



Importance of Costumes and Make-Up in Cinema

B1-B2

Module 4

Here's What We
Will Be Learning
in this
Presentation:



SUMMARY

- ❑ Importance of Costumes and Make-Up.
- ❑ Functions of Costume Design and Make-Up.
- ❑ Influence of Cinema on Fashion.
- ❑ Exercises.

VOCABULARY

Relevance: important to the matter at hand, to know why it matters or how it is important.

Convey: to carry, bring, or take from one place to another; transport; bear.

Semblance: the outward appearance or apparent form of something, especially when the reality is different, approximation.

Fragmentary: consisting of small disconnected or incomplete parts, incomplete, broken.

Embody: be an expression of or give a tangible or visible form to (an idea, quality, or feeling), express, include.

Symbiotic Relationship: A symbiotic relationship benefits both parties. For example: The two of you have a symbiotic relationship: she fixes your car and you style her hair.

IMPORTANCE OF COSTUMES AND MAKE-UP

Costume and make-up in cinema perform functions such as establishing the style of the production, indicating the nature of individual characters or groups in a film or stage production, their relevance as well as their occupations, personalities and status. They also indicate the historical period of the productions and the locale in which they occur. Furthermore, costume and make-up should portray the psychological nature of its wearer (actor or actress) by trying to project the truth about him or her. The character, through costume and make-up shows the difference between the role and off-screen personality.



Marlene Dietrich took audiences by storm in this hat and coat outfit in the 1930 film Morocco.

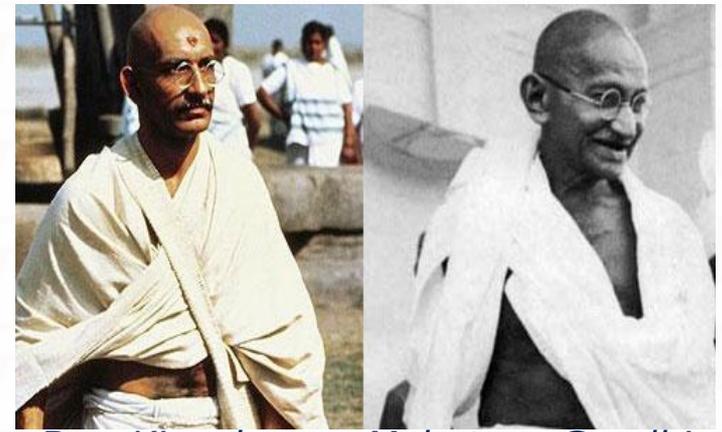
FUNCTIONS OF COSTUME DESIGN AND MAKE-UP

In TV and films, costumes are a means for a director to use narrative and present in visual to tell the audience the story. For instance: Period drama films essentially have costumes relevant to the time the event happened. Each character-through appearance-is easily identifiable and the audience is entranced by the accuracy. Elizabeth Wilson has commented that "fashion can be seen as 'one means whereby an always fragmentary self is glued together into the semblance of a unified identity'"(from the book *Costume and Cinema-Dress Codes in Popular Film* by Sarah Street, 2001).



Actors in Period Drama Costumes

A key function of makeup is to help the performer personify and embody the character he or she is playing. Use of makeup is often essential because the age of a character differs from that of the performer. E.g. Often story lines cover years in a single movie; therefore, the make-up is done according to the age of the character and not the actor's age. When makeup is used, the face becomes almost like a canvas for a painting; features of the face may be heightened or exaggerated, or symbolic aspects of the human face may be emphasised. In either case, makeup serves as an additional tool for the performer in creating an image of the character.



Ben Kingsley as Mahatma Gandhi in the 1982 biopic Gandhi



Nelson Mandela depicted by Morgan Freeman in the 2009 film Invictus

Costume and make-up in film send us signals similar to those in normal life. This is why an actor or actress should always strive to feel and act like the character he or she is portraying. Moreover, good make-up enhances the appearance of the character; the costume plays an even more decisive role in conveying the correct impression and attitude of the character. Most often, good make-up and costumes play an important part in a movie's success e.g. the many faces of [Johnny Depp](#) shown below:



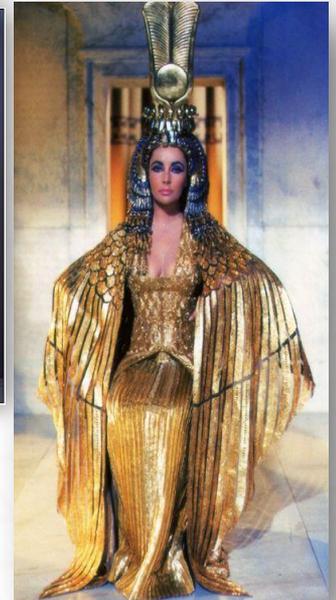
From left to right: [Mort Rainey](#), [Willy Wonka](#), [Edward Scissorhands](#), [The Mad Hatter](#), [Sweeny Todd](#) and [Captain Jack Sparrow](#)

Costume and make-up artists must be skillful in terms of color and should possess thorough knowledge of facial contours and unique physical features of the characters of the story-line. It is worthwhile to establish a comprehensible relationship between the actor and the audience through costume and make-up, since the audience first feed their eyes on characters physical appearance before they are heard.

Jennifer Lawrence
as Mystique



Elizabeth Taylor as
Cleopatra



INFLUENCE OF CINEMA ON FASHION TRENDS

Since movies began, there has always been a mutual attraction between fashion and cinema. Movies have become an effective channel to promote fashion trends. Fashion and film are two artistic disciplines that flirt with each other in a symbiotic relationship where movie stars disseminate the new trends, often people follow what the star or actor was wearing. Moreover, an actor's personal styles influences the spectacular wardrobes of the films in which he/she appears. Some examples of cinema's influence on fashion are trench coats and t-shirts, ball gowns or dresses.

Annie Hall, costumes by Ruth Morely, influenced the Manhattan bohemian chic of the 70's



Exercises

Give Adjectives For:

- 1) Flirt
- 2) Trend
- 3) Possess
- 4) Face
- 5) Artist

Form Sentences Using these Words:

- 1) Relevance
- 2) Semblance
- 3) Fragmentary
- 4) Convey
- 5) Embody