

Movies behind the *Glamour* exhibition

Tirelli Costumi has made motion picture, theatre and opera costumes since the 1960s and the work still continues. The Tirelli collection has around 200,000 different theatre and motion picture costumes as well as 15,000 historical outfits, which fill a 6,000 square metre storage facility outside Rome.

The exhibition *Glamour – Famous Gowns of the Silver Screen* presents around fifty costumes made by Tirelli Costumi. Curators **Hannu Palosuo**, **Cornelia Bujin** and **Italo Nunziata** have selected for the exhibition costumes displaying the diversity and skills of Tirelli Costumi's work.

Costumes play an important role in films: they deepen the characters and at the same time tell a story themselves. Cooperation between the director, the costume designer and the costume house must be seamless for the costumes to support the film's story and spirit.

Costume designer **Piero Tosi** and Tirelli Costumi designed and made costumes for several historical films of **Luchino Visconti** (1906–1976). The exhibition includes costumes from the films *The Tiger* (1963), *Death in Venice* (1971), *Ludwig II* (1973), *Senso* (1954) and Visconti's final film *The Innocent* (1976).

The Leopard depicts the end of feudalism and the beginning of a new age in 19th-century Italy. In a famous dance scene, **Claudia Cardinale** embodies the rise and new self-confidence of the bourgeoisie in her plush white ball gown.

The significance of the craft of costume making is demonstrated by the fact that Tirelli Costumi's costume makers spent two months working on the magnificent coronation cloak, embroidered with gold and silver threads, worn in the film *Ludwig II*.

Federico Fellini (1920–1993) also placed his trust in Tirelli Costumi when directing the film Fellini's *Casanova*, his 1976 film starring **Donald Sutherland**. The rich and detailed costumes of the film were the work of **Daniilo Donati** and they won him the Academy Award for Best Costume Design.

Tirelli Costumi's virtuosity is particularly evident in the costumes of major motion pictures. *Amadeus* (1984), directed by **Miloš Forman** with costume design by **Theodor Pištěk**, won a total of eight Academy Awards, including the Oscar for Best Costume Design.

Marie Antoinette (2006), directed by **Sofia Coppola** with costume design by **Milena Canonero**, also received the Oscar for Best Costume Design. The film's historical outfits include references to the present day and pop culture. The main role of the film is played by **Kirsten Dunst** as the last queen of France before the Great Revolution.

The costumes of *Anna Karenina* (1997), directed by **Bernard Rose** with costume design by **Maurizio Millenotti**, are authentic for the period depicted. The film was shot in Russia, for example at the Winter Palace and Nevsky Prospekt, and the leading role was played by **Sophie Marceau**.

Sergio Leone's *Once Upon a Time in America* (1984) is an ambitious tale of four friends growing up from little boys to gang leaders in the United States in the 1900s. The leading role is played by **Robert De Niro**. Picturesque sets and **Gabriella Pescucci's** costume design authentically depict the period.



Claudia Cardinale's dress from Luchino Visconti's film *The Leopard*, 1963. Costumes: Piero Tosi. Photo: Giorgio Benni. Tirelli Collection.



Coat from Luchino Visconti's film *Ludwig*, 1973. Costumes: Piero Tosi. Photo: Claudia Primangeli. Tirelli Collection.



Dress from the Sofia Coppola's film *Marie Antoinette*, 2006. Costumes Milena Canonero. Photo: Claudia Primangeli. Tirelli Collection.

The Legend of 1910 (1998), directed by **Giuseppe Tornatore** with costume design by **Maurizio Millenotti**, tells the story of an abandoned baby found on an ocean liner. A musically gifted boy (**Tim Roth**) grows to become a virtuoso pianist, who entertains passengers without ever leaving the ship. The film's award-winning music was composed by **Ennio Morricone**.

The Age of Innocence (1993) is a costume drama directed by **Martin Scorsese** and starring **Michelle Pfeiffer** and **Winona Ryder**. Gabriella Pescucci was awarded the Oscar for Best Costume Design.

The story of **Anthony Minghella's** *The English Patient* (1996), which won nine Oscars, takes place in the Second World War. **Kristin Scott Thomas**, **Juliette Binoche** and **Ralph Fiennes** play the main roles in the tragic triangle drama. **Ann Roth** won the Oscar for Best Costume Design.

The *Glamour* exhibition also features a gorgeous Art Deco style costume, designed by Gabriella Pescucci for **Catherine Deneuve** in a film that was never made.

Many of the costumes made by Tirelli Costumi represent a unique and at the same time new creative craftsmanship originating in knowledge of history. Piero Tosi designed and Tirelli made the iconic costumes for **Pier Paolo Pasolini's** (1922-1975) film *Medea* (1969), starring **Maria Callas**.

The mystery and historical tale *The Name of the Rose* (1986), directed by **Jean-Jacques Annaud**, is based on the novel of the same name by **Umberto Eco**. The costumes for the film, starring **Sean Connery**, were designed by Gabriella Pescucci.

The costumes designed by Maurizio Millenotti and made by Tirelli Costumi for *The Passion of the Christ* (2004), directed by **Mel Gibson**, transport viewers into Jewish society 2,000 years ago, but also boldly create a new vision of the dress style of the period.

Tirelli Costumi also made costumes for TV series, of which the exhibition has examples in the form of striking outfits made for *The Young Pope*. The Tirelli costume house has also produced costumes for TV series such as *The Borgias* and *Medici*.

Costume makers must be able, if necessary, to create legendary outfits to match the period, but without becoming too attached to it. **Elisabeth Taylor** starred with her husband **Richard Burton** in the romantic comedy *The Taming of the Shrew* (1967), directed by **Franco Zeffirelli** with costume design by **Danilo Donati**. The costume worn by Taylor was restored for the *Glamour* exhibition.

Michael Hoffman directed the film adaptation (1999) of **William Shakespeare's** comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Gabriella Pescucci's costume design supports the magical tale, in which Michelle Pfeiffer played the leading role.

Terry Gilliam directed the jovial fairy tale film *The Brothers of Grimm* (2005), which was set in Germany. The story is supported by spectacular staging, special effects and costumes, designed by Gabriella Pescucci and **Carlo Poggioli**.

The adult fantasy film *The Tale of Tales* (2015), on the other hand, based on the tales of the Renaissance writer Giambattista Basile, was directed by **Matteo Garrone** with costume design by **Massimo Cantini Parrini**. **Cantini Parrini's** imaginative costumes matched the film's fantasy theme. **Salma Hayek** played the leading role.

Umberto Pirelli's career began with the opera *La Traviata*, directed by Luchino Visconti for *La Scala*, Milan in 1955. The film *La Traviata*, directed by **Franco Zeffirelli** with costume design by Piero Tosi and Tirelli Costumi, was released in 1983.

Source: *Glamour – Famous Gowns of the Silver Screen*, 2020



Michelle Pfeiffer's dress from Martin Scorsese's film *The Age of Innocence*, 1993. Costumes: Gabriella Pescucci. Photo: Claudia Primangeli. Tirelli Collection.



Monica Bellucci's dress from Mel Gibson's film *The Passion of the Christ*, 2004. Costumes: Maurizio Millenotti. Photo: Giorgio Benni. Tirelli Collection.



Elizabeth Taylor's dress from Franco Zeffirelli's film *The Taming of the Shrew*, 1967. Costumes Danilo Donati. Photo Giorgio Benni. Tirelli Collection.