

Short Subjects

The Australian Dress Register

A Sydney museum has developed a program to record historical Australian garments through photos and documentation.

The Australian Dress Register seeks to document significant and well provenanced historical clothing and accessories in Australia and make them available online. The Powerhouse Museum in Sydney, developed the resource to allow



British convict jacket, 1855-1880. Photo by [Australian Dress Register](#).

museums, private collectors and owners across the country, a way to share information about garments with the wider community, without the need to send the actual item away from its home location.

Users can search or browse the collection by garment type, gender, Australian state, theme, condition of the garment and using a timeline. The register's first phase is focused on recording clothes relating to New South Wales prior to 1945,

but expansion to cover all Australia and more modern time eras are planned.

To learn about the museum and this project, visit: <http://www.australiandressregister.org/>.

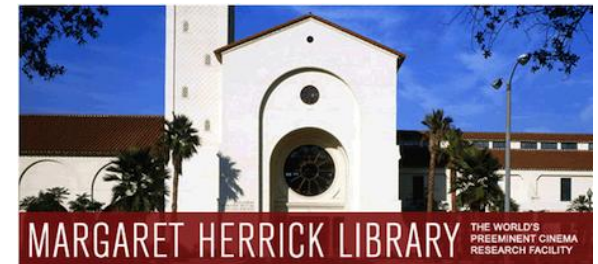
Motion Picture Academy Production Art Database

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has launched the Production Art Database.

This sounds like a lot of fun. The database, created by the Academy's Margaret Herrick Library, contains records for more than 5,300 items from as early as 1923 to as recent as 2010. It includes motion picture costume and production design drawings, animation art, storyboards and paintings. Nearly half of the records include images, making this an invaluable online resource for researchers interested in motion picture design.

"We're very happy to be able to make this database more widely available to researchers, students and film enthusiasts," said Library Director Linda Mehr. "Our hope is that it will bring much-deserved attention to the costume and production designers, sketch artists, animators, and other artists who have contributed so much to filmmaking."

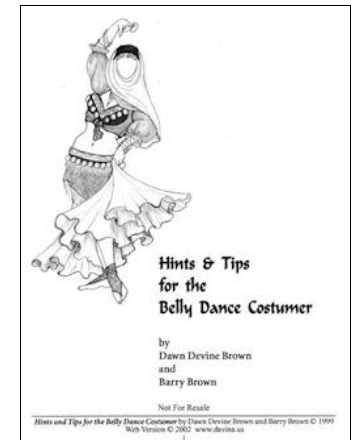
Access the Production Art Database at: <http://collections.oscars.org/prodart/>.



Free Booklet on Belly Dance Costuming

A free booklet on belly dance costuming hints and tips is available to download from costuming web site.

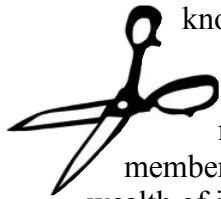
Hints & Tips for the Belly Dance Costumer by Dawn Devine and Barry Brown is designed to provide some solid basic information about dance costuming. It is a collection of the authors' top-tips for dancers that cover the breadth of the dance world, from how to select costumes to caring for your dance wardrobe.



The booklet can be enjoyed for personal use, and also distributed as a handout in costuming and dance classes. It is available for download in PDF format, in both English and German, from the “Costumer’s Notes” web site, <http://www.davina.us/blog/books/hints-tips/>.

Online Resource for Ethnic Dress Research

Costuming web site includes an extensive directory of research material on ethnic dress from all parts of the world.



“The Costumer’s Manifesto” is a well-known costuming web site run by Diablo Valley College costuming design and stage makeup instructor and SiW member Tara Maginnis. It includes a wealth of information on almost every topic related to costuming and theatrical techniques.

One of the resources on this web site is an extensive directory of research material on ethnic dress and costuming from all parts of the world. The directory is organized by region, and contains over 1000 entries for Africa, Asia, Australia, Central America, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, North America, Oceania, the Polar Regions, South America, and Western Europe.

Each region includes links to articles on “The Costumer’s Manifesto,” other web sites, books, and images that provide extensive material for research on clothing

and accessories that are indigenous to the region. Included are sample thumbnails that give you a quick visual impression of clothing worn in that region from referenced photo libraries and books.

This invaluable resource is an ideal starting point for costuming projects to recreate clothing from any part of the world: <http://www.costumes.org/ethnic/1PAGES/ETHNOLNK.HTM>

[Editor’s Note: “The Costumer’s Manifesto” is in the process of being transformed into a community wiki at <http://thecostumersmanifesto.com>. Members of the costuming community can help by moving pages like “Ethnic Dress” from costumes.org to the new site, helping to edit pages that are there already, and adding original input.]

Ten Years of FIDM Museum Acquisitions

The Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising hosts an new exhibition of acquisitions from 2000 to the present.

This exhibition celebrates the past decade of collecting at the FIDM Museum in Los Angeles. With a surge in donations and purchases between 2000 and the present, the FIDM Museum collection has been significantly enhanced, particularly in the areas of 19th- and 20th- century haute couture, mid-20th century American designers, and international contemporary designers.

The exhibition includes 175 donated and purchased garments and accessories worn by women, men, and children spanning 1800 to 2010.

Highlights include: a white gauze



Evening dress detail, Alexander McQueen. Fall/Winter 2008-2009. Photo courtesy of FIDM.

French empire gown, a luxurious embroidered court suit worn by composer Johann Hummel, a Redfern court gown with regulation eleven-foot-long train, and a museum-commissioned lace peacock motif Alexander McQueen couture gown.

According to a press release announcing the exhibition, “In assembling this collection, museum has adhered to uncompromising standards and acquired only items distinguished by superior design, the highest level of craftsmanship, and the finest materials.”

Accompanying the exhibition is a fully illustrated 375-page catalogue, which can also be ordered from FIDM. The free exhibition runs from September 13-December 17, 2011. For more information, visit <http://www.fidmmuseum.org>.