ALBUM WEEKLY DISCOVERY: COSTUMES!

Album Description

With Halloween coming up, I thought it might be fun to take a look at the costume sketches in the Library's collection. Most of these costumes are a result of the Depression Era Federal Theater Project. According to the notes on the Federal Theater Project Costumes, the collection consists of "over 1,900 designs in color and black and white representing more than 160 productions in 13 cities. The majority of the designs were drawn for New York, NY, presentations. About 60 designers, many of whom signed their work."

A few of my favorite costumes in the collection include Popeye the Sailor Man, Sleeping Beauty and her Prince, Little Buttercup, and a Brick Wall.

Each of these images show a different approach to the costume design process. Popeye the Sailor Man, Little Buttercup, and a Brick Wall all show the costumes in the creation process. The images include notes like "no dark blue" and hat measurements on the Popeye costume as well as clarification of the brick pattern on the Brick Wall costume. The Brick Wall costume and the Little Buttercup costume also include fabric swatches to give a greater sense of texture and color to the sketch.

The renderings of Sleeping Beauty and her Prince give the appearance of a final draft. They are framed and contain no notes nor swatches on the image itself. The design of the costumes are flowy and use the watercolor technique to add to the illusion of movement in the fabrics. What I find particularly fun about these two images is that they pre-date the Disney adaptation of the story, giving the designers freedom to express these characters without any preconceived ideas or expectations.

Using costumes from this collection could be a fun warm up activity for students this week.

You might ask them to identify which costume from the collection they would wear for Halloween and how they might be able to recreate it. You could also ask them to rank the costumes from "most wearable" to "least wearable."

There are many more fun costumes in this collection and I will link some more of them below!

Fairy Queen

Hansel and Gretel

Pirate

George Washington

Witch

IMAGE 1 OF [UP WE GO: POPEYE, BLUE SAILOR SUIT WITH WHITE CAP, AND CORNCOB

Reference Link: http://www.loc.gov/resource/musihas.200219968.0/?sp=1&r=-0.128,0.433,1.413,0.866,0

Contributor Names

- Jones, Alexander
- Hawkins, Charles

Genre

- Costume designs

Notes

- - Over 1,900 designs in color and black and white representing more than 160 productions in 13 cities. The majority of the designs were drawn for New York, NY, presentations. About 60 designers, many of whom signed their work.

SLEEPING BEAUTY: THE PRINCESS. PINK GOWN WITH RED ROSE BROOCH AND

Reference Link: http://www.loc.gov/resource/musihas.200219795.0/?sp=1

Contributor Names

- Glidden, John
- Jones, Alexander

Genre

- Costume designs

Notes

- - Over 1,900 designs in color and black and white representing more than 160 productions in 13 cities. The majority of the designs were drawn for New York, NY, presentations. About 60 designers, many of whom signed their work.

[SLEEPING BEAUTY: GREEN COAT OVER LIGHT GREEN TUNIC, MUSTARD HOSE, AND POINTE... ED CAP.]

Reference Link: http://www.loc.gov/item/musihas.200219793/

Contributor Names

- Glidden, John
- Jones, Alexander

Genre

- Costume designs

Notes

- - Over 1,900 designs in color and black and white representing more than 160 productions in 13 cities. The majority of the designs were drawn for New York, NY, presentations. About 60 designers, many of whom signed their work.

[PYRAMUS AND ... WALL FRONT.]

Reference Link: http://www.loc.gov/item/musihas.200219444/

Contributor Names

- Crosby, Peter

Genre

- Costume designs

Notes

- - Fabric swatch attached
- - Over 1,900 designs in color and black and white representing more than 160 productions in 13 cities. The majority of the designs were drawn for New York, NY, presentations. About 60 designers, many of whom signed their work.

IMAGE 1 OF [PINOCCHIO: FAIRY QUEEN. WHITE LAYERED GOWN WITH SHADES OF BLUE. TRAILING WIN~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~WN, AND BLUE HAIR.]

Reference Link: http://www.loc.gov/resource/musihas.200219305.0/?sp=1

Contributor Names

- Cadorette, Paul

Genre

- Costume designs

Notes

- - Over 1,900 designs in color and black and white representing more than 160 productions in 13 cities. The majority of the designs were drawn for New York, NY, presentations. About 60 designers, many of whom signed their work.

COSTUME SKETCH
FOR
"THE RIVALS"

Reference Link: http://www.loc.gov/resource/musihas.200219334.0/?sp=1

Contributor Names

- Glidden, John
- Jones, Alexander

Genre

- Costume designs

Notes

- - Over 1,900 designs in color and black and white representing more than 160 productions in 13 cities. The majority of the designs were drawn for New York, NY, presentations. About 60 designers, many of whom signed their work.

IMAGE 1 OF [HANSEL AND GRETEL: HANSEL BLUE AND WHITE SAILOR SUIT. GRETEL

Reference Link: http://www.loc.gov/resource/musihas.200218852.0?st=image

Contributor Names

- Carlyle, Sidney

Genre

- Costume designs

Notes

- - Over 1,900 designs in color and black and white representing more than 160 productions in 13 cities. The majority of the designs were drawn for New York, NY, presentations. About 60 designers, many of whom signed their work.

Reference Link: http://www.loc.gov/resource/musihas.200219792.0/?sp=1&r=-0.756,-0.083,2.513,1.54,0

Contributor Names

- Glidden, John
- Jones, Alexander

Genre

- Costume designs

Notes

- - Over 1,900 designs in color and black and white representing more than 160 productions in 13 cities. The majority of the designs were drawn for New York, NY, presentations. About 60 designers, many of whom signed their work.

Reference Link: http://www.loc.gov/resource/musihas.200218688.0/?sp=1

Contributor Names

- Byrne, Robert

Genre

- Costume designs

Notes

- - Part of the Dance Program for Young Folk
- - Over 1,900 designs in color and black and white representing more than 160 productions in 13 cities. The majority of the designs were drawn for New York, NY, presentations. About 60 designers, many of whom signed their work.

Reference Link: http://www.loc.gov/resource/musihas.200219985.0/?sp=1

Contributor Names

- van Dunker, Dorothe

Genre

- Costume designs

Notes

- - Over 1,900 designs in color and black and white representing more than 160 productions in 13 cities. The majority of the designs were drawn for New York, NY, presentations. About 60 designers, many of whom signed their work.

Teaching Notes:

I would definitely be a brick wall! But it might be ranked as least wearable by the students.

This is such a fun idea for the classroom!

Teaching Notes:

I love seeing the seasonal spotlight on these - some excellent finds!

Teaching Notes:

What I love about your wonderful finds Talia Smith , is that with backgrounds to the drawings being so plain, it would be easy for learners to "cut out" the figures digitally and add them to stories, on slides or movies. Perfect for all year round. Thank you!

Teaching Notes:

Talia-thanks for sharing! I love seeing these literary and pop culture costumes. It brings to mind role-playing activities I've used in the past with middle school students e.g. choose a character, dress up and retell an event from that character's perspective. The act of dressing up made it fun but also helped them immerse, be creative, and feel less self-conscious during the activity