

VIRGINIA STAGE COMPANY CROWNS HAT MAKING CONTEST

One of the most popular productions in Virginia Stage's history returns! And this time around, YOU can be part of the show. Do you have an eye for design? Have a creative flair for DIY? Then we want YOU! Create an extravagant hat and your hat could be featured in the show.

CONTEST GUIDELINES

The characters featured in Crowns are based on Orisha spirits - deities that originate from the Yoruba people of southwestern Nigeria. Each hat worn in the play is representative of these deities. Hat submissions must be created based on the following Orisha spirits and their corresponding colors.

Oshun, gold

Shango, red

Yemaya, blue

1. Unlimited entries permitted. Submit as many hats as you want!

2. Choose a character for your hat. You have 3 options, Oshun, Shango, or Yemaya. Detailed descriptions in following pages.

3. Go all out. These hats should be over-the-top awesome. Whether you buy a hat to submit or embellish, or make it from scratch, we're looking for something that is a manifestation of the character description in hat form.

Provided are:

- **hat reference** (purely as a reference for the "over-the-top" feel we're hoping for)
- **a character description**
- **image reference for the character**



OSHUN

WHAT

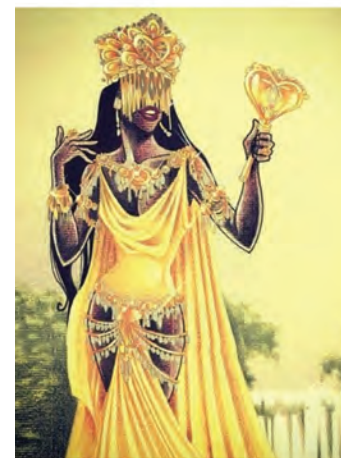
Women's Hat

COLOR

Gold, Yellow Gold



Oshún rules over the sweet waters of the world, the brooks, streams and rivers, embodying love, fertility. She also is the one we most often approach to aid us in money matters. She is the youngest of the female orishas but retains the title of Iyalode or great queen. She heals with her sweet waters and with honey which she also owns. She is the femme fatale of the orishas and once saved the world by luring Ogún out of the forests using her feminine wiles. And, in her path or manifestation of Ibú Ikolé she saved the world from draught by flying up to heaven (turning into a vulture in the process). Ikolé means Messenger of the House (of Olodumare). For this reason all who are to be initiated as priests, no matter what orisha rules their head, must go to the river and give account of what they are about to do. She recognises herself in the colors yellow and gold and her number is five. Peacocks and vultures are hers and we use them often to represent her.



Perhaps the most 'popular' of the orishas, Shangó rules over lightning, thunder, fire, the drums and dance. He is a warrior orisha with quick wits, quick temper and is the epitome of virility. Shangó took the form of the fourth Alafin (supreme king) of Oyó on Earth for a time. He is married to Obba but has relations with Oyá and Oshún. He is an extremely hot blooded and strong-willed orisha that loves all the pleasures of the world: dance, drumming, women, song and eating. He is ocanani with Elegguá, meaning they are of one heart. When sees the quickness with which lightning makes short work of a tree or a fire rage through an area, one has witnessed the temper of Shangó in action. Though he traded the Table of Ifá to Orunmila in exchange for the gift of dance, his children have an innate ability for divination. To acknowledge the greatness of this king, all in the religion raise up on the toes of our feet (or rise out our chairs if we are sitting) at the mention of his name. His colors are red and white and he recognises himself in the numbers four and six. He is most often represented by a double headed axe.

Prayer for Shango: *Shangó obá adé oko, obá ina, Alafin Oyó aché o*

SHANGO

WHAT

Women's Hat

COLOR

Red




YEMAYA

WHAT

Women's Hat

COLOR

Blue



Yemayá lives and rules over the seas and lakes. She also rules over maternity in our lives as she is the Mother of All. Her name, a shortened version of Yeyé Omo Eja means "Mother Whose Children are the Fish" to reflect the fact that her children are uncountable. All life started in the sea, the amneotic fluid inside the mother's womb is a form of sea where the embryo must transform and evolve through the form of a fish before becoming a human baby. In this way Yemayá displays herself as truly the mother of all. She partakes of Olokun's abundance as the source of all riches which she freely gives to her little sister Oshún. She dresses herself in seven skirts of blue and white and like the seas and profound lakes she is deep and unknowable. In her path of Okutti she is the queen of witches carrying within her deep and dark secrets. Her number is seven for the seven seas, her colors are blue and white, and she is most often represented by the fish who are her children.

Prayer for Yemaya: *Iyá eyá ayaba okun omá iré gbogbo awani Iyá*

