

Short Subjects

Stop Motion Legend Takes His Final Bow

Visual effects icon passes away at age 92.

Ray Harryhausen, the stop motion legend and special effects master, whose sword-fighting skeletons and other fantastical creatures were adored by film lovers and industry heavyweights, has died.

Harryhausen's films including *The Beast From 20,000 Fathoms*, *Valley of the Gwangi* and *The 7th Voyage of Sinbad*, featured impeccably costumed miniature creatures that he hand-animated. Though his name was unknown to the public, many directors used Harryhausen's special effects techniques.

According to George Lucas, "I had seen some other fantasy films before, but none of them had the kind of awe that Ray Harryhausen's movies had."

Science fiction author Ray Bradbury, a longtime friend and admirer, once remarked: "Harryhausen stands alone as a technician, as an artist and as a dreamer. ... He breathed life into the mythological creatures that he constructed with his own hands."



Raymond Frederick "Ray" Harryhausen
June 29, 1920 – May 7, 2013.

Harryhausen's method of using stop motion was as old as the motion picture itself, photographing his creatures one frame at a time to create the illusion of motion. Today's movies achieve such effects on a computer.

He admired modern digital effects, but still preferred the look that stop-motion animation gave a film. "You don't want to make it quite real. Stop-motion gives that added value of a dream world," he once said.

Harryhausen had been so overwhelmed by *King Kong* that, at age 13, that he vowed to create creatures like that on film. He borrowed a 16-mm camera, cut up an old fur coat of his mother's to cover a bear model, and made a film about himself and his dog being menaced by a bear. His parents were impressed, and he avoided a spanking for destroying the coat.

Perhaps his greatest legacy is the help and encouragement he gave throughout his life to aspiring film makers who wanted to learn his techniques. He served as technical consultant to many young adults in their first stop-motion film projects. Harryhausen will always be remembered as a giant, both for his work and his unfailing generosity.

The Art of Television Costuming Design

Costumes designed for the (not so) small screen at L.A.'s FIDM

The Academy of Television Arts and



Sciences and the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising (FIDM) celebrate small-screen costumes in the sixth annual

exhibit, "The Outstanding Art of Television Costume Design." The exhibition features the work of costume designers nominated for this year's Primetime Emmys. Attendees can see more than 75 costumes from 16 shows, movies, and mini-series.

The nominated series include "Boardwalk Empire," "Game of Thrones," "Once Upon a Time," and "Downton Abbey," while the nominated mini-series or movies are "American Horror Story," "Great Expectations," and "Hemingway & Gellhorn."

The exhibit, which runs from July 31 through October 20, is free. The FIDM Museum is located at 919 S. Grand Avenue, Los Angeles (at the corner of Grand Avenue & 9th Street), and hours are 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Visit their [website](#) for details.

Chaos to Couture at the Met

Costume Institute to mount exhibit of modern Punk costuming

The Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute 2013 spring exhibit, "PUNK: Chaos to Couture," will examine punk's impact on fashion from the movement's birth



in the early 1970s through its continuing influence today. Featuring over one hundred designs for men and women, the exhibition will include original punk garments and recent fashion to illustrate how haute couture and ready-to-wear borrow punk's visual symbols.

Focusing on the relationship between the punk concept of "do-it-yourself" and the couture concept of "made-to-measure," the seven galleries will be organized around the materials, techniques, and embellishments associated with the anti-establishment style. Themes will include New York and London, which will tell punk's origin story as a tale of two cities, followed by Clothes for Heroes and four manifestations of the D.I.Y. aesthetic—Hardware, Bricolage, Graffiti and Agitprop, and Destroy.

The exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City runs from May 9th through August 14th. Visit the exhibit [website](#) for details.

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Parting Shot

A photo that 's too good not to publish.

Sometimes a story has a great leftover photo that deserves to be used, but there's no room or it's slightly off-topic and doesn't fit in. "Everything You Wanted to Know About Furrries..." is a case in point.

In working with Corey Stom to locate photos for his article, I ran across an image of a group of Furrries at Further Confusion 2013 that was just so very wrong, but I just couldn't help coming back to it time and again.

The photo in question, which first appeared on the "Kotaku" website, is of a group of Furrries holding giant crayola crayons. The really wrong thing about the photo is that the color of each fursuit exactly matched the color of the crayon held by the character. Furthermore, they were lined up in a way that was reminiscent of a rainbow.

Try as I might, I couldn't find a place in Corey's article to include it, but the photo was just too good let go. So here it is for your viewing pleasure, a photo that I call "The Fursuit Crayolas."



Fursuit Crayolas at FurtherConfusion 2013. Photo by Kasumi from [Kotaku.com](#).