

# Short Subjects

## Library of Congress Performing Arts Posters

The U.S. Library of Congress offers over 2100 performing arts posters online.



The Library of Congress Prints and Photographs section offers an extensive collection of performing arts photos that can be used as reference material for stage and screen costumes. The posters illustrate the wide range of popular, live entertainment in America from the late nineteenth to the early twentieth century.

Theatrical posters represent an ideal of how costumes should appear, and provide information on both color and presentation that can be useful to costumers who want to reproduce historical theatrical costumes.

The approximately 2,100 posters in the online Performing Arts Posters category represent the entire contents of three collections: the Magic Poster Collection, the Minstrel Poster Collection, and the Theatrical Poster Collection. The collection includes a search feature for locating images by subject.

Visit their [website](#) to learn more.

## Costuming Know-How for Western Movie Fans

Tandy Leather video tutorials show leather-working techniques.

Venerable leather working supply company Tandy Leather Factory offers a set of 80 online videos on leather working techniques. The videos cover both techniques and how-tos on using tools.



Videos include leathercraft techniques such as *Lacing Leather* and *Tracing Patterns*, to using of specialty products, such as the *Imprinting Machine* and *Eco-Border Tool*. They also demonstrate making leather goods, such as *Making Leather Masks*.

Each video runs from 2 to 4 minutes. Product videos introduce the product, describe its features, and demonstrate its use. Videos on techniques explain the basics, show variations, and describe what you will

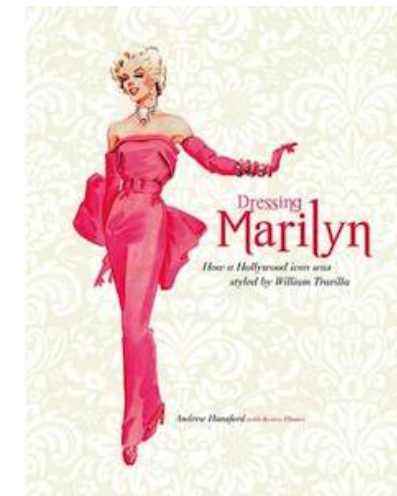
need to execute the technique. Narrations are folksy but clear and easy to understand.

Visit the Tandy Leather Factory [Leathercraft Instruction Videos](#) web page for links to all the videos in the series.

## Book on Famous Marilyn Monroe Costume Designs

A famous costume designer created some of the most iconic Hollywood fashion designs for this glamorous actress.

William Travilla, leading costume designer for 20th Century Fox, created wardrobe for many leading ladies of the cinema, but Marilyn Monroe is arguably his most famous client. This



new book offers readers previously unseen dress patterns, rare costume test shots, original prototypes, and photographs of the actress wearing a number of iconic dresses.

There are some typos and factual errors that will immediately put the reader who is knowledgeable about Marilyn and movies on the wary side, but it doesn't detract from the general appeal of this book.

The best part of the book is when it delves into individual outfits that Travilla designed for the star. They are well explained as to their construction, including the flexible metal boning that allowed the designer to try some rather risqué necklines despite the censorship of the era.

If you are fan of fashion design and the cinema, then this book will be an interesting albeit flawed read. For intense fans of Marilyn who may be nit-picky about details, this book is recommended with caution.

Costumes discussed include: a candy-pink silk peau d'ange gown, and red sequined show gown from "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" and an un-used alternate costume from the film; the gold pleated lame gown she wore to 1953 Photoplay Awards and its variations; the 'silly little dress' from "The Seven Year Itch".

*Dressing Marilyn: How a Hollywood Icon Was Styled by William Travilla* by Andrew Hansford and Karen Homer

ISBN: 9781557838469, Format: Hardcover, Width: 8.5", Length: 11.0", pages: 192. Price: \$29.99, Amazon Price: \$19.79 & eligible for FREE Super Saver Shipping on orders over \$25.

## Los Angeles Public Library Fashion Plate Collection

*Collection of historic fashion plates available online.*

A collection of historical fashion plates is offered up by the Los Angeles Public Library. The collection includes over 6,200 hand-colored, finely detailed fashion illustrations produced between 1780 and 1880 for British and American fashion magazines.



Visitors to the site can browse through the fashions of the time, and the entire collection as a way to explore the transitions between different periods of dress on both sides of the pond.

There are no search aids per se, but visitors can use the search engine at the top of the page to look for items by keyword and the like. Additionally, visitors can zoom in on each image for a closer look.

For more information, visit the Los Angeles Public Library fashion plate [website](#).

## UCSF Japanese Woodblock Prints

*Online collection on health-related topics features historical Japanese costumes*

An online collection hosted by the University of California San Francisco consists of 400 prints on health-related themes. The costumes illustrated in the collection include all genders and economic status, including some armor. Themes include Contagious Disease, Drug Advertisements, Foreigners & Disease, Religion & Health, and Women's Health. This is the largest collection of woodblock prints related to health in the United States.



Search function allows you to enter one or more keywords (subject, artist's name, etc.) in the search box and choose either "all terms" or "any terms." The Boolean operands AND & OR are available for users to expand their search results. Additionally, quotation marks can be used for exact phrase searching. Last, but not least, users can use an asterick \* for truncated searching. (ex: Budd\* will search for terms like Buddhist, Buddhism, Buddha).

Visit the UCSF collection of woodblock prints [online](#) to learn more.

## Gone With the Wind Online Costume Exhibit

*Collection of costuming and makeup available from University of Texas museum.*

A new on-line exhibit from the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin features material about the costumes and makeup from the 1939 MGM production of *Gone With The Wind*.



The material in the exhibit is part of the David O. Selznick Collection that was donated to the Center by the director. The collection covers the years from 1904 to 1980 with most of the material dating from the mid 1930s through the mid 1950s.

The exhibit includes extensive background on the movie, including a chronology on the search for Scarlett and the casting of Vivien Leigh. The main part includes documentation on the five screen-worn dresses that Leigh wore in the movies, and the scene where they were worn. Makeup stills demonstrate how the makeup for stars and minor characters was developed to go with the costumes.

To view this exhibit and learn more about the movie costumes, visit the [website](#).

## City in Brazil Hires Batman to Help Fight Crime

*City hires retired soldier who wears a Batman costume to patrol embattled streets.*



Photo by Thiago Leon

People who are looking for better jobs are always told to dress for the job that they want, not the one that they have. That tip worked for André Luiz Pinheiro, a retired soldier who used to dress as Batman and now has a job as – Batman. The police in the Brazilian city of Taubaté have hired Pinheiro to wear his Bat-costume as he helps them patrol one of their most dangerous neighborhoods.

According to the newspaper [Ovale](#), the cops hope their caped coworker can "help to combat crimes such as murder and drug trafficking which have increased in Taubaté." Murder might be a tough assignment for an amateur crime fighter, but Pinheiro is ready. "I am eager to know how we can work together," he said.

## Parting Shot

*A photo too good not to publish.*

Sometimes there just isn't room for every photo that goes with a story, and some are only tangentially related. Every now and then, though, a photo comes along that is just too good not to publish.

That's the case with Carole Parker's story on Becky and Mike Maung, who received a Dreamcatcher award at Costume-Con 30 for their EL-wire "Kimono Dragon." In an email with Becky, she shared a photo of a creation Mike built for Burning Man 2003 – a 20' tall Dreamcatcher made of EL-wire! According to Becky, "He also builds a 'dream catcher' spider web in our yard every Halloween."

Clearly, this award was simply meant to be...

