

Victoria and Albert Museum exhibit features more than 75 iconic film costumes, March 26 – July 6, 2014

PHOENIX, Sept. 26, 2013 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Phoenix Art Museum will present the Western U.S. premiere of *Hollywood Costume*, a major, multimedia exhibition featuring more than 75 costumes from a century of filmmaking, many of which have never been displayed outside the walls of secured studio archives and private collections. This ticketed exhibition, organized by London's Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A), will open in Phoenix on March 26, 2014, on view through July 6.

"It is an honor for Phoenix Art Museum to present *Hollywood Costume*, which uniquely explores the pivotal role that costume plays in cinematic storytelling, the ways in which an actor's dress influences the character he or she becomes," said James K. Ballinger, the Museum's Sybil Harrington Director. "It is so much more than a collection of costumes. It is a collection of the sparks that ignite the stories we love."

The exhibition offers the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see an astonishing array of some of the most recognizable costumes from films that have profoundly shaped American culture in the last 100 years. It includes some of the most famous costumes in film history, such as Dorothy's blue-and-white gingham dress from *The Wizard of Oz* (Adrian), Indiana Jones' slouchy leather jacket from *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (Deb

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borah Nadoolman Landis
) , and the infamous billowing white 'subway' dress of
Marilyn Monroe
in
The Seven Year Itch
(
William Travilla
).

Alongside contemporary films such as *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* (Jany Temime),
Gladiator
(Janty Yates)
, *Titanic*
(
Deborah L. Scott
)
, *Superman IV: The Quest for Peace*
(
John Bloomfield
)
,
and
Dreamgirls
(
Sharen Davis
)
,
some of the most unexpected treasures of
Hollywood Costume
will be the opportunity for visitors to see ensembles that have been immortalized only in
black-and-white films such as
Hedy Lamarr's
peacock-inspired dress in
Samson and Delilah
(
Edith Head
, 1949) in full color, forever changing the viewer's perspective of these memorable costumes.

"Many would find it surprising to learn that most costume designers were not even listed in film credits until the 1940s," explains Dennita Sewell, Curator of Fashion Design at Phoenix Art Museum. "*Hollywood Costume* truly examines, for the first time, the weight and importance of the costume designers' contributions to the

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development of a story, and the creation of a world unto itself." Beyond a display of rarely-seen costumes, the exhibition illuminates the designer's creative process from script to screen, and the collaborative dialogue between designer, director and actor, blending multimedia elements and integrating technology such as video interviews that examine the ways in which costume enriches character and story, resulting in a meaningful and memorable film experience.

The exhibition will explore the role of costume in storytelling through a progression of three acts or themes, all of which include a historical journey beginning as early as the era of silent film and as recent as the world of motion-capture suits used in films such as *Avatar*. It moves through more elaborate, glamorous confections such as

Vanessa Redgrave's

embellished ivory dress as Guinevere in

Camelot

(
John Truscott
) , to the subtle, seemingly plain-clothes ensemble of Javier Bardem's turn as Anton in
No Country for Old Men

(
Mary Zophres

).

Phoenix Art Museum is only the second location in the United States to present *Hollywood Costume* , and is the first premiere of the show West of the Mississippi. It has been exhibited at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image in

Melbourne

(through

August 18

), and will appear at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in
Richmond

(
November 9

—
February 17

). It is organized by the V&A in
London

, and was curated by renowned costume designer
Deborah Nadoolman Landis

(
Raiders of the Lost Ark, Coming to America

), Sir

Christopher Frayling

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(Professor Emeritus of Cultural History,
Royal College
of Art), and set and costume designer and V&A Assistant Curator,
Keith Lodwick

. The exhibition has been designed by
Casson Mann
of
London

Hollywood Costume at Phoenix Art Museum The Phoenix premiere is curated by Dennita
Sewell

(Curator of Fashion Design, Phoenix Art Museum), and has been made possible through the
generous support of presenting sponsors Molina Fine Jewelers, Black, Starr & Frost, J.P.
Morgan, and Chase. Additional support has been provided by APS and Joan Cremin.

Hollywood Costume

is on view

March 26

—

July 6, 2014

. The exhibition will be on view Tuesday,

Noon-5pm

; Wednesday,

Noon-8:30 pm

; Thursday,

Noon-5pm

; Friday,

10am-8:30pm

; Saturdays and Sundays,

10am

—

5pm

. This specially ticketed exhibition is offered at an admission price of

\$20

for adults and

\$10

for children aged 6-17, which includes general admission to the Museum. Children under 6 are
admitted free. Advanced gift vouchers will be on-sale beginning

November 1, 2013

. Individual ticket sales will begin

January 13, 2014

. Large group reservations are available now.

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About Phoenix Art Museum Phoenix Art Museum has provided access to visual arts and educational programs in Arizona for more than 50 years and is the largest art museum in the Southwestern United States.

Critically acclaimed national and international exhibitions are shown alongside the Museum's collection of more than 17,000 works of American, Asian, European, Latin American, Western American, modern and contemporary art, and fashion design. Visitors also enjoy vibrant photography exhibitions through the Museum's landmark partnership with the Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona.

To learn more about Phoenix Art Museum, visit PhxArt.org.

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