

Short Subjects

High Style at the Legion of Honor in San Francisco

Exhibit from the Brooklyn Museum costume collection features fashions from 1910-1980

The Legion of Honor in San Francisco, California is hosting an exhibit of high fashion from the Brooklyn Museum Costume Collection. The exhibit presents fashions worn by American women that reflect the tastes and transformations of the nation over the course of the 20th century.

High Style provides a rare opportunity to view the evolution of fashion from 1910 to 1980 through more than 60 stunning costumes, 30 costume accessories, and an array of related fashion sketches from the Brooklyn Museum's collection. The exhibit is curated by Jan Glier Reeder, consulting curator for the Brooklyn Museum Costume Collection at the Costume Institute of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and is organized by the Met.

The exhibit captures the key points of 20th century fashion design with rare pieces



from French couture houses, including pieces by Jeanne Lanvin, Elsa Schiaparelli, Gabrielle “Coco” Chanel, and Hubert de Givenchy. In addition, the presentation features pioneering American designers of the 1930s and 1940s such as Charles James, Elizabeth Hawes, Sally Victor, and Gilbert Adrian, among others. The selection of haute couture and ready-to-wear garments showcases the stunning craftsmanship and flamboyance of fashion in this era.

Highlights include Schiaparelli’s iconic surrealist necklace of brightly colored tin insects from 1938, six masterfully engineered James ball gowns from the 1950s, and Adrian’s striking tiger-striped silk ball gown from 1949.

The exhibit runs from March 14 to July 19 2015. Entry is \$23 for adults, \$20 for seniors, and \$19 for students.

For more information, visit the exhibit [website](#).

Charles James, "Four-Leaf Clover" dress, 1953. Duchesse satin, lace, and silk shantung. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Brooklyn Museum Costume Collection, Image © The Metropolitan Museum of Art

17th Costume Designers Guild Awards

Major awards for movie and TV costuming presented in Hollywood ceremony.



The Grand Budapest Hotel, *Birdman*, and *Into the Woods* received “Gilda” statuettes at the 17th Costume Designers Guild Awards on February 17, 2015 in Los Angeles, California

The Grand Budapest Hotel costume designer Milena Canonero received the period film honor, while Albert Wolsky of "Birdman" was presented the contemporary honor. Deborah Nadoolman Landis was honored with the inaugural Edith Head Award for Advancement and Education of the Art of Costume Design.

Into the Woods costume designer Colleen Atwood won in the fantasy film category. She said about her vision for *Into the Woods*, "I went into it as a blank slate – I hadn't really seen the stage musical, other than on historical videotapes, so I knew the music but not the visuals so much. I lived in New York when it was playing but I was not, in those years, able to afford a ticket."

Founded in 1999, the Costume Designers Awards honor Motion Picture, Television, and Commercial costume designers annually Visit their [website](#) for a complete list of nominees and recipients.

The Force Is With the Costumes

Smithsonian traveling exhibit shows over 60 costumes from the Star Wars movies.



An exhibit of Star Wars costumes that opened this past weekend at Seattle's EMP Museum is an opportunity to see 60 original costumes from the six Star Wars movies in one room — from Princess Leia's slave bikini to Queen Amidala's wedding dress, which has not been part of any previous public display.

The exhibit, *Rebel, Jedi, Princess, Queen: Star Wars and the Power of Costume*, was created by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and the Lucas Museum of Narrative Arts. It will be traveling across the United States through 2020.

This is a rare opportunity to see the costumes up close and personal, without Plexiglas in the way. But be warned, the alarm system will loudly rebuke anyone who leans in too close. Photography is allowed, but no flash, tripods or selfie sticks. The

Darth Vader costume is set off on its own, perfectly arranged for selfies.

The displays also talk about cultural influences from Africa to Asia. Quotes from actors talk about the way the costumes made them feel, from Carrie Fisher's experience in what she called the bikini from hell, to the power the Sith lords felt in their getups. Gloomy lighting and music from the films permeates the exhibit space.

"The costumes help the characters really come to life," said Laela French, the Lucas Museum's senior manager of exhibits and collections. She talked about the visual clues the costumes offer, such as the way Anakin Skywalker's Jedi robes darken as he gets older and closer to becoming Darth Vader. Most people don't notice that Luke Skywalker's robes also darkened through his trio of films, showing the mix of light and dark in his character as well, French said.

Although the exhibit includes costumes from all six movies, the highlights of the exhibit for most people will be the old ones, including the two droids, which were costumes worn by people, not puppets as some assume.

"Rebel, Jedi, Princess, Queen" at the EMP Museum in Seattle runs through October 4, 2015. Admission is from \$23-29 weekdays, \$24-30 weekends. Children under 4 are free. To learn more about the museum and the exhibit, visit the [EMP website](#).

Motion Picture Academy Presents Costuming Oscar

Academy Award for costuming design goes to "The Grand Budapest Hotel"

Turin, Italy born Milena Canonero



received the 2015 "Oscar" for best costume design for her work on *The Grand Budapest Hotel*.

This is Canonero's fourth "Oscar" in nine nominations. She received her first

in 1976 for *Barry Lyndon*, for *Chariots of Fire* in 1982, and for *Marie Antoinette* in 2007. It was her her third collaboration with director Wes Anderson after *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou* and *The Darjeeling Limited*.

Canonero was widely praised her for her humble acceptance speech in tribute to Anderson, and for her own noteworthy personal style. She collaborated with the fashion house Prada on many of the *Grand Budapest* costumes.

Her first job was in 1971 as costume designer for *A Clockwork Orange* after meeting director Stanley Kubrick on the set of *2001: A Space Odyssey*. Many of her works can be seen in the traveling Stanley Kubrick Museum, including the iconic twins' blue dresses from *The Shining*.