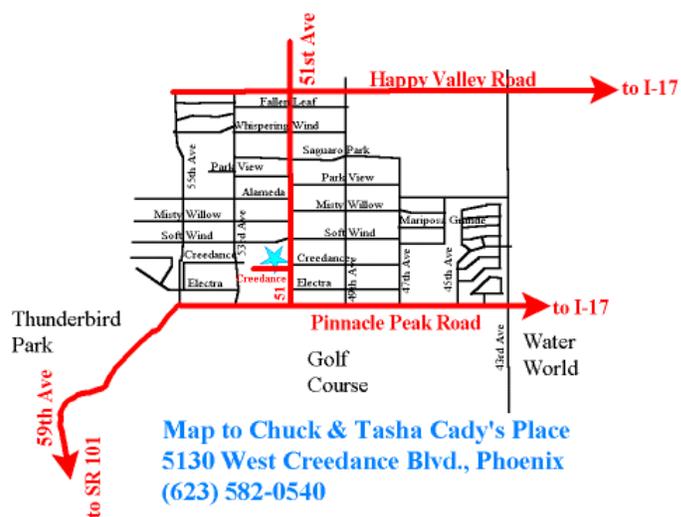


Newsletter of The Southwest Costumers Guild
Vol 10 #9, September 2003



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Please e-mail or mail contact updates to the editor.

Calendar

*Indicates an event organized by SWCG. Unless otherwise noted, SWCG meetings begin at 1:00 PM.

September 28, 2003 – **Mask Making*** SWCG workshop at Tasha's place. We'll build some masks using the forms built in July. See Frances' Article later in this issue.

October 26, 2003 – **Fabric Burning*** SWCG workshop at Randall's place. Learn to use burn tests to distinguish different fabrics and fiber blends.

November 2, 2003 **10AM** – **Cloakmaking*** SWCG workshop at Jean's Sun City Sweatshop. We'll build some capes and hats as our semiannual fundraiser.

November 14-16, 2003 – **TusCon 30** at the Innsuites Hotel Tucson, 475 North Granada Avenue in Tucson. Fan-Organized SF Con featuring GOH Yvonne Navarro, Artist GOH Leslie D'Allesandro Haws, Music GOHs Maya & Jeff Bohnhoff and Toastmaster Edward Bryant. TusCon also features both an evening masquerade and a midnight adults-only masquerade. <http://home.earthlink.net/~basfa/>

November 22 & 23, 2003 – **Devonshire Renaissance Faire** at Los Olivos Park, north of 28th Street and Indian School Road in Phoenix. A fine little one-weekend renfaire.

November 30, 2003 – **Duct and Cover*** SWCG workshop at Jean's place. Learn to make a dress form of your body using duct tape and stuffing.

December 14, 2003 – **Parasol Covering*** SWCG workshop at Jean's place. Learn to build a custom parasol over a standard frame. Annual officer elections.

January 25, 2004 – **Once More Into the Breeches*** SWCG workshop at Stephanie's place. Learn how to prepare custom-fitted stockings, slops and tights.

February 29, 2004 – **Leap Into Leap Year*** SWCG meeting at Stephanie's place. Annual calendar planning.

Mask Making Directions

by Frances Burns

General notes:

The following are a general description of how to make a mask with a given material. The detail will be discussed at the meeting.

When thinking about designing a mask, remember to consider things like glasses and visibility. In general, commercial mask bases make the eyeholes too small for good visibility.

Leather Mask:

Materials needed:

2oz Oak Tan Leather
Face Form
Container for soaking leather
Tool(s) for cutting leather
Felt to cover back of mask
Ribbon for ties
Optional modeling clay
Optional paints and other stuff for decorating
Optional 18 gauge "Wild Wire" for reinforcement

Basic Steps:

Soak leather until completely saturated.
Make any build-ups to your face form that you will want to shape the mask over.
Remove leather from water and wring out.
Start smoothing out leather over form. You may want to cut out the eyeholes at this time.
Shape to desired silhouette. You may also cut mask and enclose wire at edges if desired. Let dry.
Trim mask if needed.
Decorate and attach ties.

Buckram Mask:

Materials needed:

Buckram (preferably double buckram)
Face form
Container for wetting buckram
Tool(s) for cutting buckram and wire
Fabrics, trims and paints
Felt to cover back of mask
Glue
Drop cloth or paper
Basic hand sewing kit
Ribbon for ties
Optional modeling clay
Optional 18 gauge "Wild Wire" for reinforcing edges

Basic Steps:

Make any buildups to your face form that you will want to shape the mask over.

Wet the buckram.

Start smoothing buckram over the form. You may want to cut out the eyeholes at this time.

Shape mask to desired silhouette. Let dry.

Cut mask and enclose wire at edges if desired.

Decorate and attach ties. Decorations may be sewn to mask.

Cover back of mask with felt.

Wire-Mesh Mask

Materials Needed:

1/4 by 1/8 aluminum modeling wire mesh
Utility scissors for cutting wire
Paper for pattern
Fabrics, trims and paints
Felt to cover back of mask
Glue extra thick white tacky glue and brush or 3M Super 77 Spray Adhesive
Drop cloth or paper
Basic hand sewing kit
Ribbon for ties
18 gauge "Wild Wire" for reinforcing edges

Basic Steps:

Make paper pattern of desired mask.
Cut out fabric about 1/2 inch larger than pattern, apply glue.
Apply fabric to wire mesh.
Turn under edges and enclose wire if desired or sew wire to front of mask.
Decorate & attach ties. Decorations may be sewn to mask.
Cover back of mask with felt.

More on Costume College 2003

By Frances Burns

I went on the "Beads to Battles" Friday tour. The first stop was Bob Mackie's costume house. Think glitz, beads, sequins, satins, velvets, Cher, etc. We got to look through the costume collection and were introduced to Mr. Mackie. Actually the entire group seemed to be rather in awe.

A neat trick that was used in the workshop was building out forms for specific customers over standard dress forms. A form would be padded up with batting; the batting tacked together as needed and attached to muslin with a zipper up the back! That way the muslin's plus padding could be stored on hangers when not being used for making a garment.

After lunch we stopped at The Sword and Stone. Oh my gosh! This is the house that makes most of the weapons

and armor for the movies. Besides making the weapons for *Pirates of the Caribbean* they also rented hammers and tongs to outfit the blacksmith shop in the movie. The workshop in the back reminds me of some of the old car garages/repair shops -- tools, tools, and more tools all sandwiched in together. It is amazing what dies, grinders and metal presses Tony Swatton has collected. We made the bus driver wait and had to be collected before they could get us out of there.

The one use of equipment that translates easily is the use of large Lego™ blocks when casting an acquired shaped mold. The Lego blocks were used to form the basin that the positive was placed into and clay was built up to stop the mold making material from flowing under the edge of the of the positive. This saves a lot of mold casting material, and the stuff Tony uses is expensive.

I over booked myself with classes for the balance of the weekend with 4 limited attendance classes (3 to 4 hours each.) Saturday started with “Men’s Victorian Fashions” by George Popa. He is a very good presenter. (unfortunately he is already booked for next 4th of July so I cannot get him as a program participant for WesterCon). Thanks to his class I now know a different period way to pull together the back of men’s vests and where to put pockets in frock coats. The men’s vests have tabs about 2” wide by 5” long in the back where a dart would go on a woman’s vest and the tabs have grommets for lacing. The frock coats have inside pockets in the lining and a pocket in the back skirt for gloves or a flask. Also the inner support up on the coats is amazing. The coats could definitely stand up by themselves, even the so-called “summer weight” one.

The next class was “Mask Making with Metal Mesh.” The metal mesh is easier to form than leather or buckram because you do not need to let it dry before it will retain its shape. It will also bend back into shape easily if mashed in transit. I am not sure that I like the results as well as the buckram or leather. But it is a cool technique. And I will bring a sample to the September meeting.

My last class was “Eighteenth Century Women’s Jackets 1770 to 1790.” Sally Queen had wonderful slides of original garments along with a discussion of why the jackets became more popular for women at that time. Several of the garments were matched with paintings from the period so that you had a picture of the painting and a picture of the original garment. Very detailed scholarly discussion. So much for Saturday classes.

Sunday I went to “Embellishing Your Face.” I may now understand why my face eats makeup. Apparently, if your face is dry, it will absorb the pigment from the makeup you are applying. The best thing to do if your skin is dry is to apply moisturizer about one-half hour before applying

your makeup. Mostly, we just played with all the fun face paints, glitters, and paste on jewels. Lot’s of fun.

My last class was the “Bustle Era Wrap.” I am very glad that Diane had brought a similar wrap to one of the guild meetings, because I had to scale up my pattern and the pattern for another person from a pattern with no registration marks and no written directions. Let’s just say the class was “interesting”.

Two really cool buys from the dealer’s room are a hat tape from Acme Notions (<http://www.acmenotions.com/>) that you can use to measure head size in inches or by hat size. And *The Collection of the Kyoto Costume Institute Fashion A History from the 18th to the 20th Century* published by Taschen from Hedgehog Handworks (<http://www.hedgehoghandworks.com/>). This book is stunning.! Over 700 pages, more full color photographs than you can shake a stick at, and solid documentation; all for only Forty dollars. If you’re into historical costume from the periods it covers, I would recommend putting it on your wish list. The book is a paperback.

Monday the garment district. This year we had a new and improved map to the area. There is simply so much that it is overwhelming!

Suggestions for shopping the district: Make a list of what you are looking for; take samples from anything that you want to match. Try taking paint chips to remember colors if you do not have a fabric sample. Shop around the local Hancock and JoAnn to find the current retail prices of the items that you are looking for. You should be able to get materials anywhere from 30% to 70% of their retail prices, depending on the amount you are buying, if you are paying in cash, how well you dicker, and how bad the weather is in LA (The worse the weather the better the price.)

Save room to bring back your purchases. If you are flying how many pieces of luggage will the airline allow? Jean found out that an extra piece of luggage would coast her \$80! If you are doing serious shopping, I would suggest bringing at least one extra suitcase or planning on buying one at the garment district. They have lots of places selling them cheap.

Remember: the first price that the merchants ask is the sucker price.

H&R Sales
1118 North 35th Avenue, Phoenix
Reviewed by Randall Whitlock

Household Hint: You can protect your bed’s box spring ticking from cat claw damage by surrounding it with a sham made of automobile carpet.

Actually, I made the bed sham years ago. It worked so well I decided to construct a matching headboard. I needed more auto carpet. Fortunately, my day's work took me past H&R Sales.

H&R Sales is a no-frills, warehouse-style supply store for working upholsterers. My kind of place. The emphasis is on automotive upholstery, though there is some decorator fabric too. They are a reliable source of vinyl and carpet, along with basic hardware. They have grommets in both brass and nickel finish and in the small sizes that are often so hard to find.

Prices are similar to other valley upholstery supply stores. The selection is not as good as Tempe Sales or Fabric Depot, but sometimes geography is more important. A reliable upholstery store on the west side is a good thing indeed.

Random Thoughts From Your Editor

by Randall Whitlock



Coppercon 23 Post Partum

It was a difficult birth, but the Coppercon 23 Masquerade came out okay. Things were more chaotic than usual for the last couple of hours before curtain, but smoothed out marvelously for the actual show. No obvious technical or performance glitches.

Almost all of the costumes in competition were last-minute entries. I think this may be a communication problem. Masquerade information was included in the program book and at the AZ fan table, but some masquerade signs mixed in with the party signs might have generated some more entries, soon enough to work with.

Young Fen

- Ariel Renante – Novice Shapeshifter
- Adela Paige – Fairy of the Moon
- Quinn & Brian Duncan – Final Vinyl
- Darrien Duncan – Vamp Boy
- Jennifer & Alex Aronson – Return of the Inept Sorceress
- Cate Holcomb & Jennifer Aronson – Two Elven Queens
- Selena Haggerty – Kiki's Delivery Service

Special Mentions

- Melissa Tribble – Turned-Off Dragon
- Michelle Holland – Chainmail Bikini
- Mike Kiselnik – Lost E-SWAT
- Trey Moore – Darth Vader & Unidentified Stormtrooper
- Perry Norton – Sven the Viking King



Best Novice

Judy Mowbray – Lady of the Masquerade

Best Experienced

Kevin O'Connor – Sentinel Soldier

Best Epic Fantasy

Perry Norton – Sven the Viking King

Best In Show

Steven Colston – Duel of the Fates (Darth Maul)

For Display Only

Frances Burns, Lyn Jeppesen, Chuck & Tasha Cady – Diplomatic Faux Paw (See picture last issue)

Cheryl Lynn Chastant, Barbara Stangelo, Dawn Griggsby, Dave Steele - Xcentricities



Coppercon 23 Masquerade Doc Photos

by Mike Cassidy of Velavision

Incoming E-Mail

Leprecon 30 Masquerade Director Needed

Contact Chairman Mark Boniece at boniece@aol.com

From the Mailbox

Finery, Vol. 1, No. 3, Sept/Oct 03

GBACG's fall newsletter features a reprint of James Laver's 1959 article, "Fashion: A Detective Story." The Costumer's Bookshelf column is a bibliography of the late Mr. Laver's life's work.