

WEST
AUSTRALIAN
OPERA
2022



EMMA JAYAKUMAR

OUR LITTLE INVENTOR

SOCIAL STORY

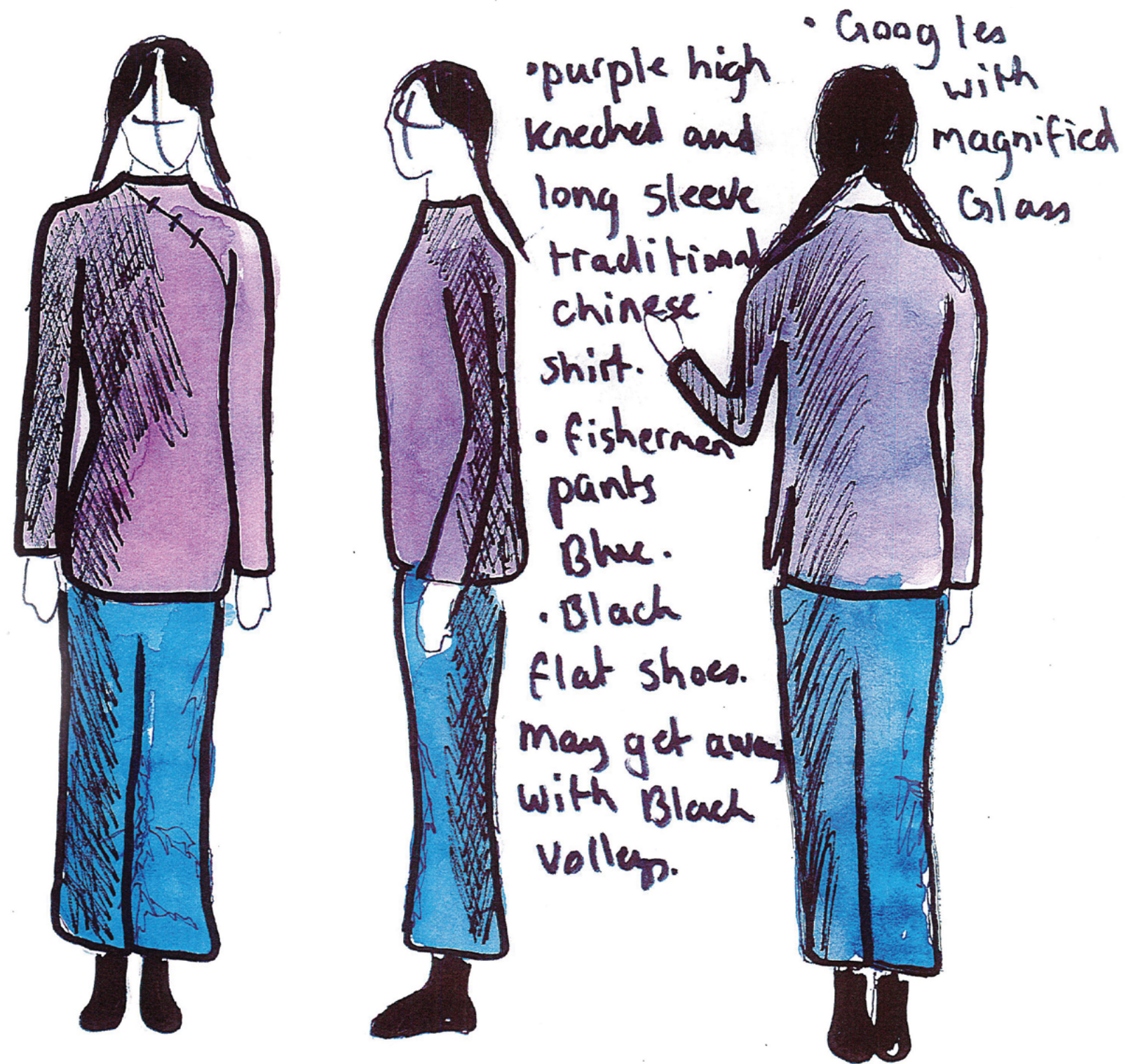
ABOUT OUR LITTLE INVENTOR



Our Little Inventor is based on the children's book by Sher Rill Ng.

The story begins about one hundred years ago, in a small Australian village on the outskirts of a big city. Village children sing about the Little Inventor, Nell.

NELL



Nell is a young girl who lives with her mother, grandmother and little brother in the countryside.

She is a gifted scientist and is working hard on an invention that will clean the pollution from the city.

THE STORY



After a long night of work, Nell announces to her family that she has finally finished her invention and is ready to take it to the big city.

After some hesitation, Mum and Mama give Nell permission to travel the following day.

THE STORY



Nell arrives in the bustling city, which is full of thick, polluted smog.

She meets some of the city children, and uses her invention to help a young boy who is struggling to breathe. An astonished shopkeeper urges Nell to see the Mayor.

THE STORY



Nell arrives at the City Council House where she meets Mrs Livingston Li. Though reluctant at first, Mrs Li defies all protocol and allows Nell to speak with the Mayor.

However, the Councilmen are angry at the interruption and Nell is rudely dismissed.

THE STORY



Dejected, Nell returns home. Her family offer her comfort and Nell gains confidence from their words of wisdom.

A letter arrives with a request from Mrs Li. Nell gets to work making a bigger and better machine, and leads everyone back to the city upon its completion.

THE STORY



At the City Council House, Nell finds herself in the midst of a rally. The Mayor is drowned out by the cries of the crowd as they plead for clean air.

Mrs Li calls Nell forward. This is her chance to show the world her invention.

THE STORY



As Nell activates her invention, the citizens take off their masks and exclaim in joy as they can breathe freely again.

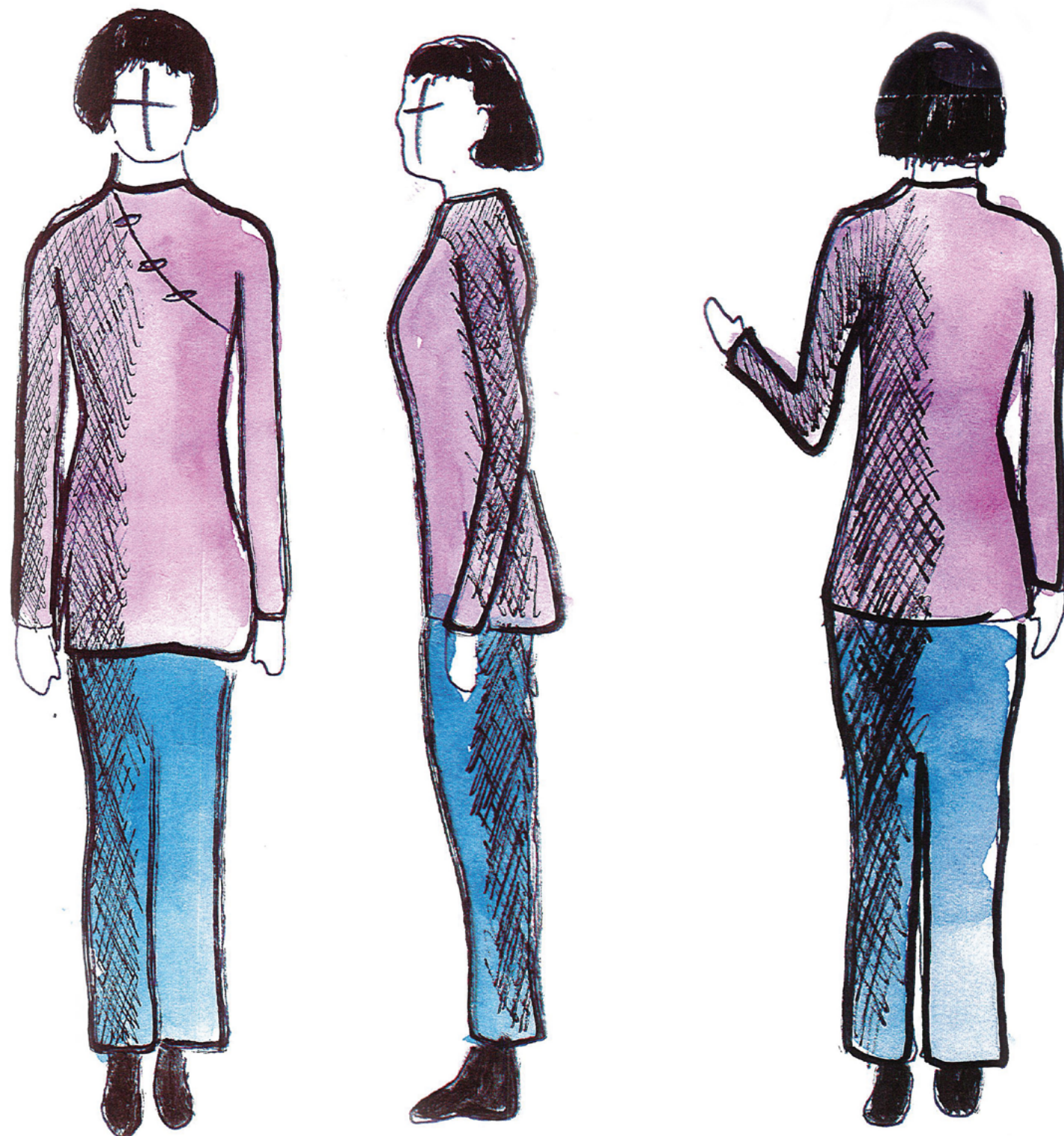
Nell stands proudly on the steps, surrounded by her family and friends, as everyone celebrates their Little Inventor.

MEET THE CHARACTERS



Apart from Nell, there are
several other characters
who you will meet...

MUM / LAO SHI



Nell's Mum is the local school teacher. She is introverted and softly spoken, and is a gifted scholar in her own right.

She struggles not to be over-protective and worries about Nell going to the big city.

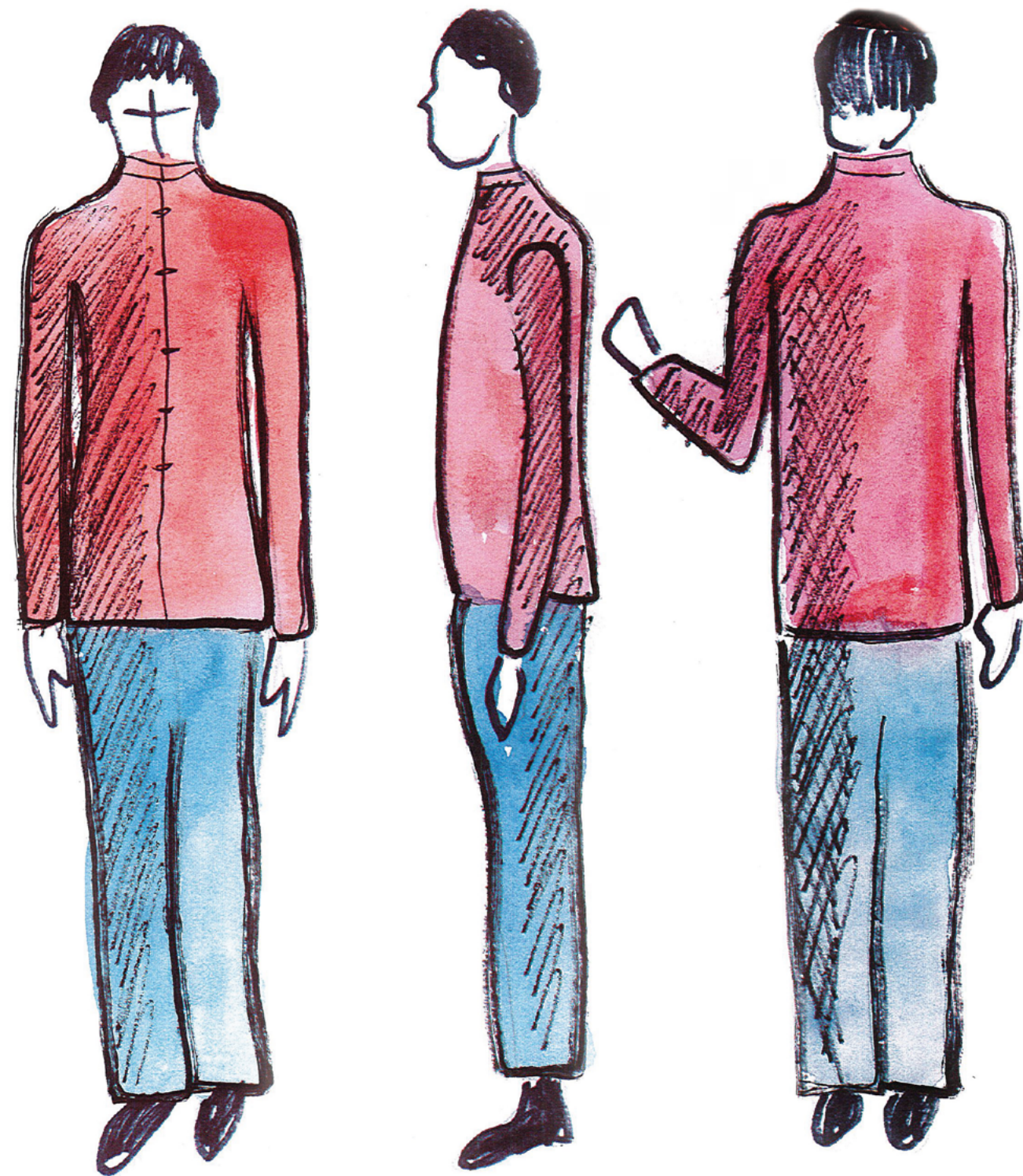
MAMA



Mama is Nell's grandmother. She lives with her widowed daughter and grandchildren, and has been instrumental in their upbringing. She is strict, but also kind and strong.

She is also worried about Nell going to the big city.

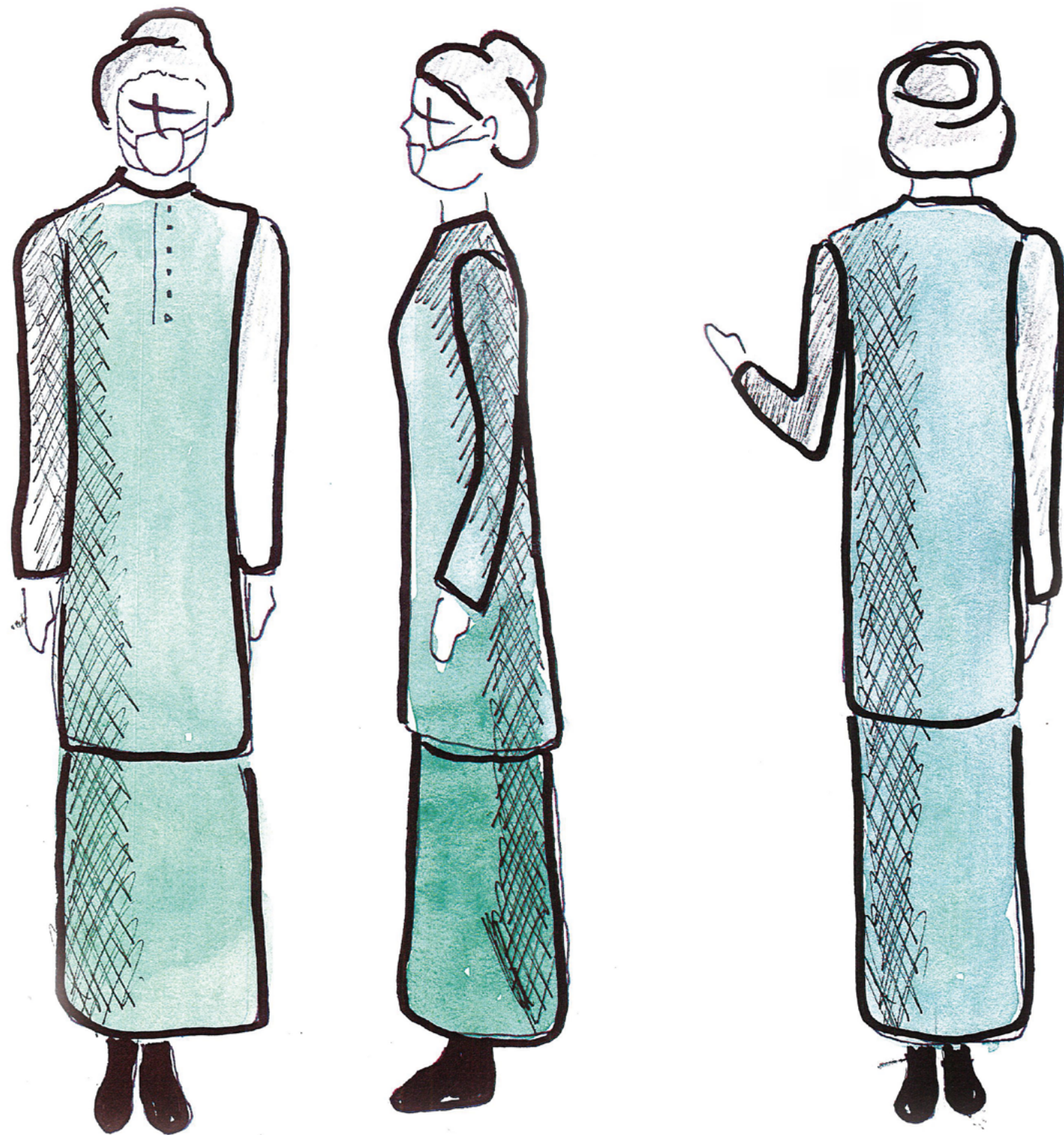
DI DI



Di di is Nell's younger brother. He is boisterous and acts tough, but is actually quite sensitive and loves his sister fiercely.

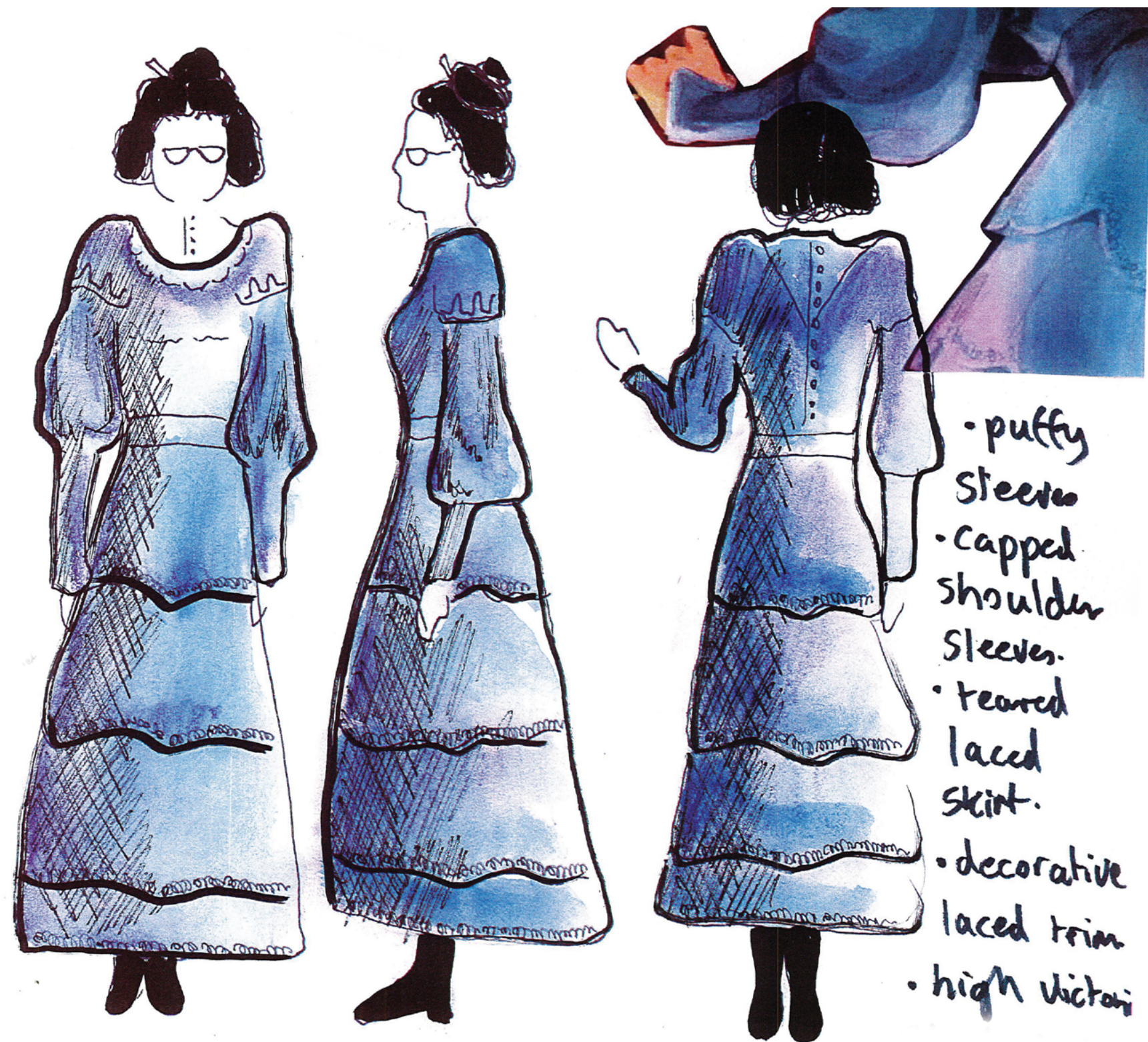
Since his father's death he feels like he needs to be the man of the house - but he's not quite there yet!

AUNTY



Aunty is a street vendor selling Bao buns who looks after the children of the city. She recognises the importance of Nell's invention and takes her to the Council House to meet Mrs Li.

MRS LIVINGSTON LI



Mrs Livingston Li is a young, idealistic woman. She wants to be a politician, but she is not taken seriously by the Mayor and Councilmen. She becomes a strong, supportive ally for Nell.

THE MAYOR



- A Livery collar, heavy chain
- fitted jacket, cuffs.
- male ruffled shirt.
- high socks
- Buckled shoes.



The Mayor is an imposing man of great importance. He is conservative and surrounded by the arrogant yes-men of parliament. He is not interested in solving the city's pollution problem.

THE COUNCILMEN



- Hats as above.
- Shoes as reference.
- Bow ties & ties.
- Vest and suit
- greys & Blacks.
- wool pants.



- glasses & spectacles.



The Councilmen are haughty and disdainful politicians who struggle to think for themselves. They agree with the Mayor for their own advantage.

SET DESIGN



This is part of the set design. The set, props and costumes are all designed by Matt McVeigh.

MEET THE CHILDREN'S CHORUS



Photo by Holly Langford-Smith.

The Children's Chorus consists of performers from West Australian Young Voices.

They perform the roles of the councilmen, the children, and the citizens of the city.

MEET THE ORCHESTRA



The music is performed live
by the Western Australian
Youth Orchestra.

ENJOY THE SHOW!



Photo by Mellen Burns.

We hope you enjoy
the show!

THANK YOU!



Thank you for joining us!

Illustrations taken from 'Our Little Inventor' by Sher Rill Ng.

**WEST
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MAJOR PARTNERS



JCDecaux

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



IN ASSOCIATION WITH



**WEST
AUSTRALIAN
OPERA**



Wesfarmers Arts
Principal Partner

West Australian Opera acknowledges the Aboriginal peoples of Western Australia as the Traditional Custodians of this land and we pay our respects to Elders past and present.