

START WITH ART

Quick Culture's Newsletter

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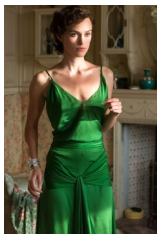
EDITORIAL

Welcome to the second edition of Start With Art, Quick Culture's newsletter. First we'd like to thank all 400 of you who toured the Art of Motion Picture Costume Design Exhibit with us that was held at the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising's (FIDM) Museum and Galleries. And for those of you who didn't make it, you missed an amazing exhibit and we hope you will be able to join us on an Emmy tour this summer. Our editorial this quarter will cover some of the highlights of the tour as well as some new thoughts about costumes and films.

This was the 16th year that FIDM's Museum & Galleries has hosted the Annual Art of the Motion Picture Costume Design Exhibit. The exhibit was made possible by three entities: FIDM (a school dedicated to educating students for the Fashion, Graphics, Interior Design and Entertainment industries), the Costume Designers Guild (the union arm of the film industry whose members grew from 30 in 1953 to over 700 in 2008), and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (the organization that has been recognizing outstanding achievements in all categories of the film industry since the first Oscar was presented in 1929).

One question that continually came up during our tours was: What do the production companies do with all the costumes after the movie has been completed? Costumes wind up in many places from the traditional wardrobe department of a major studio to an individual home.

Some actors, such as Johnny Depp, have a clause in their contracts that states they get to keep their costumes.



Many costumes are auctioned off for charity --- such as "Atonement's" iconic green dress (there were 8 made) for \$46,000. In a survey by InStyle magazine to nab first place as the "most iconic" it beat out Marilyn Monroe's dress from "The Seven Year Itch", but didn't trump Audrey Hepburn's classic little black dress from "Breakfast at Tiffany's". Could it be, perhaps, that Hepburn's popularity has had resurgence among the current young fashionistas brought on by those clever Gap commercials??

◀ Atonement dress

Last year, all of the costumes from "The Devil Wears Prada" were auctioned off for charity. By contrast, not all are sold to benefit charity; some are auctioned off to collectors and well-heeled fans. A grey linen overcoat worn by Gary Oldman as Sirius Black from "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" sold for over \$30,000 at an auction held by Bonhams in the UK.

Sirius Black coat ▶



NEW! WE ARE NOW OFFERING SCHEDULED TOURS!

We are pleased to announce that Quick Culture has started offering scheduled tours for individuals as well as private by-appointment only tours and group tours. For the Art of the Motion Picture Costume Exhibit at FIDM, we offered scheduled tours that would allow folks to sign up as an individual or groups of individuals and join a scheduled tour rather than having to form your own group. It was an extremely successful program, so we have decided to continue to do this for all special tours and to also offer it for some of our ongoing tours. On April 19th, we had our first scheduled Kids Tours at LACMA, one at 11:30 AM and another at 2:00PM and both were sold out. Our plan is to offer scheduled Kids Tours once a month and to offer similar programs for the Walking and Artist Studio Tours. Upcoming tour dates are listed on Page 4 and on our website: www.quickculture.com



EDITORIAL (continued from page 1)



Obi Wan

Angels, a costume house in London that creates and supplies costumes for many films, had over 400 remarkable costumes auctioned off in March of last year. "Star Wars" Obi Wan Kenobi's cape fetched over \$106,000! Ownership of the cloak was battled for by two telephone bidders. Items throughout the sale went for eight to twenty times their estimates. The full outfit worn by Mel Gibson as William Wallace in "Braveheart" sold for \$46,000.

Braveheart



Other costumes that went under the hammer were from "Batman and Robin" and the James Bond 007 franchises. The costume worn by actor Christopher Reeve in the original "Superman" film --nearly 30 years ago -- sold for \$16,750. It's amazing how much money is spent by the general public keen to get their hands on a piece of movie history.

Milena Canonero, the costume designer from last year's Oscar winner, "Marie Antoinette" reused costumes from some of her other films for "Marie Antoinette". A red dress worn by the character Madame DuBarry in "Marie Antoinette" was first seen on Jeanne de la Monte in the "Affair of the Necklace". A satin and straw hat worn by Kirsten Dunst was first seen in "Barry Lyndon", a film from 1975. Milena was the costumer designer for "Barry Lyndon" and she also won an Oscar for this film.



Marie Antoinette



Affair of
Necklace

Marie Antoinette



Barry Lyndon

Sometimes the production companies will offer the costumes to the cast and crew for half-price in an effort to recoup expenses. In Los Angeles, there are resale shops, such as **IT'S A WRAP** where production companies consign and sell clothes. This 7,000 square foot shop resells complete wardrobes from more than 40 television shows and movies. The stock changes almost daily, with new movie and TV clothes constantly coming in. The stock is well organized and coded by show. **REEL CLOTHES & PROPS** is another one.

BABY JANE OF HOLLYWOOD specializes in celebrity collectibles. As of this writing, they had a beautiful black and red dress for sale for \$200. The dress has a "Gloria Swanson" label inside and is in excellent condition. Gloria Swanson started her own clothing line in the '50s after her success in "Sunset Boulevard". Who knew?

Gloria Swanson



Another source is **STARWARES**, an internet-only store. Right now you can get the black Persol sunglasses worn by Tom Cruise as "Cole Trickle." from the film, "Days of Thunder". The sunglasses were made in Italy and have a slight mirror finish. Also included is a black eyeglass case and a color movie still of Cruise wearing the glasses as well as a Tom Cruise "Days of Thunder" dash card. All this for the bargain price of \$4,000! What a steal...but from whom?

But we digress --- getting back to "art", how about owning an original costume design sketch? In March of 2006, there was an auction held in Dallas of sketches from "Gone with the Wind" This sketch (18" x 23") is of the widow's weeds costume. It was gobbled up for \$7,475.

Widow's Dress

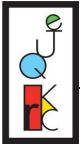


Or, how about this one: *Scene 586 FADE IN: INT. SCARLETT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - (ABOUT SIX WEEKS LATER). Just as in her girlhood days at Tara, Scarlett's stays have just been laced by Mammy. The lacing completed, Mammy is pulling a tape measure around Scarlett's waist. Mammy looks up at her mistress. Thus begins the famous scene in which Scarlett O'Hara tells Mammy to go tell Mr. Butler that she will have no more babies. In this scene Vivien Leigh wears this famous green dressing gown.*



Green Gown

The sketch sold for \$8,050. There were over 450 sketches from "Gone with the Wind" on the auction block. They were all Walter Plunkett renderings and were authenticated to be the original sketches used on the 1939 production of "Gone with the Wind." The provenances of the sketches offered in this sale were known to have come from Atlanta where set and costume renderings were taken for the film premiere in 1939.



EDITORIAL (continued from page 2)

At FIDM, the collection consisted of 125 costumes from 22 films --- some famous and some forgettable....the movies, that is. The challenges and the creative energy of the designers could not be denied. What an exercise it was for Jeffrey Kurland who had to come up with designs for "Nancy Drew" that would have to span 7 decades and address countless versions that danced in the heads of millions of readers. Most of the older tour participants hadn't see the film, but most of them had read the Nancy Drew series. All agreed that Jeffrey was spot on. Or, how about the challenge that Mona May (a FIDM alumni) faced by her masterful efforts to create a believable costume transition from animation to live action in "Enchanted"? Mission accomplished ---- even though Princess Giselle's costume weighed over 40 lbs.! And, Prince Edward's sleeves were the result of over 20 tries to get them just right.

There is no denying Alexandra Byrne had her work cut out for her when designing for this year's Oscar winner, "Elizabeth: The Golden Age". She made the costumes look fresh and exciting without compromising the historical integrity. Balenciaga and Vivienne Westwood were her influences. Being that Elizabeth I was a fashion icon of her time intensified the challenge. It was known that Elizabeth I had over 3000 changes of attire ---- which, if you do the math, comes to over 8 years without a repeat! And, what about that makeup! For the Queen it was a matter of covering up scars caused by smallpox as a child; however, white makeup became a status symbol of that era clearly showing that your skin was not tanned by work in the fields. How things have changed!

There was something for everyone at this exhibit ----- from the dark mysterious "Sweeney Todd" horror musical melodrama (albeit Sasha Baron Cohen's crotch padding was humorous) to the "testosterone special" "300" to the fanciful nostalgic "Across the Universe". It was a feast that over 400 tour participants drank in.

ART PUZZLE: FIND THE HIDDEN MESSAGE

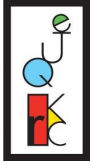
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J G N X L H F X P N S H G N T
C D D M I L K I W P V K X C Y

PUZZLE CLUES

- CEZANNE
- DEGAS
- GAUGIN
- MATISSE
- MODIGLIANI
- PICASSO
- RENOIR
- ROUSSEAU
- SOUTINE
- TOULOUSE-LAUTREC
- VANGOGH

Need Help? Send an email to info@quickculture.com and we will send you the answers.

Filled in all the blanks? Send us your solution via email attachment to info@quickculture.com or fax (310) 659-0571. Everyone with the correct answers will receive a PRIZE.



COOL STUFF

ARTISTS:

Canadian-born, New York-based artist Cal Lane's work is in its remarkable juxtapositions. Lane transforms anything-but-delicate objects, such as dumpsters and shovels, into impossibly lacy, decorative sculptures using a plasma cutter. At the Samuel Freeman Gallery (formerly Patricia Faure), 2525 Michigan Avenue, Ste. B7, Santa Monica, CA
<http://www.callane.com/>

Icaro Doria is Brazilian who created eight flags that portray very current topics like the division of opinions about the war in Iraq in the United States, the violence against women in Africa, the social inequality in Brazil, the drug trafficking in Columbia, Aids and malaria in Angola, etc.

<HTTP://WWW.BRAZILIANARTISTS.NET/HOME/FLAGS/>

VIDEOS:

Watch this video ---- and, yes, it's for real!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHoyB81LnE>

Tours

KIDS Tour at LACMA

Saturday May 3rd at 11:30 AM & 2:00 PM

Sunday May 4th at 11:30 AM & 2:00 PM

Saturday May 10th at 11:30 AM

Sunday May 11th at 11:30 AM

Tuesday May 13th at 4:00 PM

Beverly Hills Walking Tour

Tuesday May 20th at 2:00 PM

Artist Studio Tour

Sunday June 1st

Check website for additional dates for all tours.

CREATE YOUR OWN JACKSON POLLACK:

In our last newsletter, you could make your own Picasso masterpiece. Now make your own Jackson Pollock!

<http://www.jacksonpollock.org/>

IN & AROUND THE LOS ANGELES ART SCENE:

Gallery picks:

<http://www.leftcoastgalleries.com/index.html>

Uncover the mystery of Bellini's "Feast of the Gods" with this web exhibit!

<http://webexhibits.org/feast/>

The telling of history using an old medium in a new way is achieved by Kara Walker's investigations into racism's terrain. The art comes to life in dioramas peopled with cut-paper silhouettes. See this exhibition at the Hammer Museum, that surveys Walker's witty, tender but unsettling work. Open until June 8.

<http://www.hammer.ucla.edu/exhibitions/137/>

KIDS STUFF:

Want to do a fun project with kids? Check this out!

<http://readymech.com/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

TOURS:

FASHION INSTITUTE OF DESIGN & MERCHANDISING (FIDM) MUSEUM & GALLERIES:

- 3rd Annual Outstanding Art of Television Costume Design Exhibition
Runs July 29 - Sept 27, 2008

CLASSES:

COMING SOON: SINGLES EVENT: THE "ART" OF CONVERSATION