



**STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 21.00, TUESDAY 16 OCTOBER 2012**

## **BFI's Film Costume Archive to transfer to the V&A**

On the eve of the V&A's major exhibition, *Hollywood Costume*, the BFI and V&A are delighted to announce that the BFI's collection of over 500 film costumes is being transferred to the V&A. This will establish a new area of collecting for the Museum and a closer working relationship between the two organisations.

The BFI collection is one of the largest public collections of film costumes in the world and represents the work of many major costume designers such as Edith Head, Ellen Mirojnick, John Mollo and Sandy Powell. Highlights in the collection include a silk satin wedding dress and train designed by Travis Banton for Mae West as Tira in *I'm No Angel* (1933), the sequinned and beaded gown with mink trimmed train designed by Edith Head for Ginger Rogers as Liza Elliot in the 1944 film *Lady in the Dark*, the black tasselled dress designed by Orry-Kelly for Marilyn Monroe as Sugar Kane Kowalczyk in *Some Like it Hot* (1959), and John Bloomfield's 1987 Superman costume worn by Christopher Reeve in *Superman IV: The Quest for Peace*.

At the dinner celebrating the opening of *Hollywood Costume*, Paul Riddock, Chairman of the V&A Board of Trustees, announced: "The V&A is home to the National Collection for the Performing Arts and has one of the greatest collections of performance costume and fashion in the world. It is my great pleasure to announce that the BFI's wonderful collection of film costumes, a number of which are on display in *Hollywood Costume*, will join the V&A's permanent collections. Design for film is a fascinating subject and the transfer of the BFI's collection of film costumes represents an exciting new area of collecting for the V&A."

Amanda Neville, BFI Director, said: "The BFI is guardian to one of the world's most significant collections of film and television material and we want that collection to be seen and enjoyed by as many people as possible. I have long thought there should be a national film costume collection. It's wonderful to be able to give our nascent costume collection a new home at the V&A, another national collection with the resources and specialist expertise to ensure that these wonderful examples of the

*costume designer's art will be preserved and made accessible to the public. We are delighted with the V&A's commitment to growing this as a national film costume collection, and are excited about future collaborations tying in with our amazing collections of original costume designs, posters, papers and, of course, the films in which they are all brought to life."*

The BFI costume collection was assembled over a 20 year period from 1980 to 2000 by the Museum of Moving Image, an arm of the BFI which no longer exists. The costume archive will join the V&A's renowned collections of fashion and stage costumes and will enable the Museum to present the full range of some designers' work across theatre, music performance and now film. The majority will be housed and accessible at the V&A's site in Olympia where the new *Clothworkers' Centre for Textile and Fashion Study and Conservation* will open at Blythe House in October next year. Highlights from the BFI archive will go on display in the V&A's Theatre and Performance galleries.

**- ENDS -**

**Notes to Editors:**

- The V&A's *Hollywood Costume* exhibition runs from 20 October 2012 – 27 January 2013.
- To book tickets for *Hollywood Costume* call 0207 907 7073 or visit [www.vam.ac.uk/hollywoodcostume](http://www.vam.ac.uk/hollywoodcostume): £14 (concessions available)

**About the BFI**

The BFI is the lead body for film in the UK with the ambition to create a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive by connecting audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema; preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations; championing emerging and world class film makers in the UK; investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work; promoting British film and talent to the world; and growing the next generation of film makers and audiences. The BFI is now a Government arm's-length body and distributor of Lottery funds for film. The BFI serves a public role which covers the cultural, creative and economic aspects of film in the UK. It delivers this role as the UK-wide organisation for film, a charity core funded by Government; by providing Lottery and Government funds for film across the UK; and by working with partners to advance the position of film in the UK.

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter.

The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Greg Dyke.

[www.bfi.org.uk](http://www.bfi.org.uk)

## **About the BFI National Archive**

The BFI National Archive was founded in 1935 and has grown to become the largest collection of film and television in the world with over 180,000 films and 750,000 television programmes. Expert teams undertake the time-consuming and complex task of restoring films. With specialist storage facilities in Warwickshire and Hertfordshire the archive also boasts significant collections of stills, posters and designs along with original scripts, press books and related ephemera. It is funded partly by OfCom as the official archive for ITV, Channel Four and Channel Five. We record a representative sample of television across Britain's terrestrial channels and are the official archive of moving image records of Parliament.

## **About the V&A**

The V&A is the world's leading museum of art and design with collections unrivalled in their scope and diversity. It was established to make works of art available to all and to inspire British designers and manufacturers. Today, the V&A's collections, which span over 2000 years of human creativity in virtually every medium and from many parts of the world, continue to intrigue, inspire and inform. The V&A is home to the UK's national collection of theatre and performing arts.

[www.vam.ac.uk](http://www.vam.ac.uk)

**For further press information about the V&A please contact the V&A press office on 0207 942 2502 or email [press.office@vam.ac.uk](mailto:press.office@vam.ac.uk)**

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