



Pearl and Betty

- Q & A -

Centre stage

Handmade in Britain, Pearl Lowe's dressing-up costumes are a hit with children (and more than a few grown-ups) looking to steal the show By DEBORAH BEE

Used to a life in the limelight, Pearl Lowe has turned her hand to many things during her high-profile career. At various times a model/singer/songwriter/designer and, of course, cool mum (of four, including model Daisy Lowe) and rock-chick wife (of Supergrass drummer Danny Goffey), she has lately discovered a new passion: dressing-up clothes. But these are not your average princess costumes, as Pearl and a very quiet nine-year-old Betty explain.

DB: What made you start designing dressing-up clothes?

PL: Kids love dressing up. That's it, really. And, when you shop for dress-up – which I've done many times – you have a prescriptive range of options. I'm not sure there's enough imagination going into it. And there's certainly not enough quality. I object to cheap fabrics just because it's children's play stuff.

DB: And do you love dressing up, Betty?

Betty: Yes (*nodding*).

DB: Do all your friends like it?

Betty: No (*shaking her head*).

PL: Savannah does.

Betty: Yeah. Savannah does.

DB: Were you a big fan of dressing up when you were little?

PL: Yes. We were always up to something. My mum told me that she used to come into my room and find me cutting up my clothes. She'd be furious. And I'd say, "Well, Michelle down the road has got the exact same thing, so I'm making mine look different."

DB: Did your mum encourage your style?

PL: God no. In those days vintage – which is what I wore – was called second-hand. And there was no way she was going to wear something that someone might have died in.

DB: Do you still like second-hand stuff?

PL: I'm addicted to it. It's a waste of fabric to buy something from the latest collections and then never wear it again, once it's "gone out of fashion". Vintage never goes out of style.

DB: Should adults dress up too?

PL: Yes... I can't tell you how many grown-ups have asked me to make them a circus look.

DB: Do you have a favourite piece?

Betty: Yes. I like all of it, but the top hat and cloak are best. And the dress. And the jacket. And the other dress. I wear it in the garden.

PL: I can't have a favourite, but I love the leotard. I adore the silky frills on the bottom, and the harlequin print. I wouldn't wear it myself. I would wear the top hat, but my head's a bit big. And the gold sequinned cloak, obviously. I'm taking that on holiday. I'll wear it over my bikini on the beach. ■

TOP LEFT Petite Pearl sequinned cape £219, leotard £119 and top hat £119. Available from Toy Kingdom, Third Floor