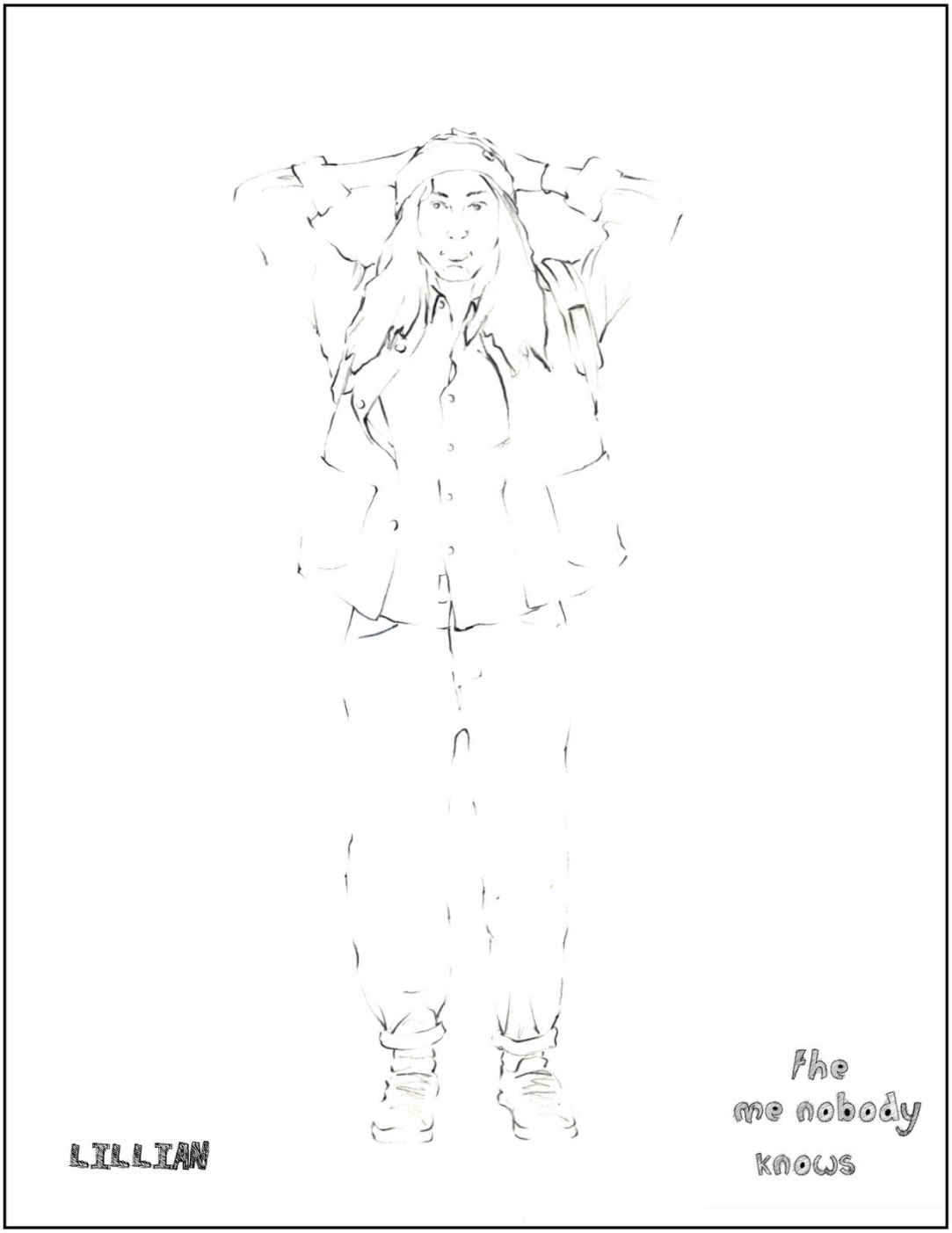
Preliminary Costume Sketch – Catherine



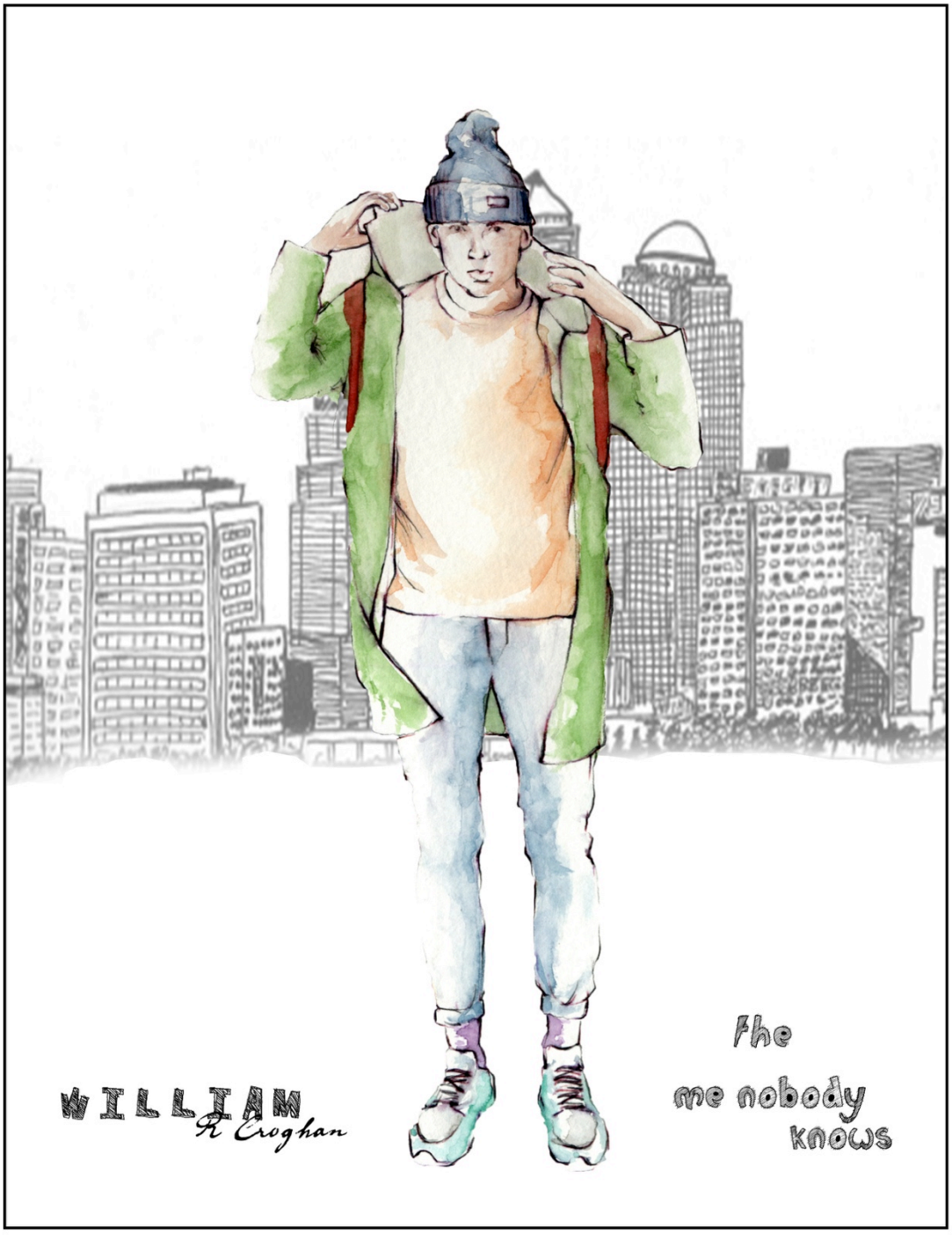
Preliminary Costume Sketch – Melba



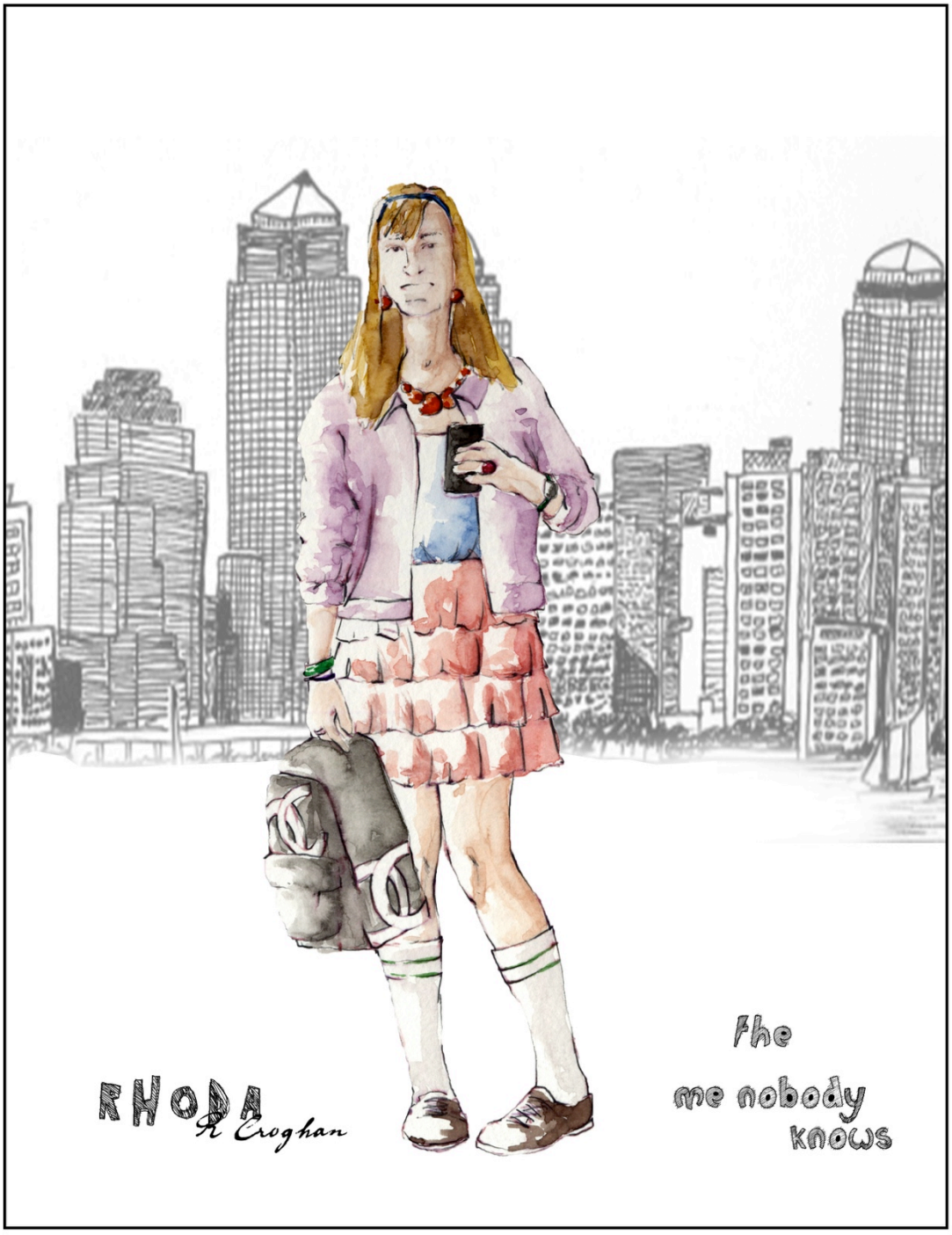
Preliminary Costume Sketch – Benjamin



Preliminary Costume Sketch – Lillian



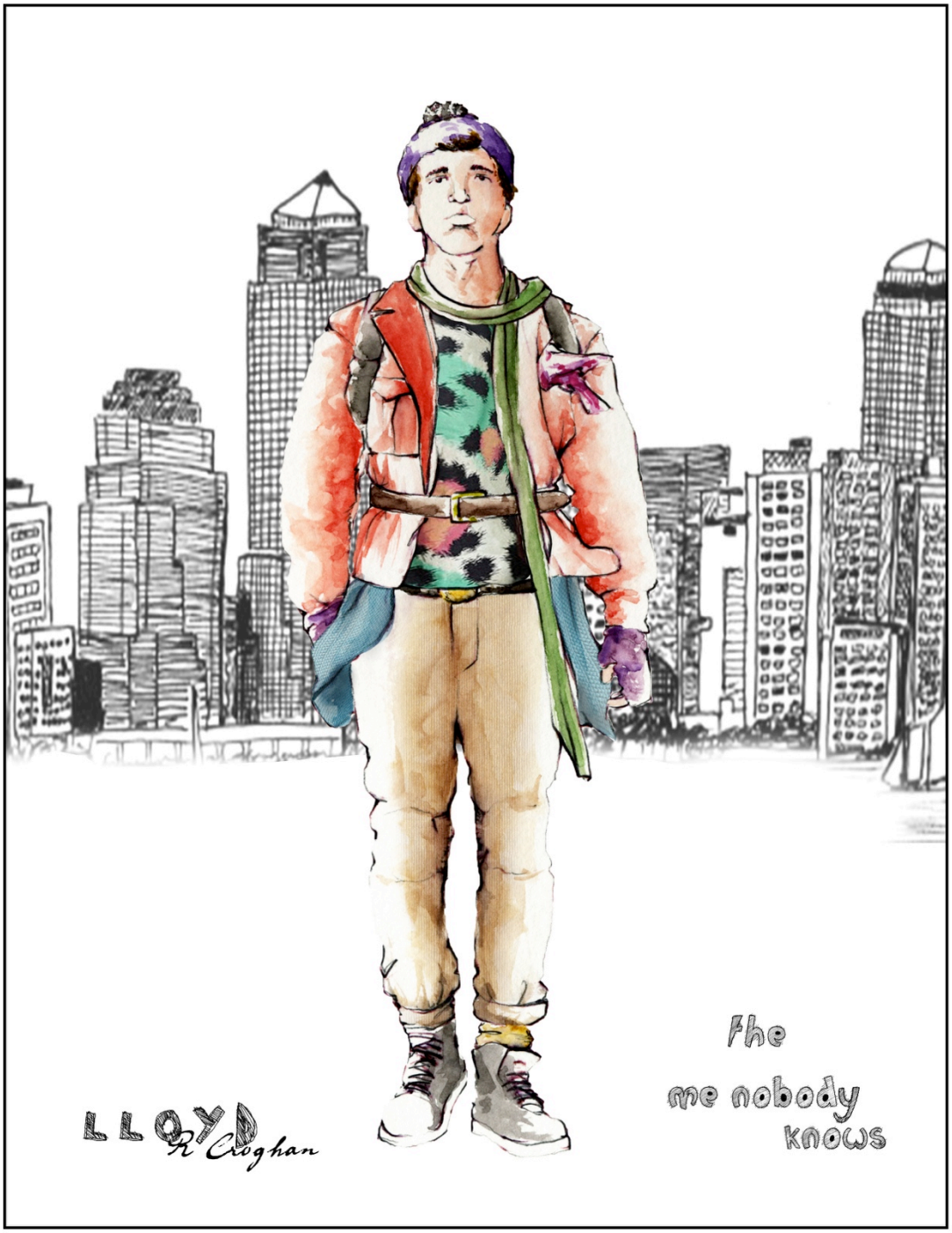
Revised Preliminary Costume Sketch – William



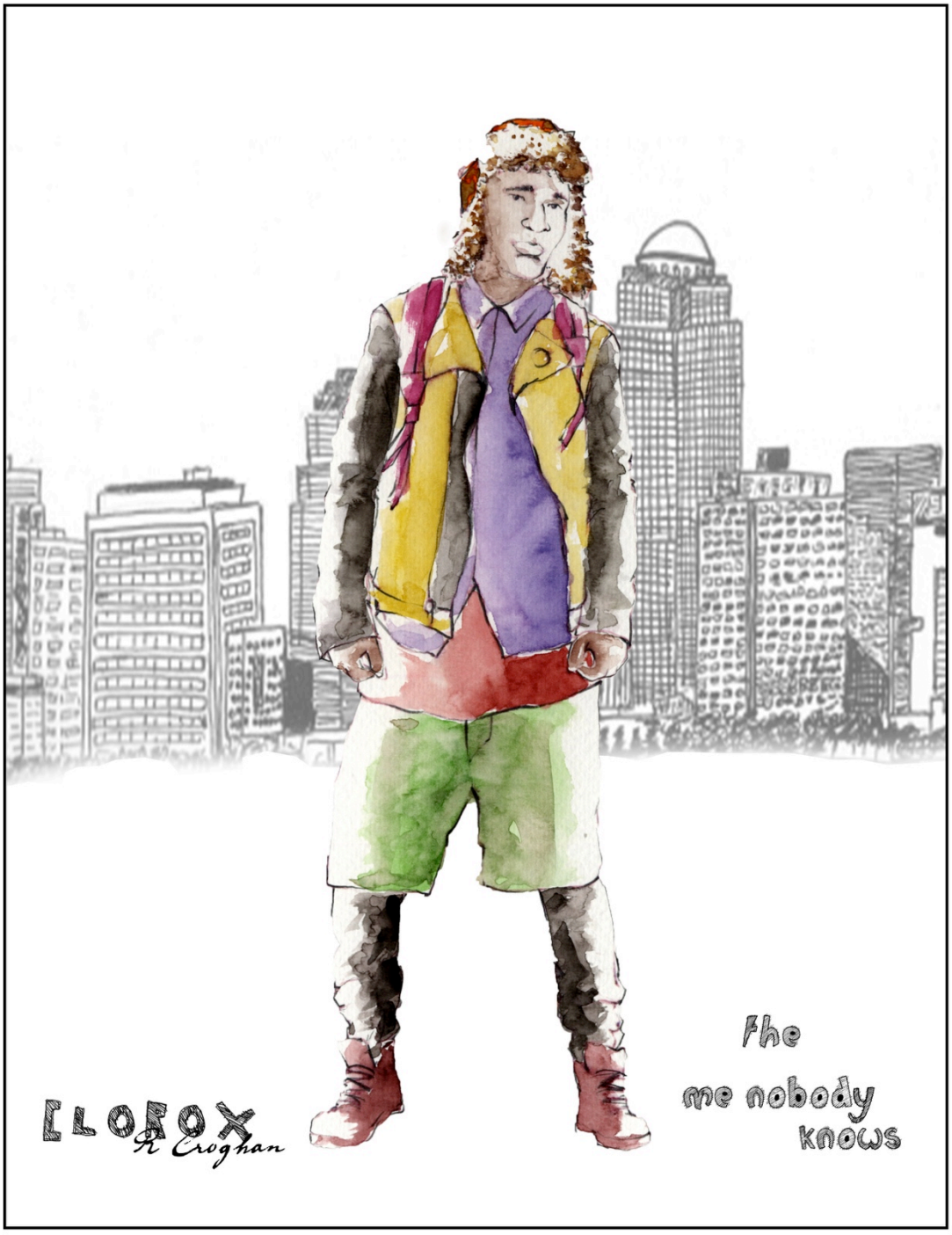
Revised Preliminary Costume Sketch – Rhoda



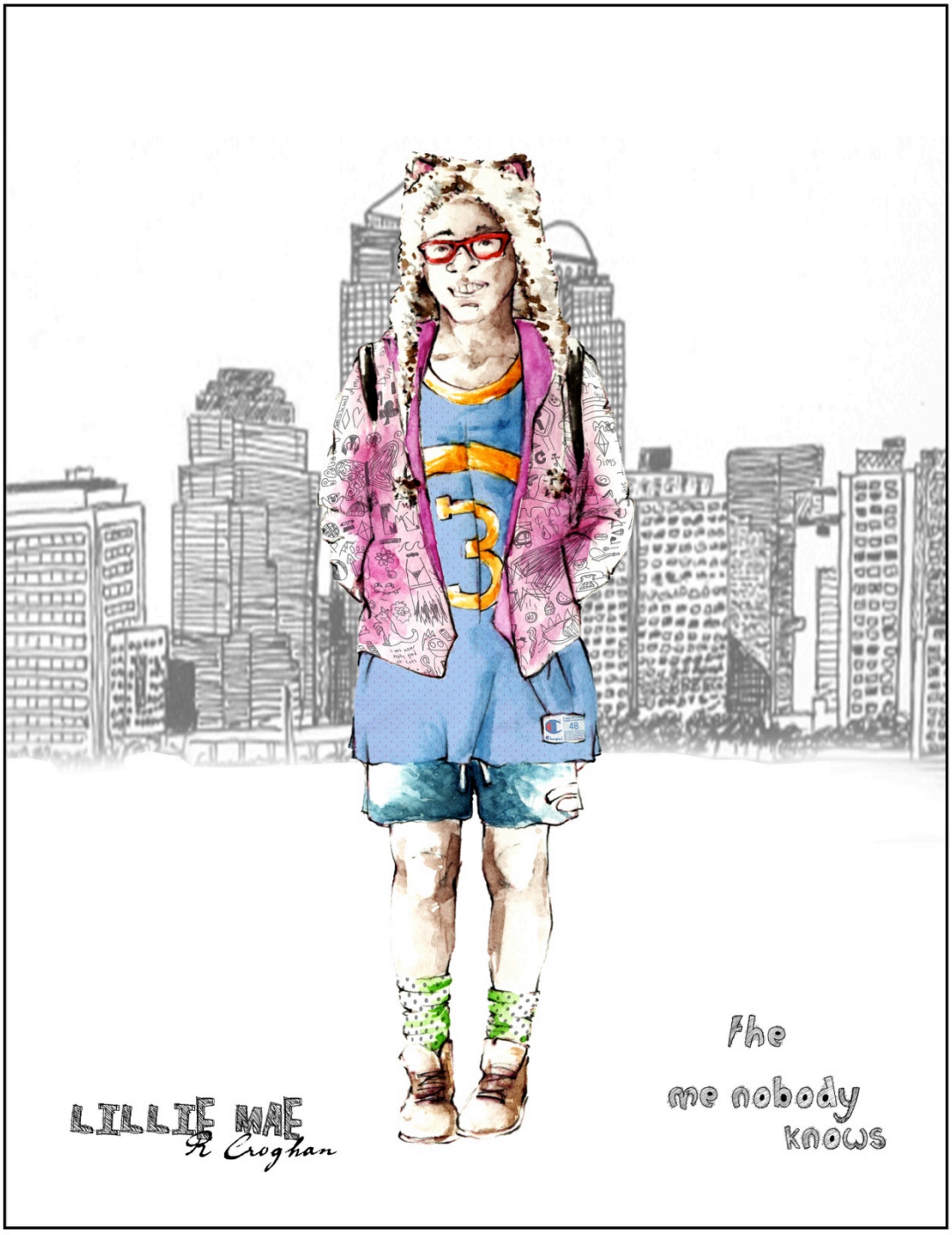
Revised Preliminary Costume Sketch – Nell



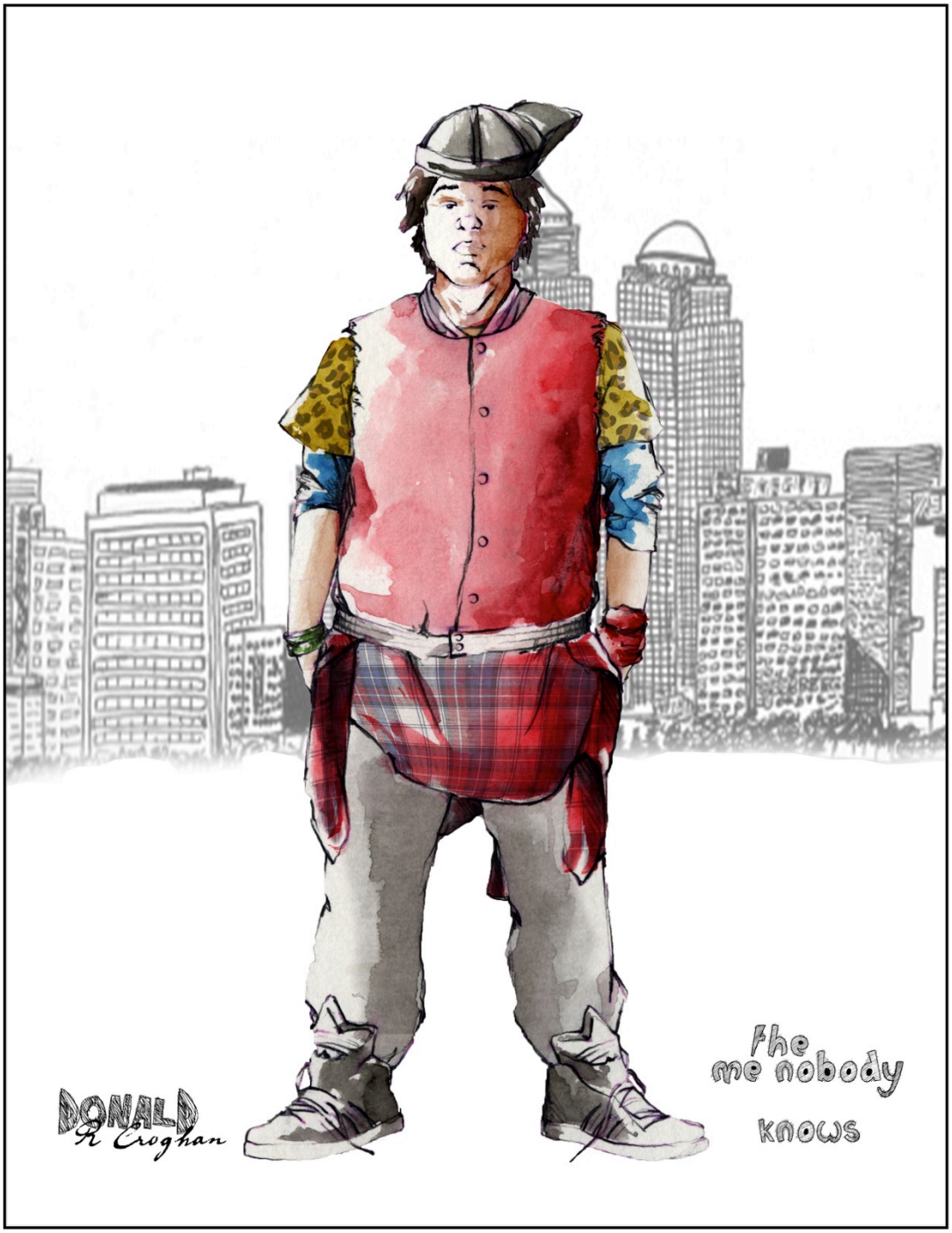
Revised Preliminary Costume Sketch – Lloyd



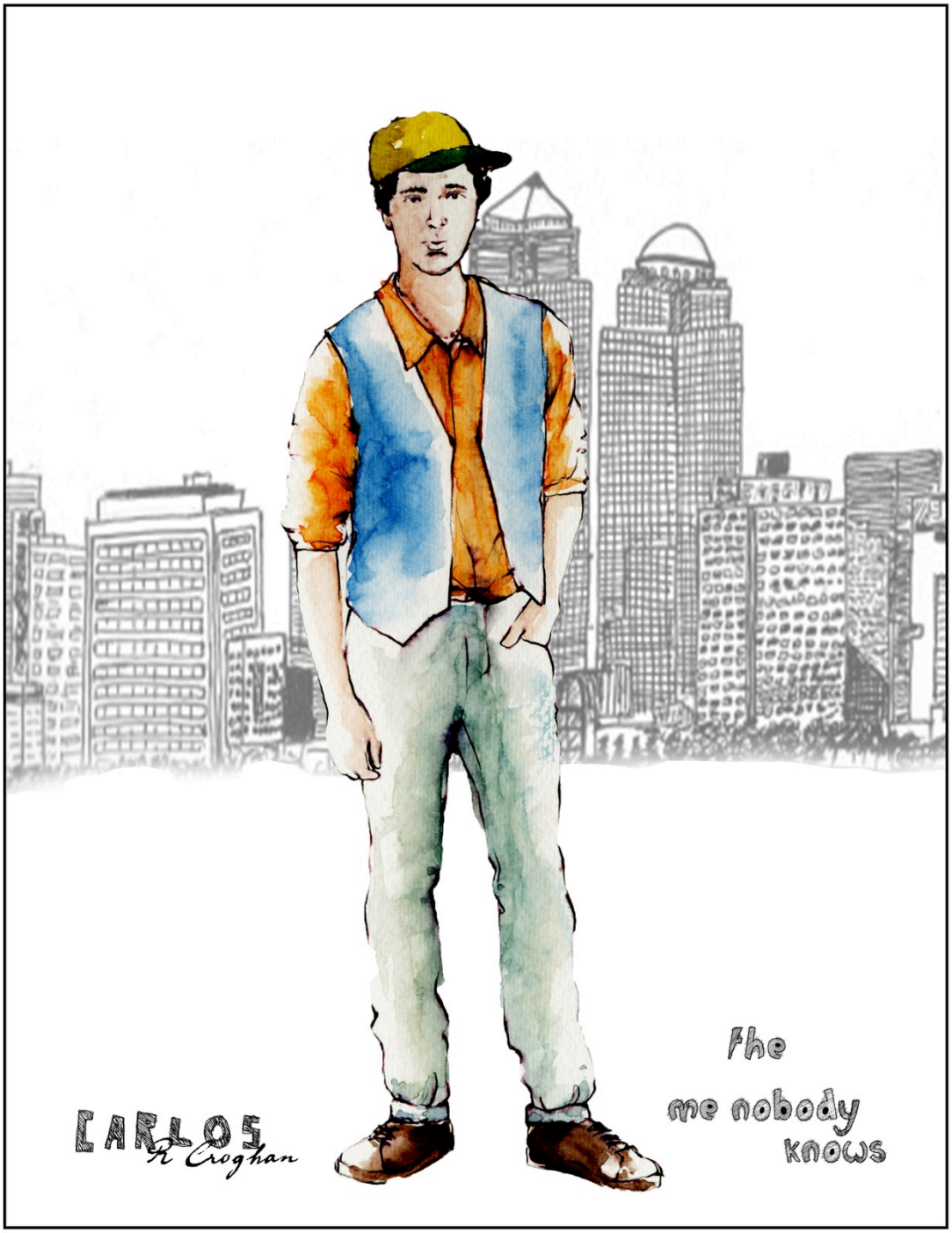
Revised Preliminary Costume Sketch – Clorox



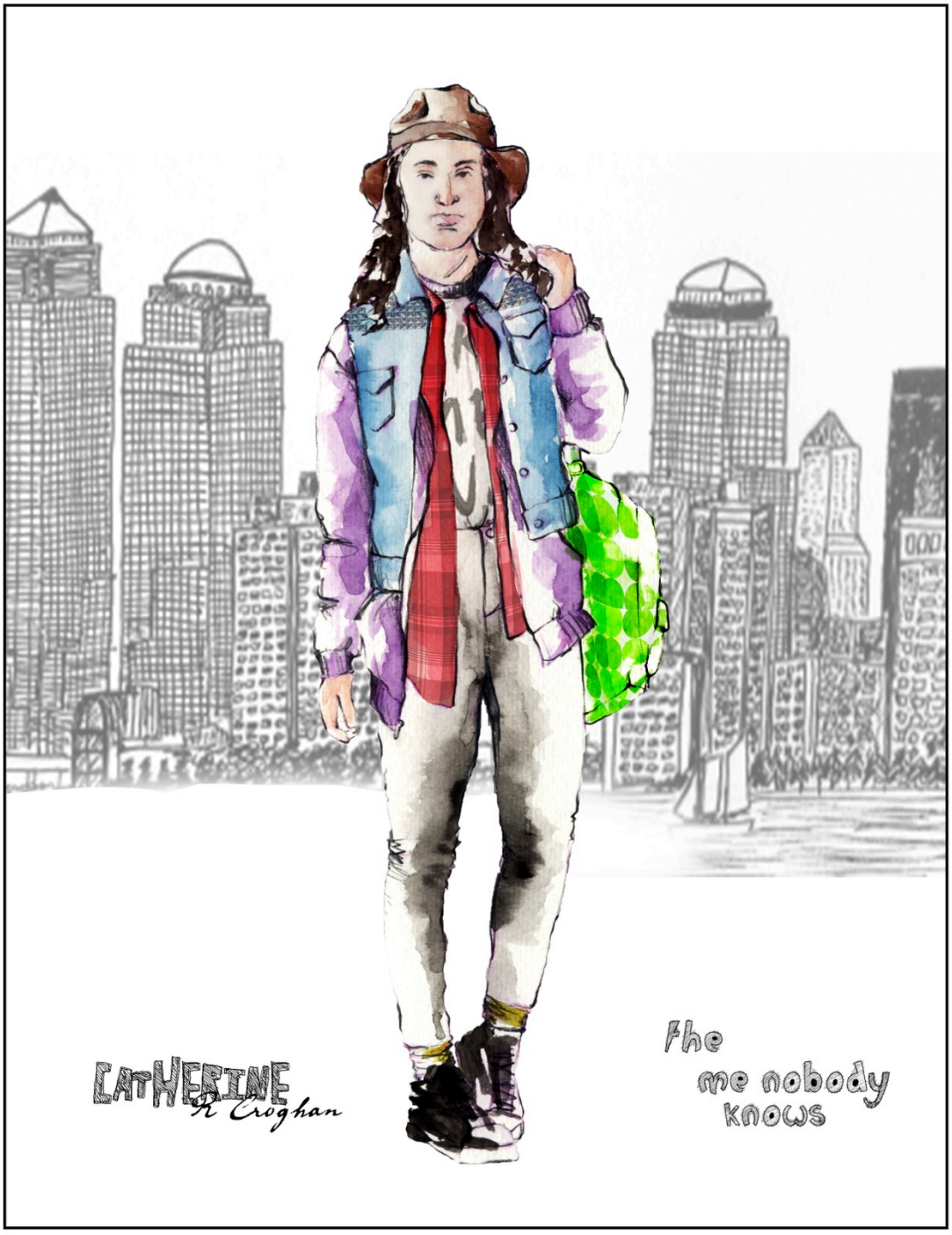
Revised Preliminary Costume Sketch – Lillie Mae



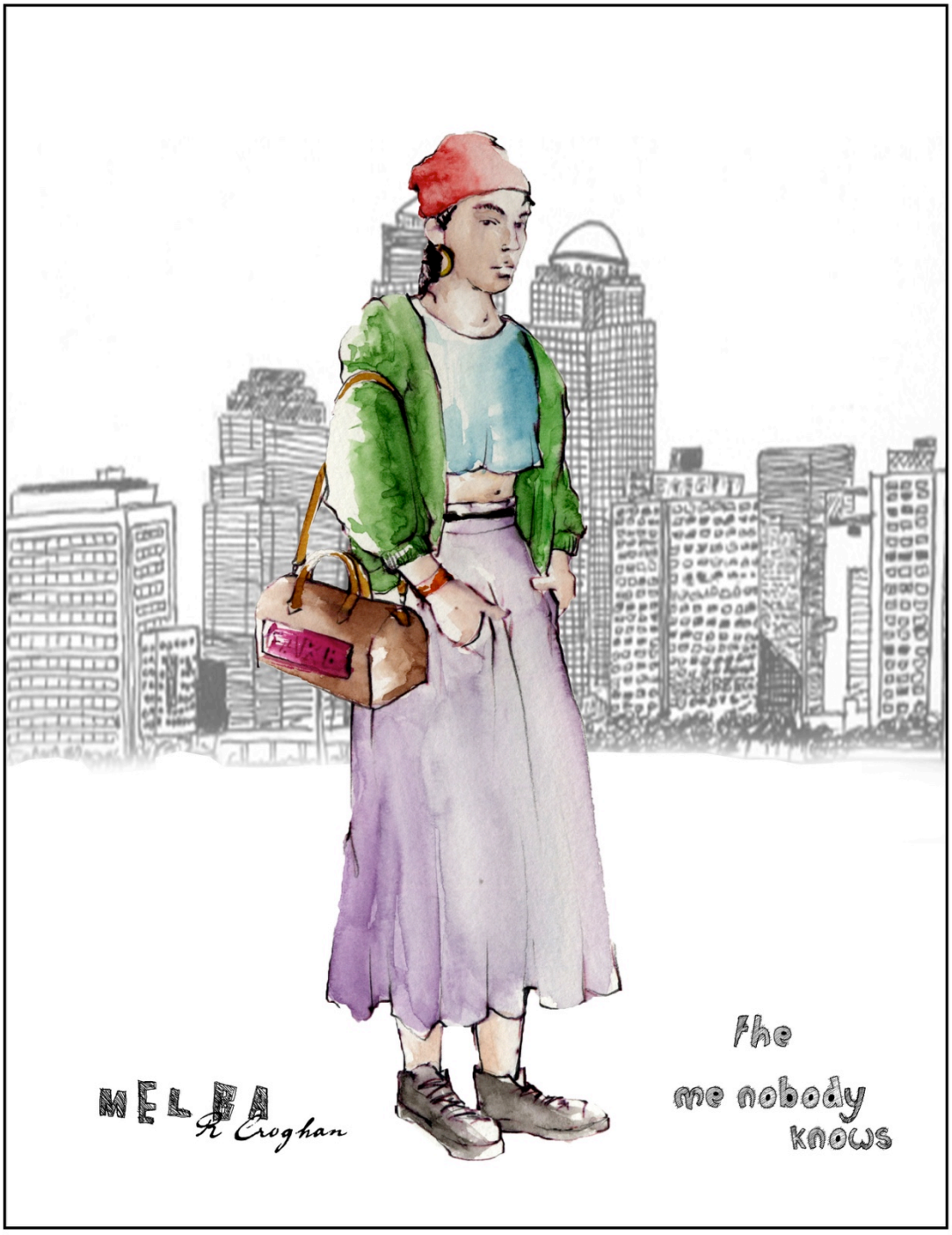
Revised Preliminary Costume Sketch – Donald



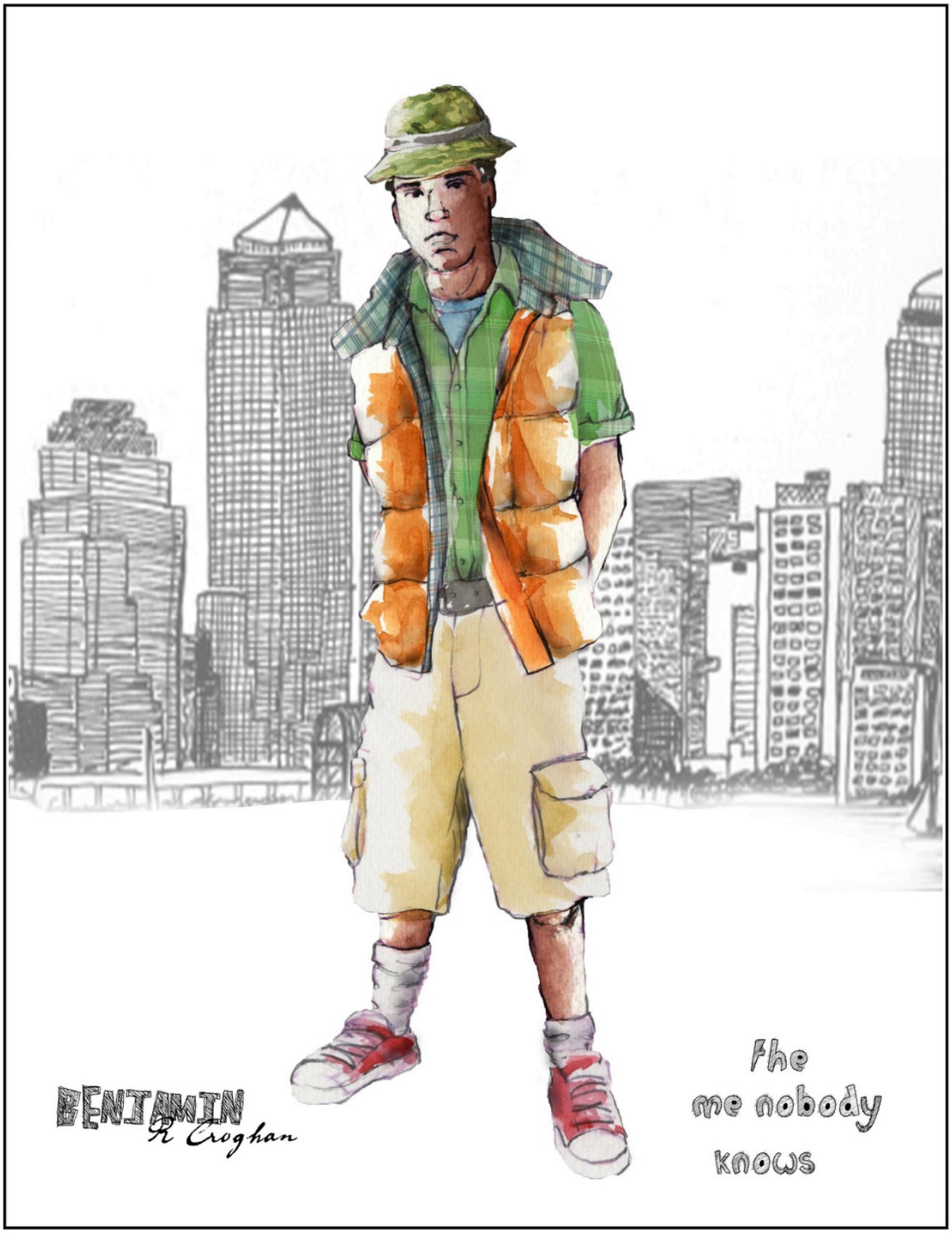
Revised Preliminary Costume Sketch – Carlos



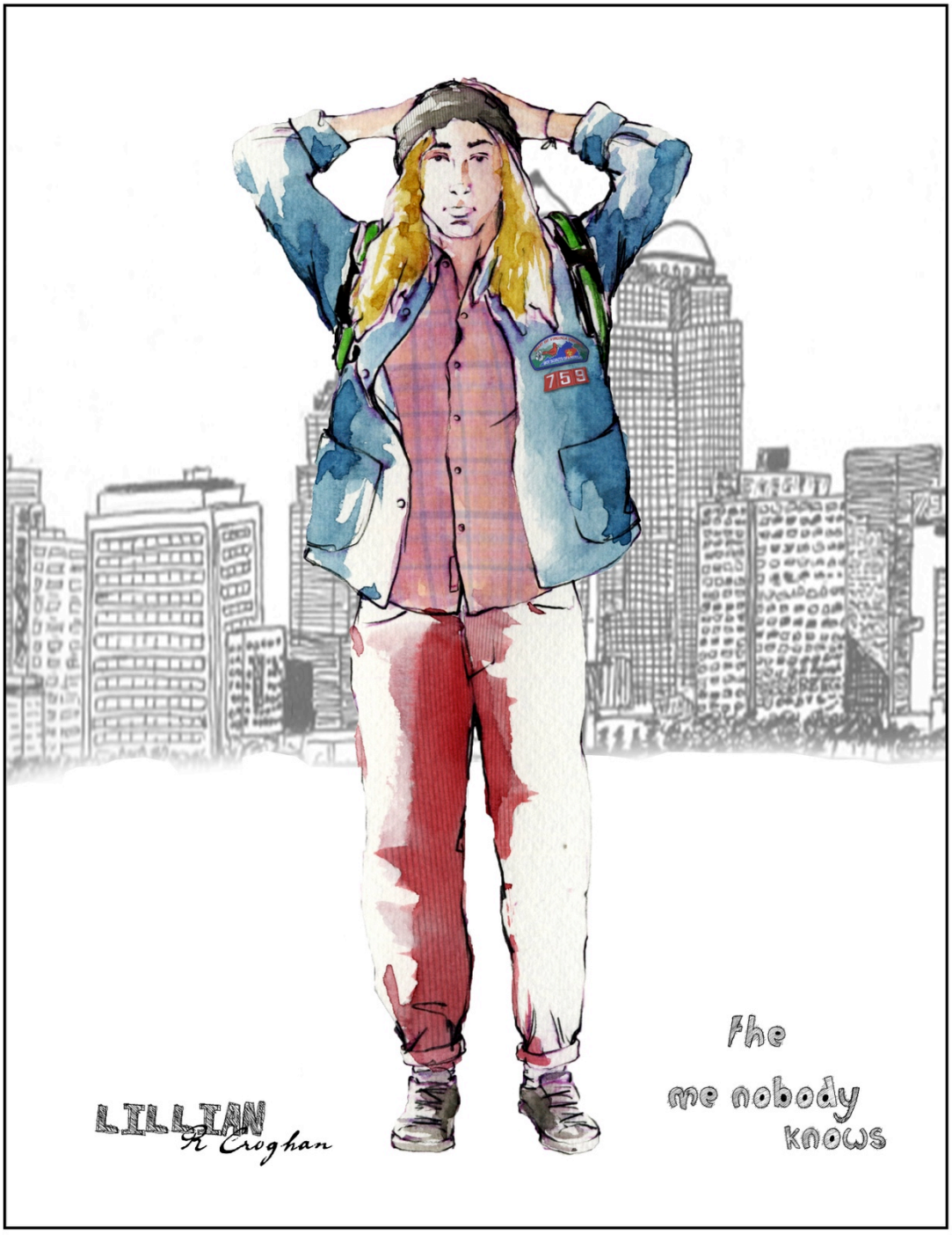
Revised Preliminary Costume Sketch – Catherine



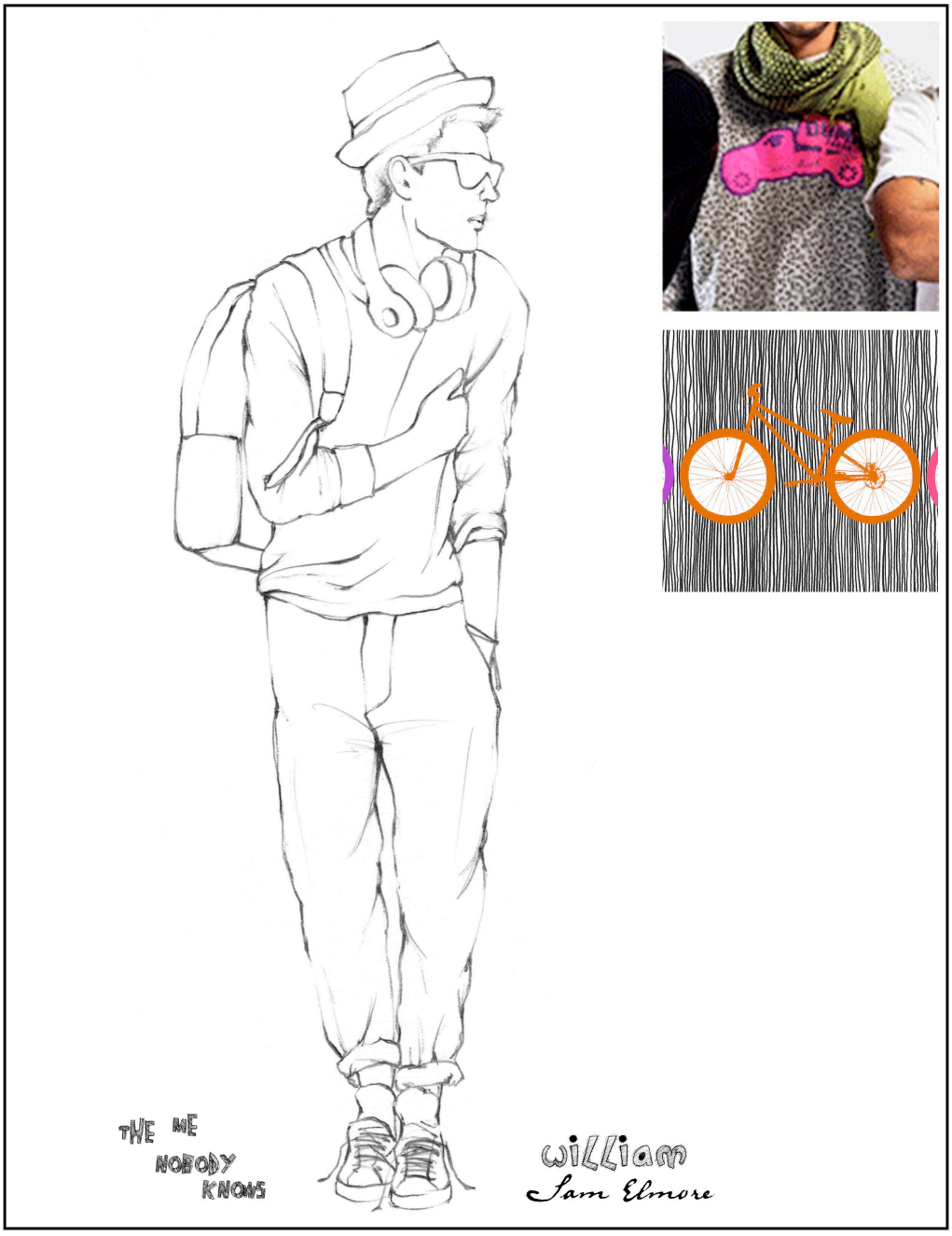
Revised Preliminary Costume Sketch – Melba



Revised Preliminary Costume Sketch – Benjamin



Revised Preliminary Costume Sketch – Lillian

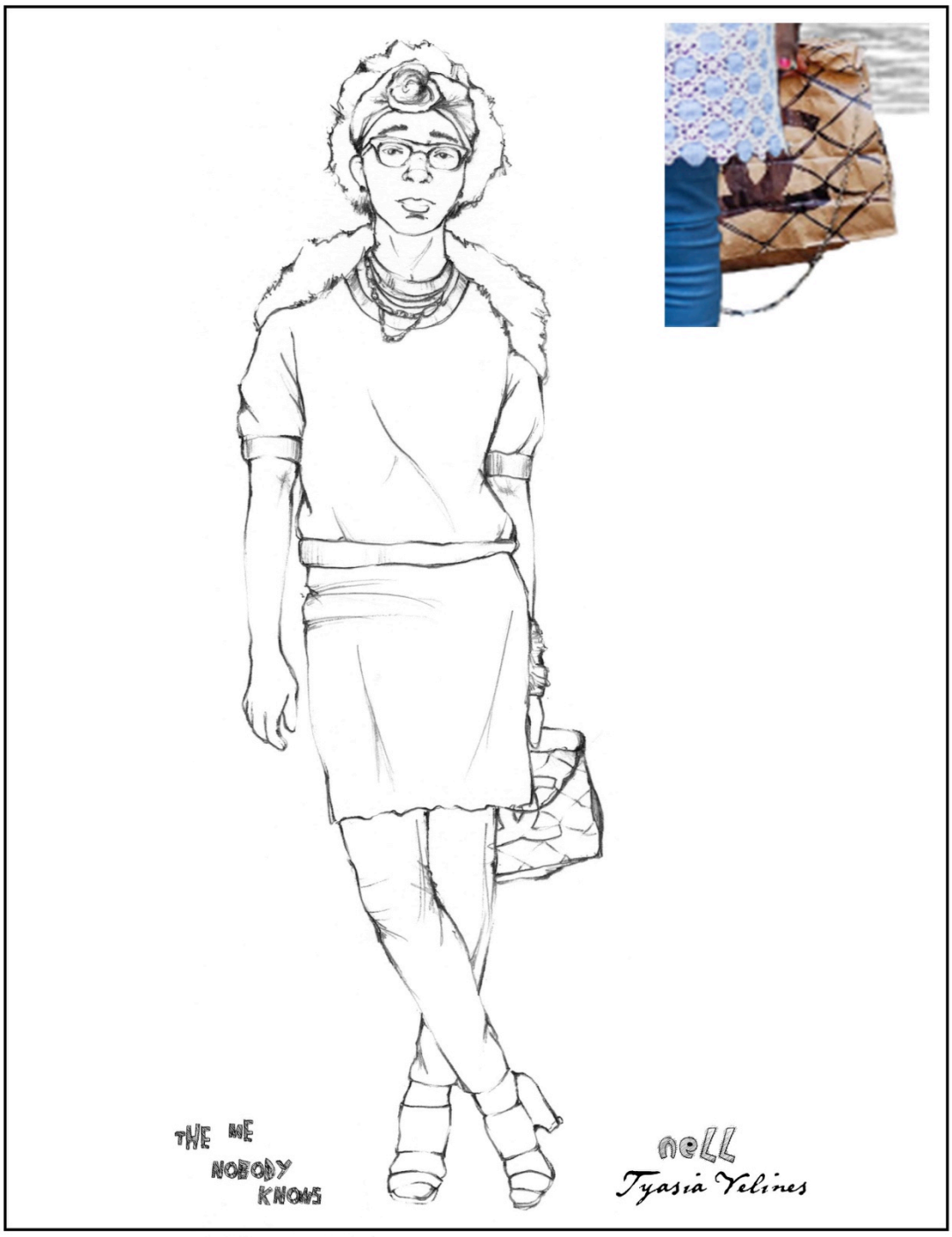


Fina

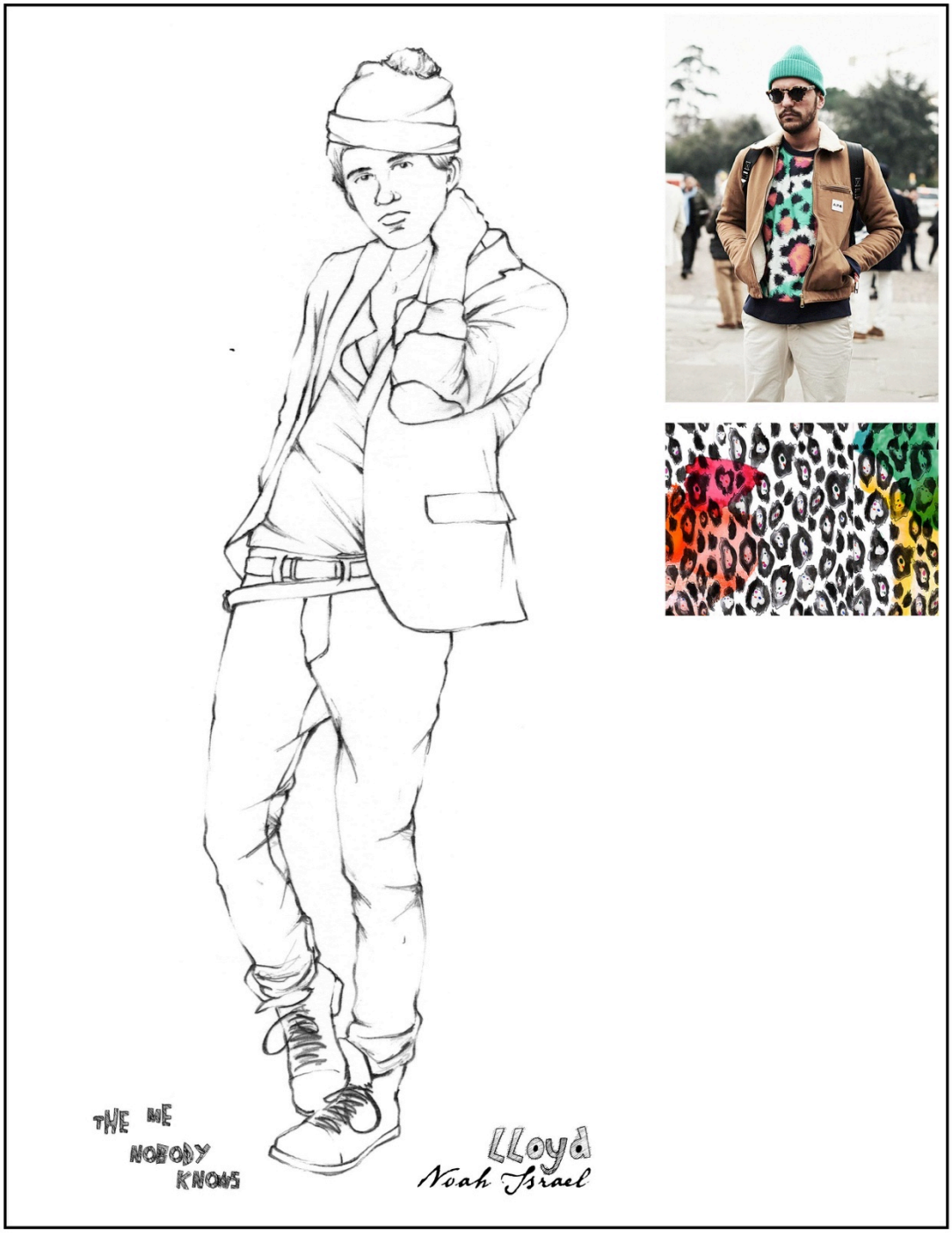
l Costume Sketch – William



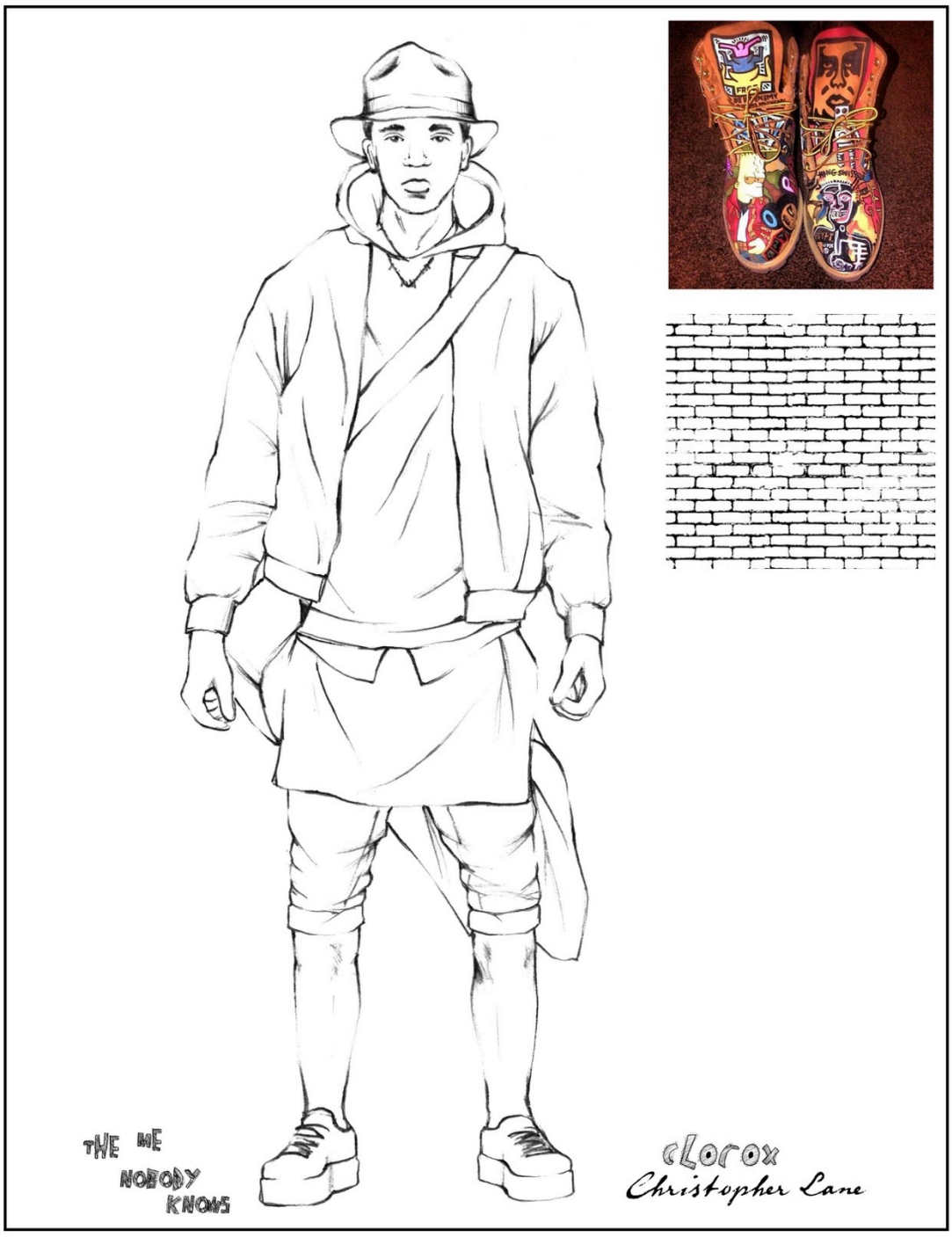
Final Costume Sketch – Rhoda



Final Costume Sketch – Nell



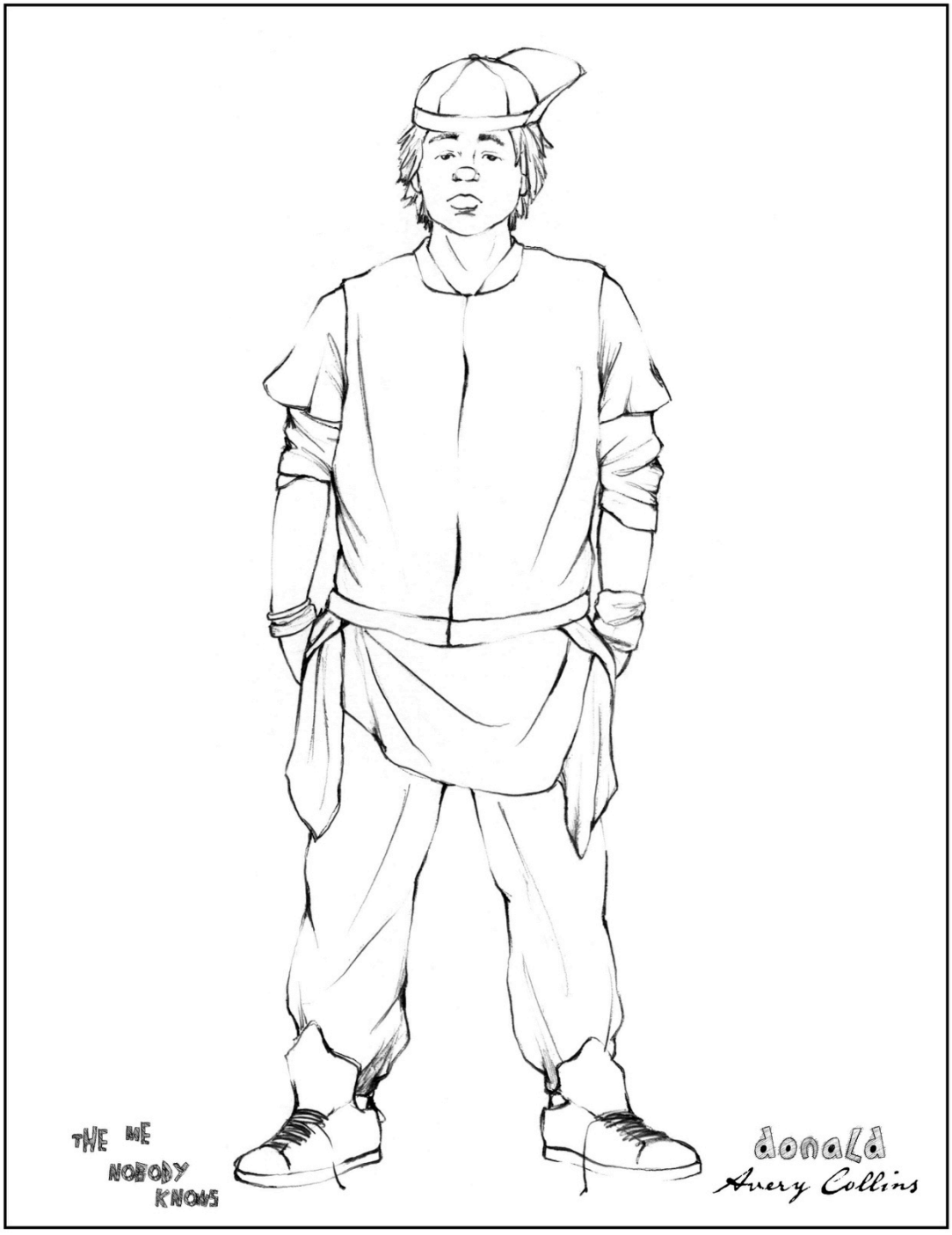
Final Costume Sketch – Lloyd



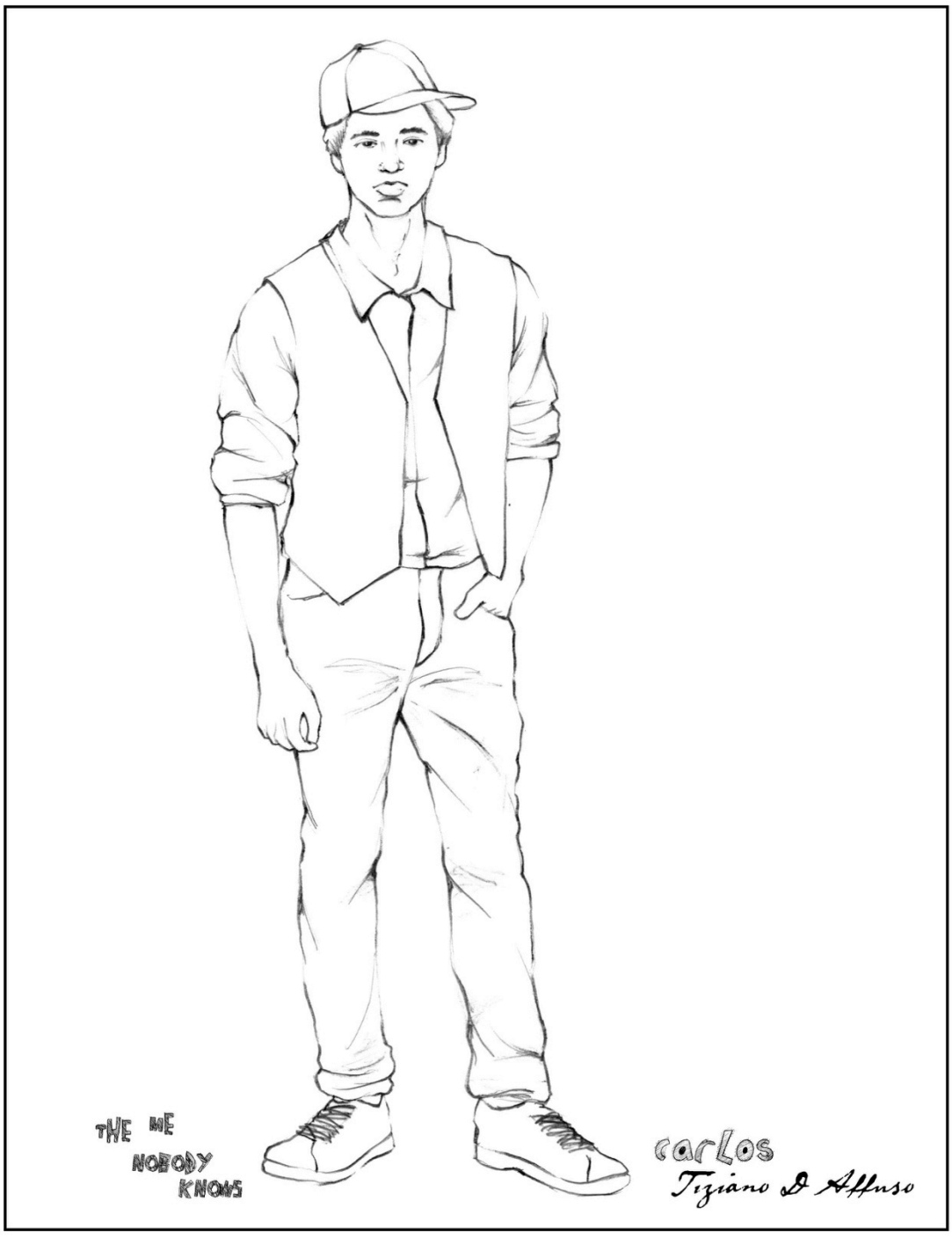
Final Costume Sketch – Clorox



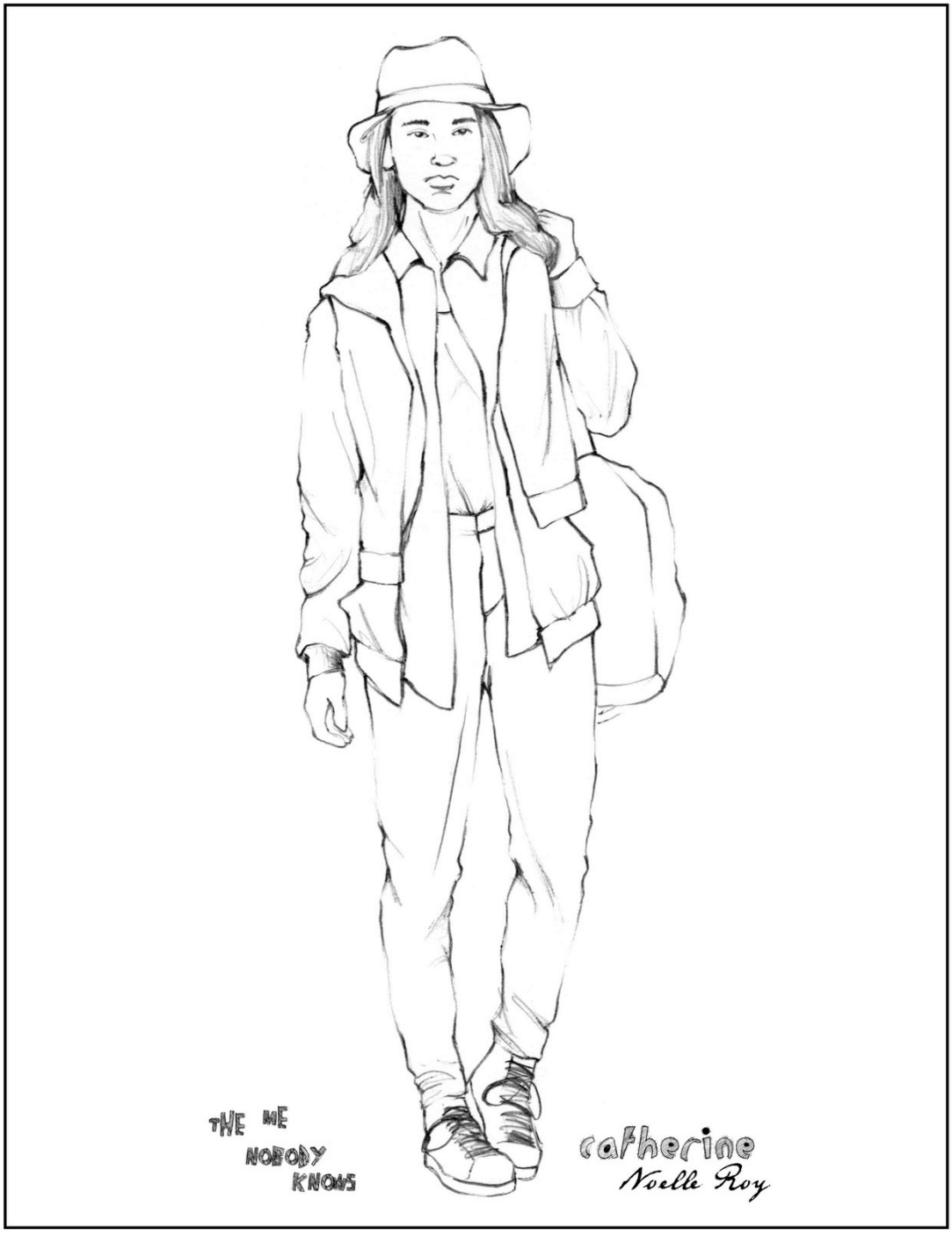
Final Costume Sketch – Lillie Mae



Final Costume Sketch – Donald



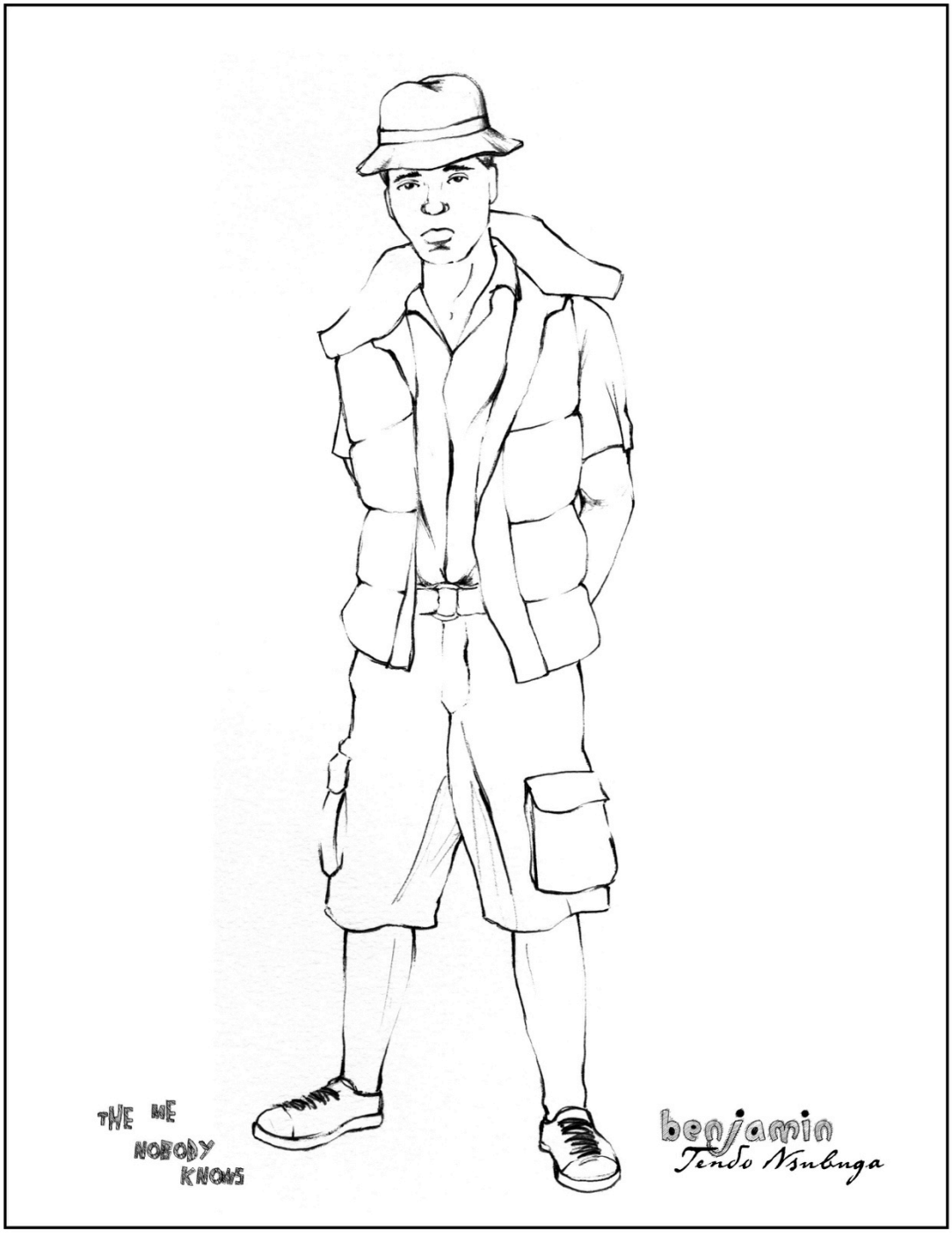
Final Costume Sketch – Carlos



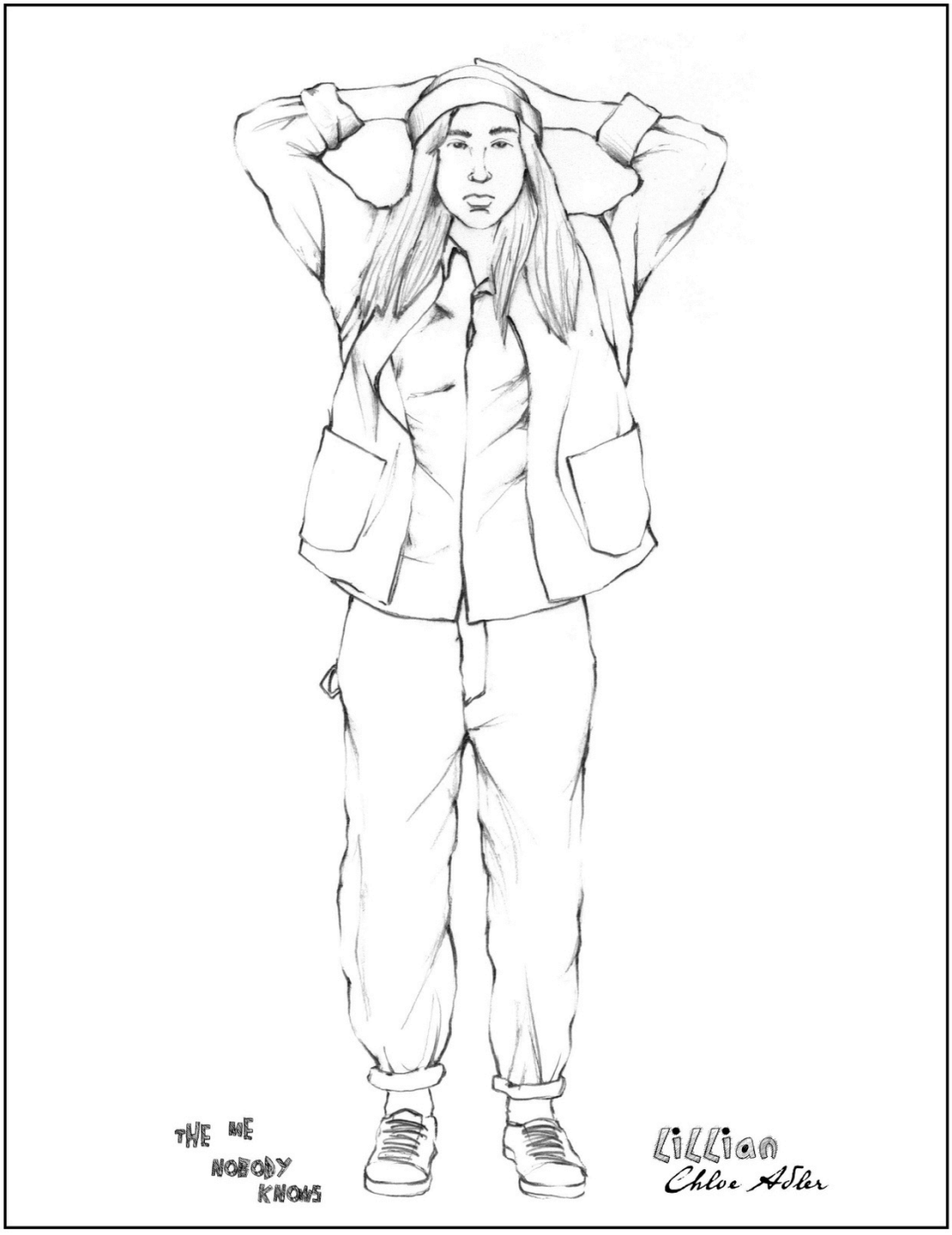
Final Costume Sketch – Catherine



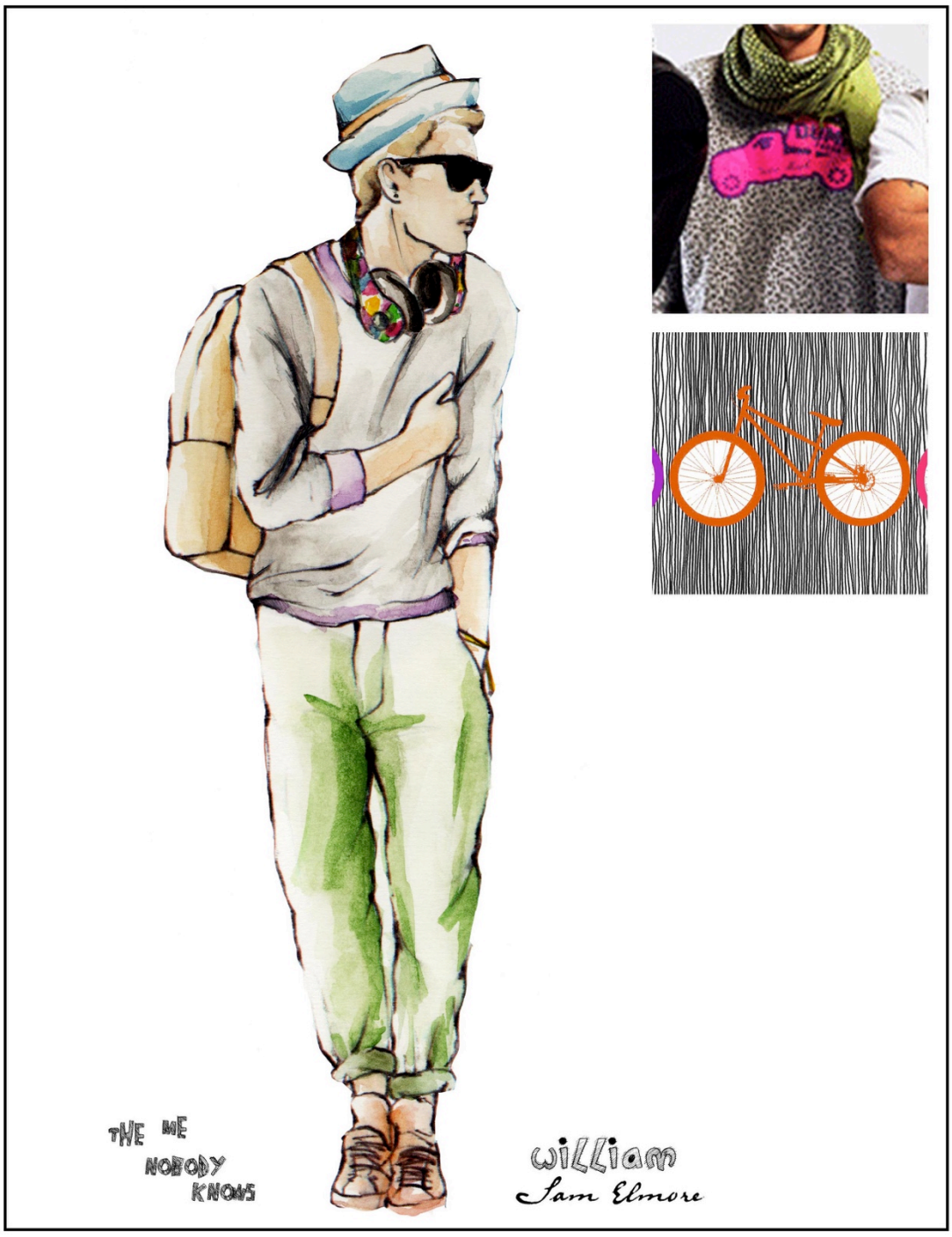
Final Costume Sketch – Melba



Final Costume Sketch – Benjamin



Final Costume Sketch – Lillian



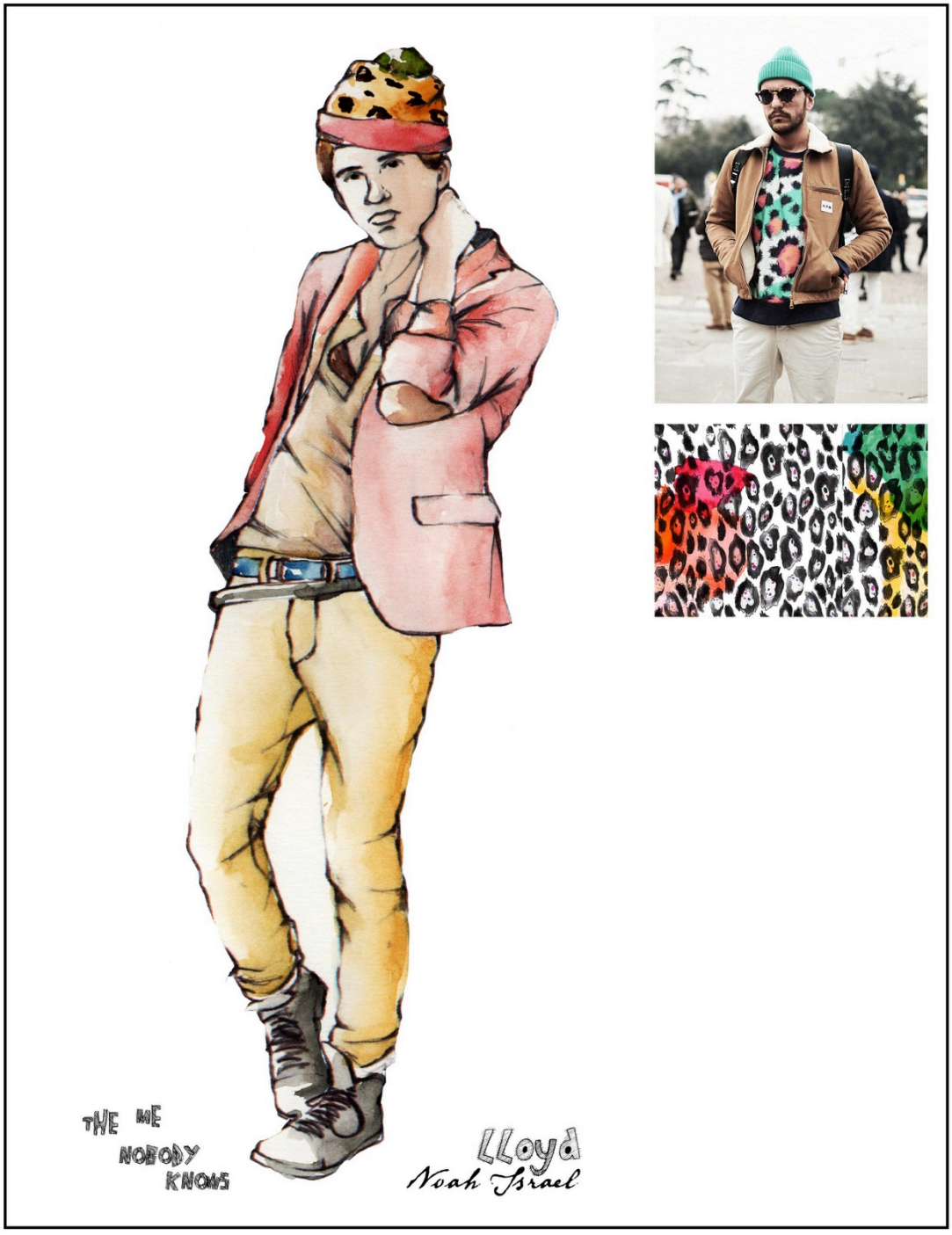
Final Costume Rendering – William



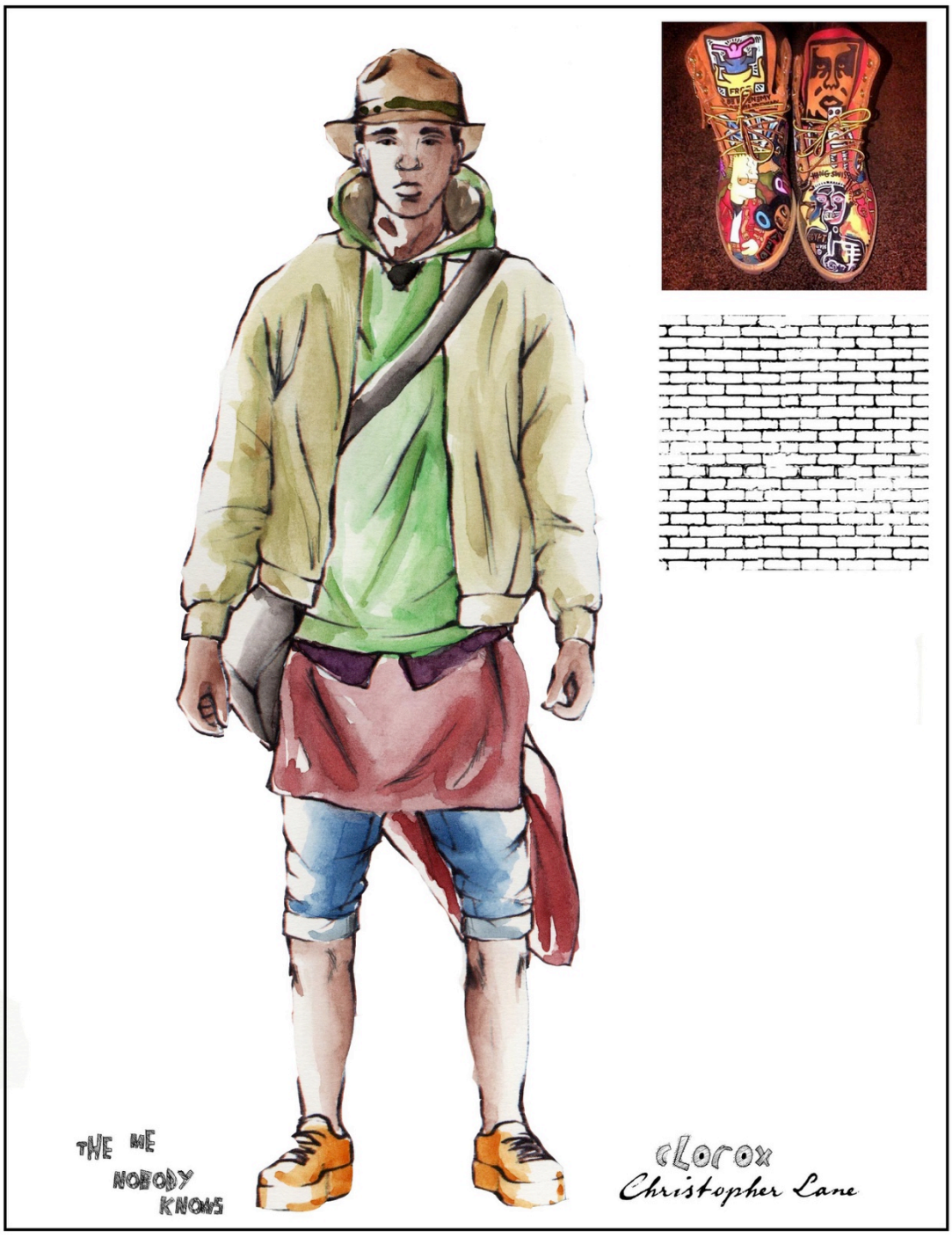
Final Costume Rendering – Rhoda



Final Costume Rendering – Nell



Final Costume Rendering – Lloyd



Final Costume Rendering – Clorox



Final Costume Rendering – Lillie Mae



Final Costume Rendering – Donald



Final Costume Rendering – Carlos



Final Costume Rendering – Catherine



Final Costume Rendering – Melba



Final Costume Rendering – Benjamin



Final Costume Rendering – Lillian

Chapter 4: Fitting Photos

The following images document the fitting process for each actor. There were a combination of garments built by the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, as well as modified garments, and altered garments. Even after the fitting process, there were some slight changes made to certain actors once in the theatre venue.



Noah Israel as Lloyd



Rebecca Mount as Rhoda



Tiziano D'Affuso as Carlos



Tyasia Velines as Nell



Christopher Lane as Clorox



Kristen El Yaouti as Melba





Tendo Nsubuga - Benjamin





Chloe Adler as Lillian





Avery Collins as Donald





Noelle Roy as Catherine



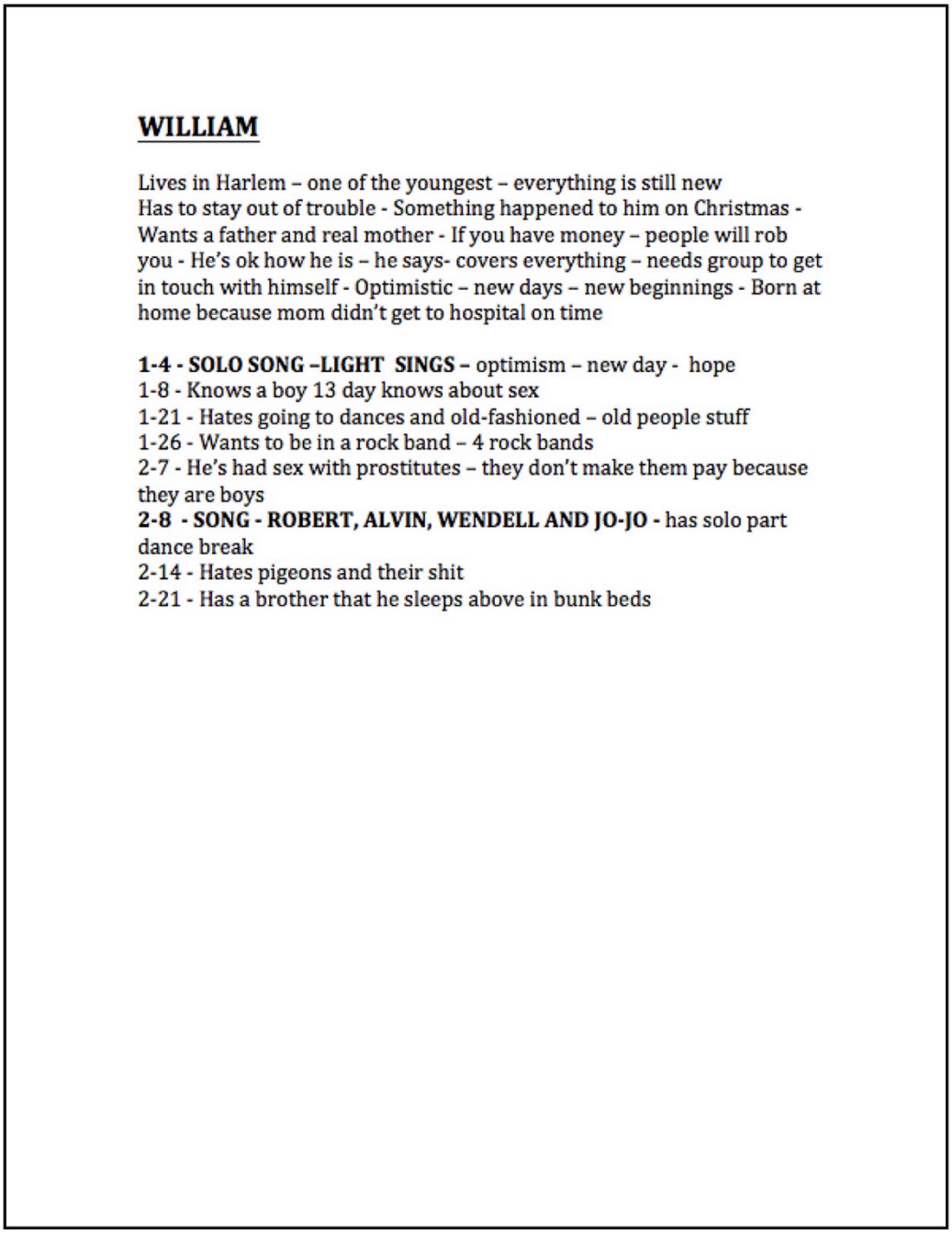
Sam Elmore as William




Chioma Dunkley as Lillie Mae

Chapter 5: Production Paperwork

The following pages contain numerous forms of paperwork generated during the design and execution process of *The Me Nobody Knows*.



WILLIAM

Lives in Harlem – one of the youngest – everything is still new
Has to stay out of trouble - Something happened to him on Christmas - Wants a father and real mother - If you have money – people will rob you - He's ok how he is – he says- covers everything – needs group to get in touch with himself - Optimistic – new days – new beginnings - Born at home because mom didn't get to hospital on time

1-4 - SOLO SONG –LIGHT SINGS – optimism – new day - hope
1-8 - Knows a boy 13 day knows about sex
1-21 - Hates going to dances and old-fashioned – old people stuff
1-26 - Wants to be in a rock band – 4 rock bands
2-7 - He's had sex with prostitutes – they don't make them pay because they are boys
2-8 - SONG - ROBERT, ALVIN, WENDELL AND JO-JO - has solo part dance break
2-14 - Hates pigeons and their shit
2-21 - Has a brother that he sleeps above in bunk beds

Character Breakdown of William

RHODA

Younger – loner – Likes animals – Will go to college and get out –
Financially secure – needs group because she doesn't connect
Doesn't say much in Act I

1-1 - She's felt lonely and forgotten = left out – set apart – wants to feel included – she's in the group because she can't make friends
1-6 - Talks to Donald causing trouble in the neighborhood
1-8 - Knows kids that smoke pot and a kid asked her to do an upper
1-14 - Mature thoughts on religion - man will destroy himself – believes in a good God
1-23 - Swan pulled her in the park
2-1 - Growing up so fast – does her homework - and reminisces
Likes Robert Thomas
2-9 - SINGS – ROBERT, ALVIN, WENDELL AND JO-JO
with Lilllian And Lillie Mae
2-13 - **SONG – SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL SOLO** - *Acoustic Guitar*
Things that are beautiful fly away - Looking toward Islam – because this religion isn't working – Young Malcolm type
2-17 - Many of the addicts will rob for dope and kill for dope
2-20 **SINGS – LET ME COME IN**
W/Ben/Lillie Mae/William
-Sings - LET ME COME IN – REPRISE – ALL

Character Breakdown of Rhoda

NELL

Oldest – lost her brother and sent her into depression and drugs. Has turned her life around in the group and is also is a leader in the group– works in a dress shop – fashionista - will get out and open her own business. She's had trouble with teachers – and has kicked drugs. She's in here as a recovered addict. The group is the most positive experience for her.

1-4 Comes in late from work
1-6 Doesn't like school
1-8 Had bad teachers that don't care
1-13 Wants to live forever
1-14 **SOLO – TAKE HOLD THE CRUTCH –** Doesn't believe that we are passive believers that use religion as a crutch. We need to work for ourselves – shake off the shackles and do it yourself.
1-21 Evolution?
1-23 Feminist
1-26 If she had a million dollars – she'd keep quiet – because someone would steal it
2-2 **SONG – REJOICE CHILDREN – JOINS IN ON SOLO LINES**
Tries to comfort Clorox with her last lines
2-3 **SONG – SOUNDS – DUET WITH CATHERINE**
She knows it's a rough world out there – you can always here it in the city
2-10 She posits the questions – what if there were no crimes or criminals in NYC? Criminals should be given respect because they advance the industry – very smart lady
2-15 **SONG – ENSEMBLE – BLACK –** meditation on *If we Must Die*
2-19 – Responds in rhyme to Lloyds heroine song – she's done drugs – but is done with them. She's turned herself around.
2-22 Lost her older brother

Character Breakdown of Nell

LLOYD

Oldest –Artist – gifted - well liked – seen everything. Has traveled – frightened by the south – aware of being a failure – clothes are important – doing drugs more and more – but not happy with it – here to kick the drugs – change his life – positive direction

1-2 - Dreams to be an artist
1-5 - Likes the morning
1-8 - School's all right but teachers are bad – likes art class
1-9 - Teases Carlos and calls him retarded
1-12 - SONG – WHAT HAPPENS TO LIFE - Sings with Lillian
What is death – what is life? - Reincarnation?
1-19 - Growing up is complicated – but he's knows the difference between right and wrong – and now he knows about sex – likes women - women are supreme – he respects them
1-24 - His mother says money makes the world go around
1-25 – SONG - IF I HAD A MILLION DOLLARS – SOLO
Rap/Rhyme – no music and then add voices & beats - Buy a fortress/penthouse/mansion – get away from everyone – Buy a drugstore
2-3 - Fights with Donald after Donald makes fun of his mother
2-7 - Donald brags about woman and Lloyd doesn't believe him
2-18 - **SOLO – THE HORSE** - Shooting up heroin - How he got addicted
2-21 - Mornings start well – then at school things change - gets home he's so tired doesn't feel young anymore
2-22 - SOLO – WAR BABIES – Piano – Jazz waltz - no ensemble - When I gonna go back home – much softer - All the dead – killing – war – in neighborhood - etc.
2-23 - Fire escapes are for frightened people – creeping from one inferno to the other

Character Breakdown of Lloyd

CLOROX

Black – best actor – oldest - Brother died at 2 years of age – rappers influence him - Tupac – old school – needs group to get rid of anger and hopelessness over brother – abuse of his people and neighborhood

1-3 - Dreams of big time rapper – JZ - Diddy
Palace – clothes – drinking – orchestra – making it rain with money – Gatsby
1-6 - He likes to be surrounded by people like him – world is messed up – everybody hates school - listens to others opinions
1-8 - They treat us like dogs in school
1-9 - **WHAT AM I – SOLO - SPOKEN WORD – RAP**
PREJUDICE – BIGOTRY BY SYSTEM
1-13 - Hates flowers and funerals and having to see dead people
1-17 - THE TRANSFORMATION – ESSAY - Needs to transform into something else – so it's a pen – his brother takes and now he can guide him into a better life
2-2 - **SOLO – REJOICE CHILDREN**
His brother was eaten and killed by rats – and he's sarcastically saying now he doesn't have to live in poverty like Clorox and they'll have more money – the saddest song
2-6 – Sad story of homeless man – put in ambulance – -Has so much anger he busts a bottle on a meter
2-14 - Tired of "the man" and the abuse – listen up people

Character Breakdown of Clorox

LILLIE MAE

Youngest – Benjamin's sister – broken family - Repeats – Windy skies – windy windy skies – there because of abusive family

1-7 She can mold the world to what she likes
1-8 - Hated school when it opened
1-8 THIS WORLD 4 *Solo lines*
1-26 - She'd buy a pet store
2-1 - **FUGUE FOR FOUR GIRLS – 3 lines -** Windy Skies
2-8 - **ROBERT, ALVIN, WENDELL AND JO-JO** - *Part of the trio* - Likes a boy named Wendell James
2-13 – Monologue - Mother & father fight – and she tries to be the best little girl -
2-17 - Hates litter – wants things better for everyone – she demands a better life
2-22 - Wishes her mom would come back to her father – they're separated
2-23 - I'm growing up so fast there's no time in life to do anything

Character Breakdown of Lillie Mae

DONALD

15 – hip hop - steals, lies, cheats, flirts – whatever works – poorest family – alcoholic father – no family unity always in trouble – abused – here to change his life – has been in and out of juvenile - idolizes rappers

1-2 - Dreams of being a swimmer
1-6 - Beaten by father – both him and brothers
1-9 - Got in trouble at school for tapping a teacher on the shoulder – mother came and he got beat again at home
1-19 - SOLO – SONG – I LOVE WHAT THE GIRLS HAVE – RAP **-** He loves girls – girl crazy – hormones
1-23 - Likes money better than girls
1-24 - Girls may die – but money lives on
1-27 - Buy a courtroom
2-3 - Starts fight with Lloyd - Makes fun of Lloyd getting high – jealous of Lloyd being and artist
2-7 - Brags about having sex with a lot of prostitutes – like a rapper
2-11 - Monologue – going to jail, court and getting paroled
2-12 - SONG – JAIL-LIFE WALK - solo and then ensemble **-** Life in jail
2-17 - People steal TV, money, etc.
2-23 - People don't understand him – people say he's crazy – he doesn't care what anyone else thinks

Character Breakdown of Donald

CARLOS

OLDEST – second poorest – 15 siblings – has a baby - optimist – got put in jail for stealing a car – to get away – caught returning the car – caught stealing jewelry for his girlfriend Catherine – doesn't work with her being his girlfriend – Change it to him in psych ward – and has to be here for therapy

1-1 - Likes to look at stars – - Good to Melba
1—9 - Sixth grade – smart – finished assignment first – for fun drew a picture of someone committing suicide – teacher took him seriously – went up chain of command – and then psychiatrist said he was mentally retarded – as kids of color you get labeled
1-16 - Writing from the psych ward – they let him go to group with the rest of the kids - Has a friend in Mr. Grady
1-21 - Parents haven't visited - 15 siblings - Sister in TX – bro & sis work Has a child with a baby momma – and she gave up on him
1-23 SINGS – HOW I FEEL with Catherine - Guitar
1-26 - IF I HAD A MILLION DOLLARS
2-7 - SOLO – THE APPLE TREE - Acoustic guitar
If he waits he will get out of the psych ward and be happy - He'd by a movie house
2-13 - Writes to girlfriend but doesn't get letters back - Goes to church – Lonely - Mr. & Mrs. Grady bought him a shirt
2-21
Takes Mr. Grady's advice – writes to his family. - Mom is coming – sister wrote and girlfriend is coming back to him - His apple is back!
2-23 - Looking at stars again

Character Breakdown of Carlos

CATHERINE

Older - frightened – fear works at a store – hardly sees parents – alone – in script she's with Carlos – but script doesn't support that – she can be falling for him throughout the show.. – passive – has baby – that's why she's here

1-6 - Had a good childhood
1-8 - If teachers treated students like humans they could have fun in school
1-12 - Can't believe her life is this – it can't be – she's getting out somehow
1-22 - Solo HOW I FEEL SOLO - duet with Carlos **-** Find each other in the song
1-24 - Money keeps you out of trouble
1-26 – **Small Solo in IF I HAD A MILLION DOLLARS**
She'd have robes - She'd buy a hospital
2-2 **FUGUE FOR 4 GIRLS – small solo -** Nina Simone/Sara Bareilles
Loves the snow – makes everything clean
2-3 **SOUNDS – DUET WITH NELL -** *cups from pitch perfect* **-** Sounds of the - city – scary and comforting
2-17 - In her building there are killings, shootings, a man raped a woman on the roof and killed her - NY is full of addicts
2-20 - REPRISE – SOUNDS - ensemble
2-21 - Reminiscing about the old neighborhood – wants to get everyone to see the place again.

Character Breakdown of Catherine

MELBA

Oldest - Group leader - very responsible – feels responsible for the youngest in the group – afraid of being lost in life – Here to make a change – favorite Uncle was killed and she has to make a change – too much killing on her block – this is her safety

1-1 - SOLO SONG - DREAM BABIES – Guitar – acoustic - People in the city are afraid of the night – guns – killings – murders – beatings at home – everyone is here because something's happened to them at night - Song about a better tomorrow
1-4 - Doesn't like the night – its lonely – scary
1-6 - Kids make fun of how she dresses
1-9 - Teachers lie about students and she feels awful
1-13 - Last November her uncle was shot and killed
1-17 - Adam & Eve - Sex and women are in control
1-23 - Money is man's helper
1-25 - SONG – IF I HAD A MILLION DOLLARS – ENSEMBLE
She'd give some to everyone and some to UNICEF
2-13 – Monologue - Story about train station - Everyone dies and we become part of the landscape - She's been here long enough to have knowledge - If you die – you are just part of the past – like her uncle
2-15 – BLACK – STEP NUMBER – A capella – solo and leads song and then duets with Nell – rest ensemble – Teaching the group black is beautiful and their heritage
2-2 - In the summer children like you - In the winter they lose affection for you – you melt their snow sun - They dislike you – Why does she must always have winter?
2-22 - I wish they would stop killing people around my block

Character Breakdown of Melba

BENJAMIN

Youngest - Black – might be brother of Lillie Mae – same age -
Parents separated – Has anger issues – why he's here

1-1 - He loves space – hates war – political
1-5 – early bird catches worm – aphorisms
1-7 Song – THIS WORLD - Solo - he can make a sunny day
1-8 - A kid tried to blow up his school –
1-17 - FLYING MILK AND RUNAWAY PLATES - Loves lunch and the craziness
1-23 - Loves the killing in Lawrence of Arabia
1-25 - IF I HAD A MILLION DOLLARS - Keep all the money - Buy bike - Amphibian jeep – war - Toll bridge and charge - Cashmere coat - Rest for college! - Hot dog stand
2-1 - City things to do in summer - Skeetching - Summer - Back to school
2-14 - Prejudice - Kid orders Milk & a Nigger
2-17 - Someone stole $1/2 million
2-23 - Men and rats exterminate themselves – aphorism? - Not much hope

Character Breakdown of Benjamin

LILLIAN

Lead – Older – tomboy – mischievous – Preacher's kid – good mother – stable home life – Here because father hits her – and mother doesn't do anything

1-5 LIGHT SINGS - – Solo and group - A CAPELLA
1-6 - Wishes she had a better back yard – all junky
1-8 -SONG – Begins SOLO -- THIS WORLD & then ensemble
Think Lauryn Hill – Piano Solo – then gospel maybe - His Eye is On the Sparrow – Sister Act - *I can make the world whatever I want it to be*
NUMBERS – She raps about rats in her house
1-9 Likes MR. Nesbit the teacher
ESSAY – WHY DOES MAN HAVE NAILS - *Trying to figure out life – through writing*
1-12 - SONG – WHAT HAPPENS TO LIFE? – starts solo then duet with Lloyd - *What is the meaning of life? - She's a preacher's kid – but its not making sense - Tries to figure life out through singing*
1-23 - Memories of summer – fun – water
1-25 - IF I HAD A MILLION DOLLARS - ensemble
Start with just voice – rap/hip-hop then add beats - THINK HIP-HOP DANCE NUMBER - *Ensemble in this song - She'd buy everybody lining up for welfare – women wine*
2-8 - ROBERT, ALVIN, WENDELL AND JO JO – solo in the trio
Cute Do wop – dance number - Makes fun of a kid that stutters – but she likes him
2-13 - My best friend is my mother – she never slaps us. Gets the facts – puts the answers together and then yells - Father is one of the nicest men I know. He's a preacher. He's the protector. He hits me because he's protecting for the future.
2-17 - Witnessed a robbery –
2-21 - When I go to sleep = I see little fireworks around me
2-22 - Darkness is a cloud formed in us.

Character Breakdown of Lillian



Callback Photo Taken During Interview – Mac Schonher



Callback Photo Taken During Interview – Rebecca Mount



Callback Photo Taken During Interview – Tyasia Velines



Callback Photo Taken During Interview – Noah Israel



Callback Photo Taken During Interview – Christopher Lane



Callback Photo Taken During Interview – Chioma Dunkley



Callback Photo Taken During Interview – Avery Collins



Callback Photo Taken During Interview – Tiziano D'Affuso



Callback Photo Taken During Interview – Noelle Roy



Callback Photo Taken During Interview – Kristen El Yaouti



Callback Photo Taken During Interview – Tendo Nsubuga



Callback Photo Taken During Interview – Chloe Adler

CLARICE SMITH
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER AT MARYLAND

10/6

Production Services Costume Piece List

Department: TDPS	Director: Scot Reese, Alvin Mayes
Show: The Me Nobody Knows	Costume Designer: Robert Croghan
Space: Kay Theatre	Faculty Advisor: Helen Huang

Actor	Character	Look #	Costume Piece	Description	Pull	Buy	Build	Rent	Mod	Alt	Cost
Chloe Adler	*Lillian*	1	Undergarments	Bra, Underwear		X					$ -
			Camisole	Seamless, Nude	X						$ -
			Shirt	Sleeveless, Button Up		X					$ -
			Jacket	Denim		X				X	$ -
			Hat	Knit Cap		X					
			Pants	Corduroy		X					$ -
			Socks	Athletic		X					$ -
			Shoes	Converse/ Keds style		X					$ -
			Backpack	Purple		X					
Avery Collins	*Donald*	2	Undergarments	Underwear	X						
			Shirt	Print, Long Sleeve Attachment		X					$ -
			Shirt	Long Sleeve, Button Up		X					$ -
			Jacket	Sleeveless, Letterman Jacket style		X				X	$ -
			Pants	Sweatpants		X					
			Socks	Athletic	X						$ -
			Shoes	Adidas Lotus style		X					
			Backpack	String, Athletic Bag		X					
			Hat	Baseball Cap		X					$ -
			Accessories	Bracelets, Bandana		X					$ -
Tiziano D'Affuso	*Carlos*	3	Undergarments	Underwear	X						
			Undershirt	A-shirt	X						$ -
			Shirt	Orange, Long Sleeve, Button Up		X					$ -
			Vest	Tan, Hooded			X				
			Pants	Jeans		X					
			Socks	Athletic	X						
			Shoes	Grey Converse Low Tops		X					
			Backpack	Navy		X					
			Hat	Baseball Cap		X					$ -
			Accessories	Belt, Necklace		X					$ -
Chioma Dunkley	*Lillie Mae*	4	Undergarments	Bra, Underwear		X					$ -
			Camisole	Seamless, Nude	X						
			Shirt	Jersey		X					$ -
			Sweatshirt	Hooded		X					$ -
			Shorts	Gym Shorts		X					$ -
			Socks	Knit		X					$ -
			Boots	Floral Doc Martens		X					
			Hat	TBD		X					$ -
			Backpack	Pink, Spikes		X					$ -
			Accessories	Glasses, Bracelets		X					$ -

Costume Piece List

CLARICE SMITH
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER AT MARYLAND

10/6

Sam Elmore	*William*	5	Undergarments	Underwear	X						
			Shirt	3/4 Length Sleeves		X					$ -
			Sweatshirt	Grey with Purple Accents		X	X			X	$ -
			Pants	Teal Pants		X					$ -
			Socks	Athletic	X						
			Shoes	Orange, Tiger Stripe		X					$ -
			Hat	Fedora/ Homberg		X					$ -
			Backpack	Green		X					$ -
			Accessories	Watch, Headphones, Sunglasses		X					
Kristen El Yaouti	*Melba*	6	Undergarments	Bra, Underwear		X					$ -
			Shirt	Long Sleeve, Crop Top		X					
			Pants	Pink, Cigarette Pant			X				$ -
			Sweater	Parka		X					$ -
			Socks	Footies		X					$ -
			Shoes	Red, Leopard Print		X					$ -
			Purse	Louis Vuitton Knock-off		X				X	
			Hat	Wide Brim Fedora		X					$ -
			Accessories	Belt, Earrings, Bracelets		X					$ -
Noah Israel	*Lloyd*	7	Undergarments	Underwear	X						
			Undershirt	A-Shirt	X						$ -
			Sweater	Tan, Long Sleeve shirt			X				$ -
			Blazer	Red, Leopard Print Lining		X					$ -
			Pants	Khaki		X					$ -
			Socks	Colorful Dress Socks	X						
			Boots	Leather		X					$ -
			Accessories	Gloves, Scarf, Bandana, Belts, Jewelry		X					
			Hat	Knit		X					$ -
			Backpack			X					$ -
Christopher Lane	*Clorox*	8	Undergarments	Underwear	X						
			Shirt	Brick Print Tank Top			X				$ -
			Shirt	Long Sleeve, Shirt Diddy Attached		X					$ -
			Jacket	Bomber-style		X			X		$ -
			Shorts	Orange		X				X	$ -
			Socks	Colorful, Athletic	X						$ -
			Boots	Leather		X					$ -
			Hat	Mountain Ranger Style		X					$ -
			Backpack	Duffle, Military		X					
			Accessories	Sunglasses, Jewelry		X					$ -
Rebecca Mount	*Rhoda*	9	Undergarments	Bra, Underwear		X					
			Skirt	Pink/ Yellow Floral Print			X				
			Shirt	Yellow Camisole							
			Jacket	Khaki		X					$ -
			Pants	Black, Capris		X					
			Shoes	Red Oxfords		X					$ -
			Backpack	Chanel Knock-off		X					
			Accessories	Chunky Jewelry, Headband		X					$ -
Tendo Nsubuga	*Benjamin*	10	Undergarments	Underwear	X						

Costume Piece List

CLARICE SMITH
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER AT MARYLAND

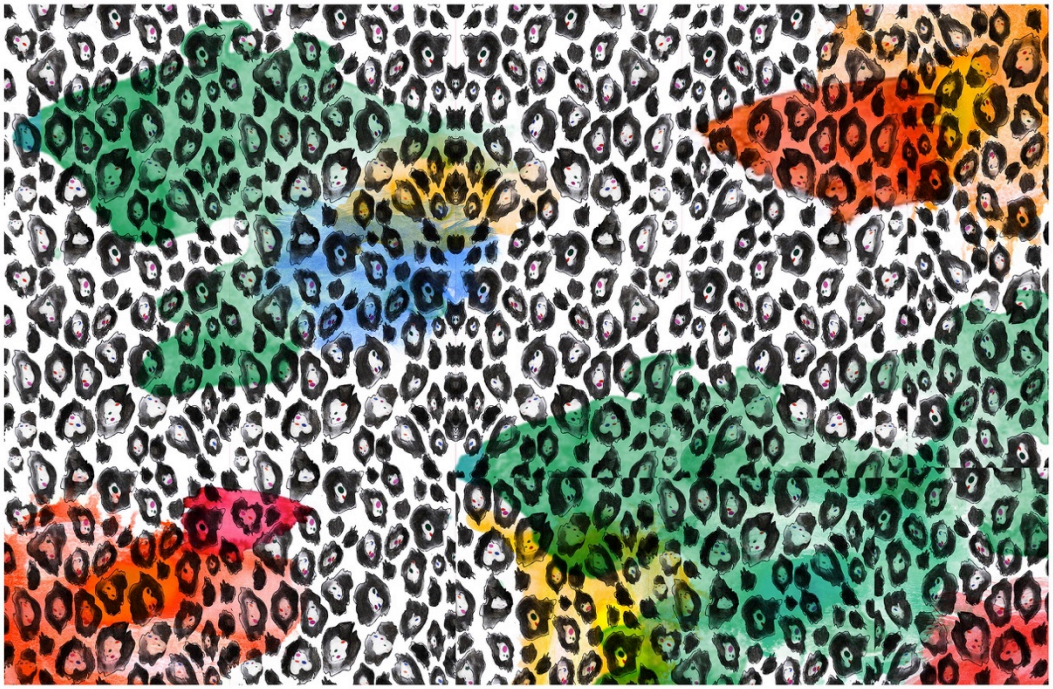
10/6

			Shirt	Green T-shirt		X					$ -
			Shirt	Teal/ Orange, Short Sleeve. Button Up		X				X	$ -
			Vest	Orange Puffy Vest		X	X			X	$ -
			Shorts	Cargo style		X					$ -
			Socks	Athletic	X						
			Shoes	Red Converse		X					$ -
			Hat	Camo Print Bucket Hat style		X					$ -
			Accessories	Bracelets		X					$ -
			Backpack	Hamburger Print		X					
Noelle Roy	*Catherine*	11	Undergarments	Bra, Underwear		X					$ -
			Shirt	Black and White T-Shirt		X					$ -
			Shirt	Red Long Sleeve, Button Up		X				X	
			Sweater	Knit		X					$ -
			Vest	Denim, Studded		X			X		$ -
			Pants	Black Skinny Jeans		X				X	$ -
			Socks	Athletic	X						
			Shoes	Purple Boots		X					$ -
			Backpack	Black Leather, Aztec Print		X					$ -
			Hat	Annie Hall Style, Maroon		X					$ -
			Accessories	Jewelry		X					
Tyasia Velines	*Nell*	12	Undergarments	Bra, Underwear		X					$ -
			Camisole	Seamless, Nude	X						$ -
			Sweater	Pink, Short Sleeve			X				$ -
			Stole	Brown Fur			X				
			Skirt	Blue, Print		X				X	
			Pants	Blue Skinny Pants		X					$ -
			Socks	Yellow, Athletic	X						$ -
			Shoes	Blue Pumps		X					$ -
			Accessories	Jewelry, Headwrap, Glasses		X					
			Bag	Drawn Chanel Print, Paper Bag			X				$ -

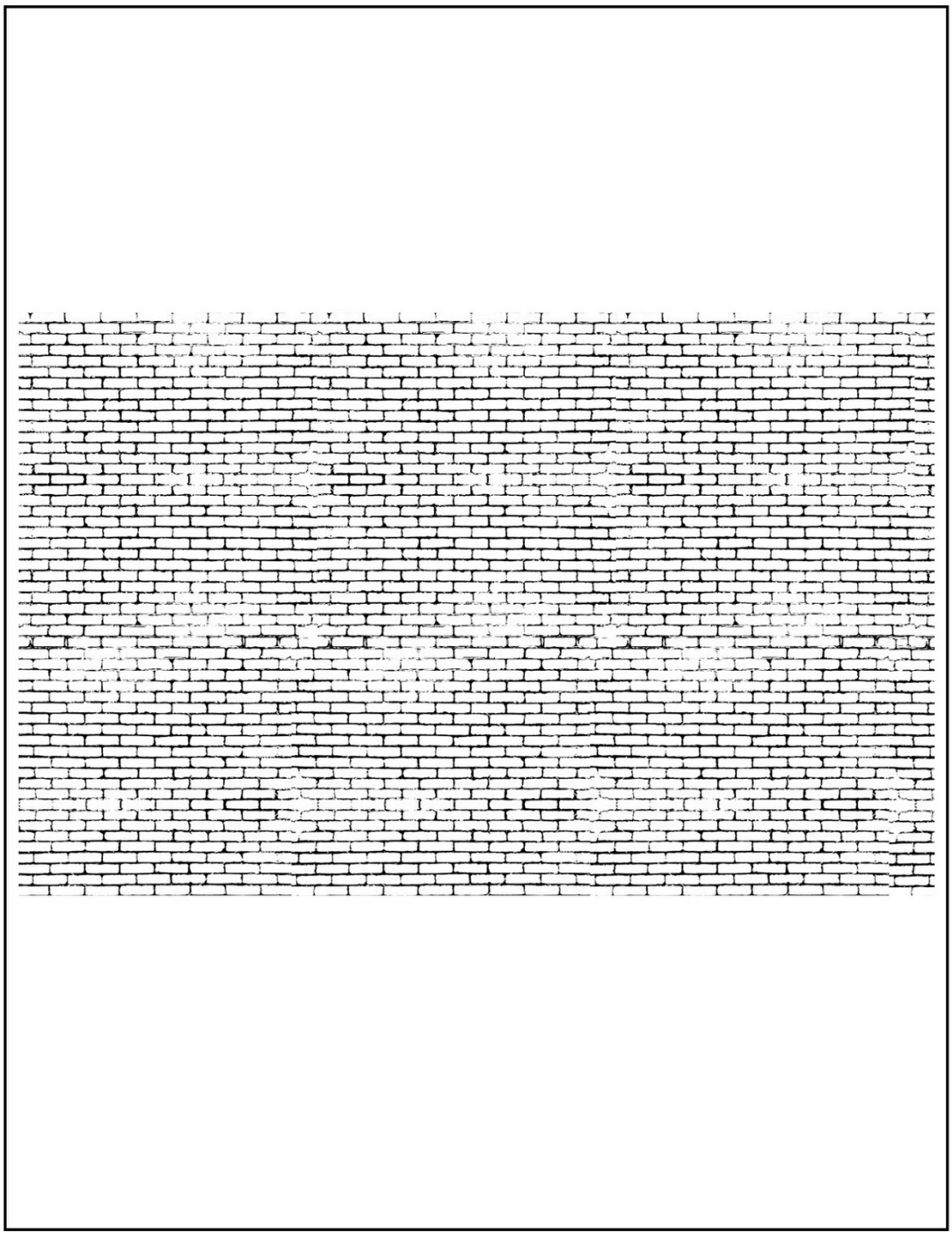
Costume Piece List



Self-Generated Graphic that was printed onto Fabric – Rhoda Skirt



Self-Generated Graphic that was printed onto Fabric – Lloyd Jacket Lining



Self-Generated Graphic that was printed onto Fabric – Clorox Tank Top



Shoe Distress Detail



Knee Detail – Lloyd Pants









Stud Detail – Catherine Vest

Rebecca Mount
-Khaki Jacket: Wash

Chloe Adler
-Sleeveless Shirt: Wash
Extra Love on the Arm Holes and Collar
-Denim Shirt: Wash
Sand/Wear Down the Shoulders and Elbows
-Shoes: Age/ Dirty

Noelle Roy
-Vest: Sand/ Wear Down Shoulders, Hem, Collar, Arm Holes and CB
-Hoodie: Wash (once option is decided)
-Pants: Wash

Kristen El Yaouti
-Graphic Sweater: Wash
-Pants: Wash (once option is decided)

Chioma Dunkley
-Sweater: Wash
Extra Love on the Hem and Elbows
-Tank Top: Wash
-Shorts: Wash
Can we add weights to pockets so the shape isn't so crisp and clean?
-Shoes: Age

Tyasia Yelines
-Blue Pants: Wash

Tiziano D'Affuso
-Orange Shirt: Wash
-Jeans: Wash
Sand/ Wear Down the Front Thighs and Knees
-Sneakers: Age

Noah Israel
-Tan Shirt: Wash

Avery Collins
-Printed Shirt Combo: Wash
-Blue Long Sleeves: Fade Elbows
-Red Button Up: Wash
-Sweatpants (Dark Grey): Wash
Sand/ Wear down Hem
Shoes: Age

List for Distressing/ Aging Garments



Noah Israel
Lloyd

Slight Undercut in back

Bangs can be worn up (with product)





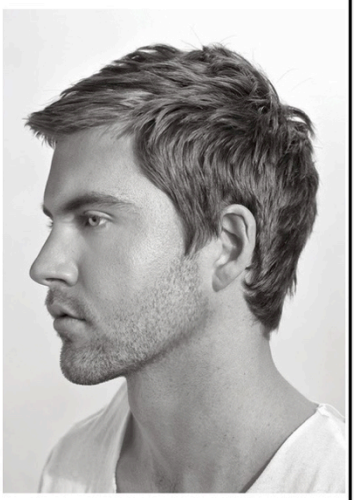


Hair Ideas – Lloyd





Tiziano D'Attuso
Carlos



Simple

Ability to wear up or down

Longer Length on Top

Hair Ideas – Carlos





Sam Elmore
William

Undercut

Fade on Sides and Back

Longer Length on Top



Hair Ideas – William

Chapter 6: Production Photos

All photos taken by Stan Barouh






17

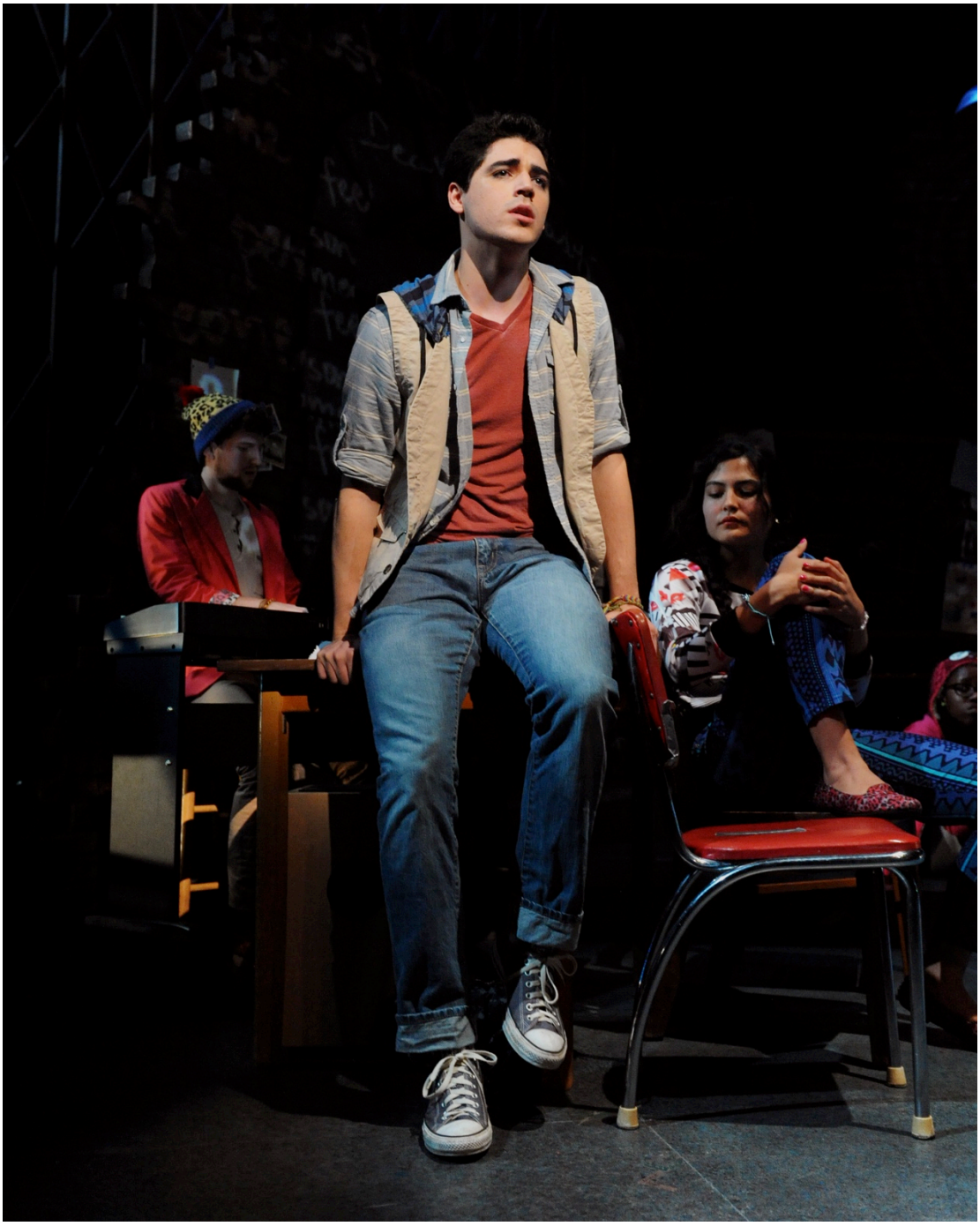












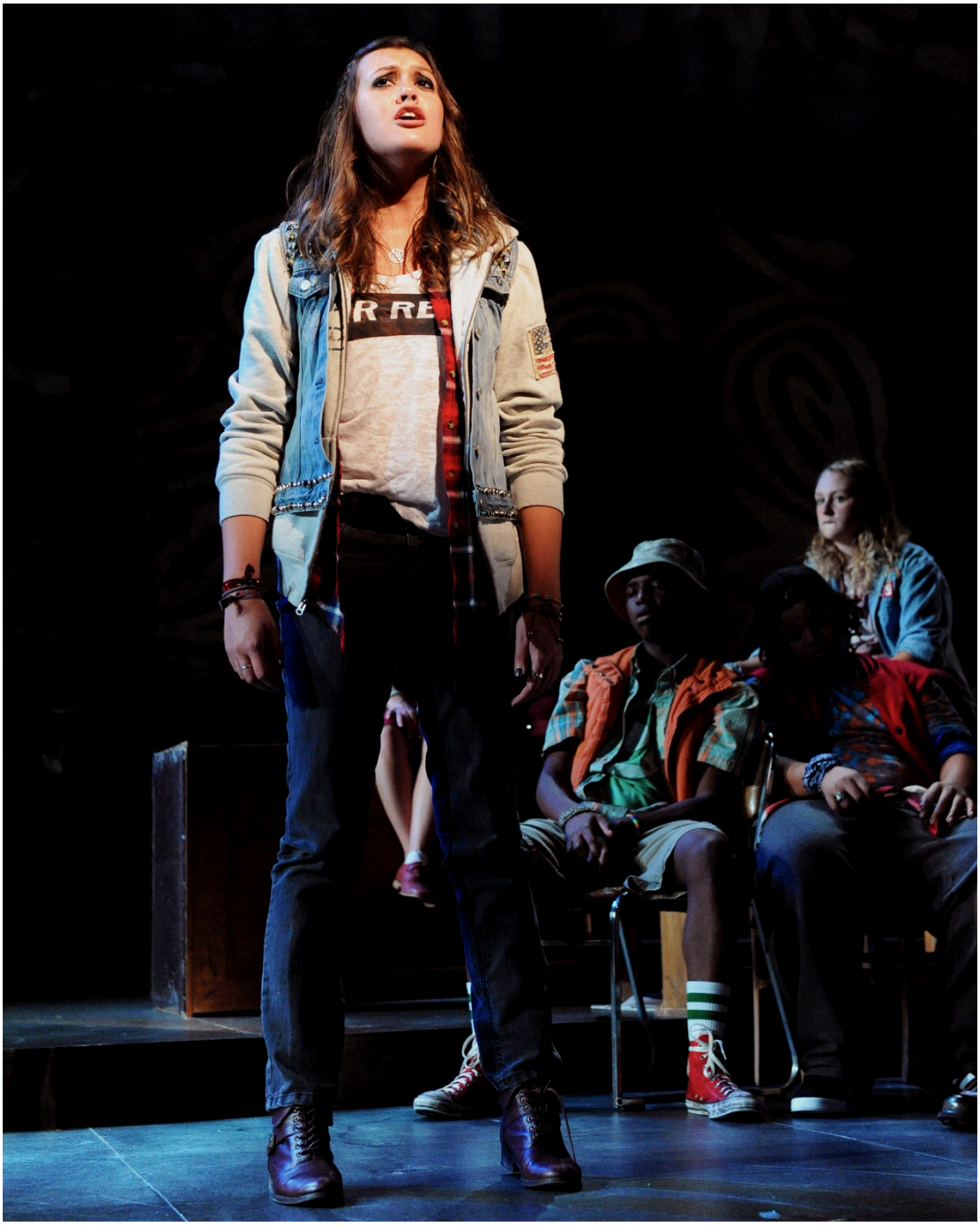



MEINL













Chapter 7: Conclusion

Although the script for *The Me Nobody Knows* was complex and abstract, I am proud of the collaboration between our design team members, the directors, and the performers.

I feel I was particularly successful maintaining the color palette, from research through its transition to stage. Another success of mine was the execution of my character renderings. I feel I interpreted my renderings well, and what was seen on paper was ultimately seen on stage.

In hindsight, one of my less successful elements of design was my relationship with the directors, Scot Reese and Alvin Mayes. From the beginning of this process, it was made clear that my relationship was strictly to design the costumes of each character. I was not able to interrogate their conceptual, over-arching ideas about the show, directorial perspectives, or suggestions about the visual through lines. In a program that urges its graduate design students to understand the importance of true collaboration, I feel like I fell short in that regard. As much as I tried to question why the production was being modernized, ask how the music was going to be updated for today's audience, were projections vital to further the stories of these characters, question whether the top of show could have been stronger, better establishing the setting of the show. While I feel these questions were valid, I was repeatedly told that my role in the production was to design the costumes, not direct.

Despite these limitations, designing the costumes for *The Me Nobody Knows* was an insightful experience, one of which I will continue to carry with me as a professional costume designer.