

Which Who Are You?



All photos courtesy of Jean Martin and Christopher Erickson
Tickets for the Doctor Who Who-Dunnit Murder Mystery are on sale now. See The GBACG website for more information

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Finery is the newsletter of the Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild, an educational group dedicated to all aspects of costume and textile arts, and is published bi-monthly. The next deadline for submissions is 8/15/15. If you have any suggestions for articles or topics of interest, please contact the editor, Robin McGann, at newsletter@gbacg.org

50 Plus Years of “Doctor Who” Costuming

By Jean Martin and Christopher Erickson

“Doctor Who” is a classic, long-running British science fiction show that began in 1963 about a time-traveling alien who regenerates, has adventures, saves the universe and has an affection for the human race.

“Doctor Who” has become even more popular since its re-launch in 2005, and you can see fans in costumes from its 50 plus-year run at numerous conventions and events.



Photo courtesy Zir of English Wikipedia

With more than five decades of characters and episodes to choose from, fans have a wealth of costume inspirations from the 12 Doctors (so far) who mostly wear suits that are either based on various time periods or are whimsical creations. As for the Doctors’ companions, who are mostly female, their costumes generally reflect the time period when their episodes were filmed. Since some of the Doctors’ and most of the companions’ costumes are based on regular clothing, they are fairly easy to put together using existing patterns if you sew, new items from online or brick-and-mortar stores or vintage items from thrift stores. Sometimes, though, even a deceptively simple ensemble can be difficult to recreate as the exact pieces or patterns are hard to find. But the important thing to remember is that as long as you achieve the overall look and your costume is recognizable as the character you are trying to portray, that is more than good enough.

With a GBACG “Doctor Who” event coming up, we are highlighting the costumes of each of the 12 Doctors and one female companion per Doctor below. For the companions, we’ve picked some for their more iconic looks and some who wore something unique and memorable in particular episodes.

Doctors:

- First (William Hartnell) – The First Doctor wore a basic outfit with a vest, ribbon tie and frock coat, which reflected his cantankerous and grandfatherly nature
- Second (Patrick Troughton) – The Second Doctor’s rumpled mourning coat, baggy pants and a bow tie pinned askew is generally referred to as the “space hobo” and complemented his buffoonish behavior
- Third (John Pertwee) – This Doctor had a preference for dramatic short capes, velvet smoking jackets, colorful frilled shirts and ostentatious bow ties, enhancing his dapper playboy sense of style and James Bond-like orientation toward action
- Fourth (Tom Baker) – A floppy fedora hat, an impossibly long multi-colored scarf, argyle-sweaters and overcoats were the fashion choices of the Bohemian-like Fourth Doctor

- Fifth (Peter Davison) – An Edwardian cricketer’s outfit with a celery stalk on his jacket lapel brought out the sensitive and kind nature of this Doctor
- Sixth (Colin Baker) – A patchwork coat of bright colors and tartan patterns, polka-dot cravat tie, green shoes with orange spats and yellow pants with blue pinstriping matched the bombast and loud self-confidence of this incarnation of the Doctor
- Seventh (Sylvester McCoy) – A colonial-style Panama hat, patterned yellow sweater vest, white or brown sport coat, two-tone shoes and bamboo umbrella (which later became orange, question mark-shaped) showed off this Doctor’s affability and underlying dark nature
- Eighth (Paul McGann) – The dark green Victorian velvet frock coat and embroidered vest reflected the childlike enthusiasm and love of life displayed by this incarnation
- Ninth (Christopher Eccleston) – The battered leather jacket and v-neck sweaters mirrored the extreme sadness and “live-for-the-moment” nature of this Doctor
- Tenth (David Tennant) – A brown trench coat, pinstripe suit (brown or blue) and canvas high-top sneakers outlined the light-hearted tendencies but serious nature of this version
- Eleventh (Matt Smith) – Bowties, suspenders and tweed jackets with elbow patches enhanced the youthful exuberance and wistful sadness shown by this Doctor.
- Twelfth (Peter Capaldi) – A sharp, stylish grownup punk look exemplifies this Doctor who sports a navy Crombie coat with a red lining and black brogue boots.

Companions:

- Barbara Wright (Jacqueline Hill) – Barbara wore a vibrant orange and yellow feather tribal outfit for the episode “The Aztecs” where she was mistaken as a goddess
- Zoe Heriot (Wendy Padbury) – Zoe wore a fantastic one-piece, figure-hugging silver spacesuit in the episode “The Wheel in Space”
- Sarah Jane Smith (Elisabeth Sladen) – Sarah Jane was epitome of the career girl from the 70s with her large lapel shirt, knitted vest, blazer and bell-bottom pants
- Romana I (Mary Tamm) – Romana wore some lovely white flowing ensembles that looked like they came from either Princess Leia’s or Abba’s closets
- Nyssa (Sarah Sutton) – Nyssa wore costumes that were a cross between a fairy and a Renaissance princess with rich velvets and colors and a delicate tiara
- Peri Brown (Nicola Bryant) – the first American companion, Peri wore neon- and pastel-colored shirts and shorts that were ubiquitous during the 80s
- Ace (Sophie Aldred) – tomboy teenager Ace sported a distinctive black bomber jacket with patches of real space flights
- Grace Holloway (Daphne Ashbrook) – another American, Daphne made a splash in a blue opera ball gown with a corset top and wide skirt
- Rose Tyler (Billie Piper) – One of Rose’s memorable costumes is the one she wore in the two-part episode “The Empty Child/The Doctor Dances” where she has a Union Jack shirt underneath a black leather motorcycle and paired with regular jeans
- Donna Noble (Catherine Tate) – Donna made a grand entrance into the “Doctor Who” universe as the “Runaway Bride” in a traditional white wedding dress complete with a tiara and veil.



- Amy Pond (Karen Gillan) – Amy is a typical young British girl with trendy jackets, sweaters, scarves, shorts, tights and boots

- Clara Oswald (Jenna Coleman)– Clara is a smart, no-nonsense teacher who loves to wear dresses with a stylish blazer or coat and up-to-the-minute ankle boots

Of course, there are women who want to dress up as female versions of the Doctor or straight-up male versions of the character. There are also popular male companions such as Jamie McCrimmon, Brigadier Lethbridge-Stewart, Captain Jack Harkness and Rory Williams.

If you want to go elegant, you can do Gallifreyan Time Lords; if you want to be rugged you can do UNIT soldiers. Villains are also popular choices such as the Master (or in his/her current incarnation as Missy). Guest historical figures like Winston Churchill, Queen Victoria, Nefertiti and Vincent Van Gogh are attention-getters.

One major trend these past couple of years has been costuming as the TARDIS; either as the time travel vehicle itself, as Idris (the female personification of the TARDIS) or in TARDIS dresses. Dalek dresses have become popular as well.

For those seeking more of a challenge, you can do robots and alien creatures. For instance, there are the Cybermen, the Daleks, the Ood, the Weeping Angels and the Silurians. The robots and aliens require knowledge of materials construction, special effects makeup and sculpting. If you find people in your area who have done these costumes, you can ask them how to make these or there are also classes at various conventions.

Here are some links to websites where you can find photos for reference, links to tutorials and sources for patterns, props and accessories:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/doctorwho/classic/gallery/> - official gallery of photos from episodes for the First through the Ninth Doctors and their companions



<http://www.shillpages.com/dw/dwia.htm> - screen caps of characters from the classic and new series of "Doctor Who"

<http://www.thedoctorwhosite.co.uk/doctorwho/characters/companions/> - all the official companions including the unforgettable River Song

<http://www.thedoctorwhosite.co.uk/doctorwho/characters/aliens/> - comprehensive list of monsters and aliens

<http://dw-cosplay.livejournal.com/> - LJ community that's been around for a while with lots of tips and resources by people who've done costumes in the "Doctor Who" universe

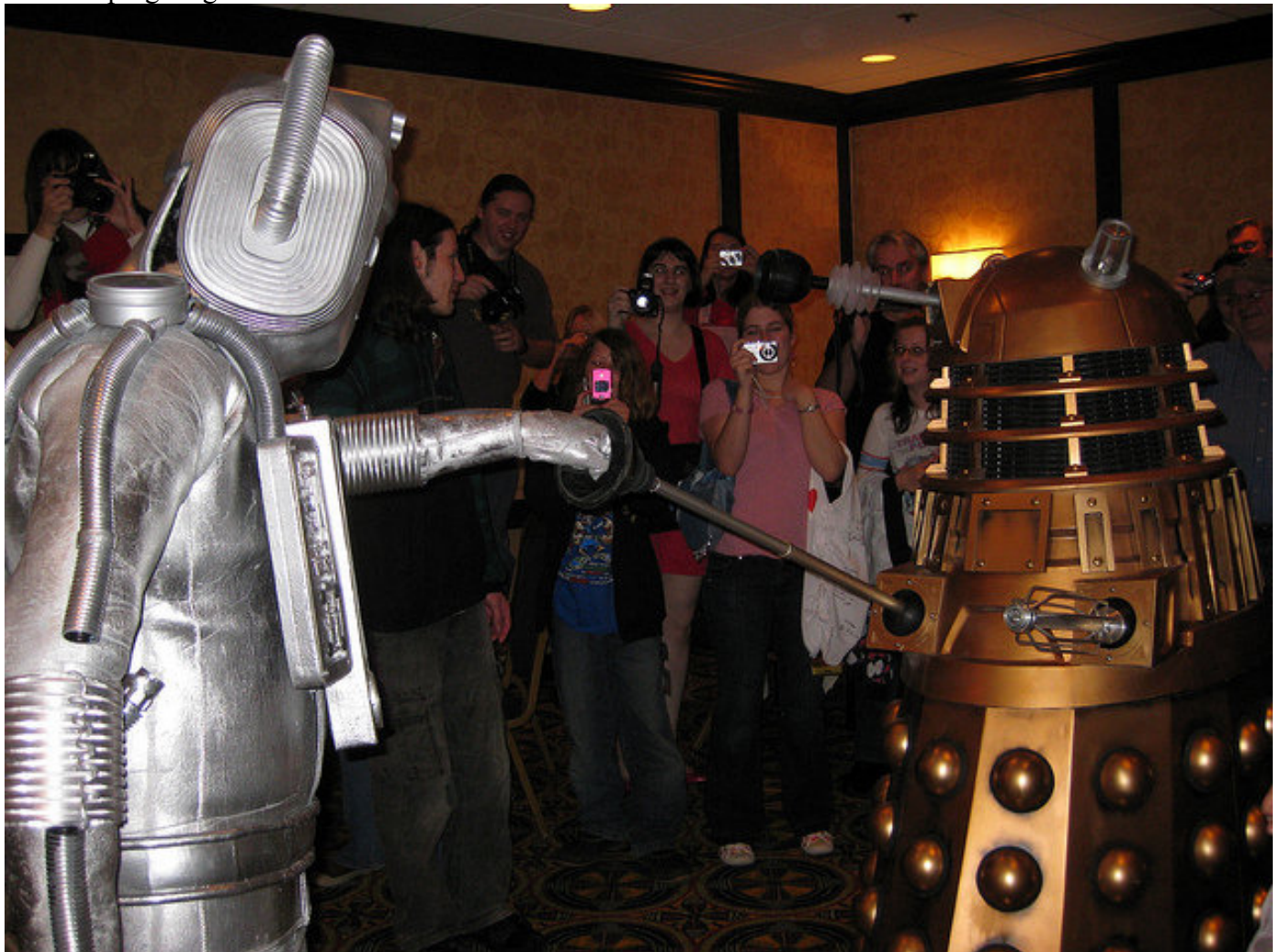
<http://tardis-wardrobe.livejournal.com/> - more recent LJ community with details of items worn, with photos, from the new "Doctor Who"

<http://doctor-who-cosplay.com/> - tutorials and also has a board that you can join to discuss "Doctor Who" costuming

<http://doctorwhocosplayfinder.tumblr.com/> - this site is where you can find out the actual pieces worn by characters in recent episodes (these are usually from the U.K. but available sometimes in the U.S. and on eBay but sell out quickly)

<http://www.doctorwhoprops.com/home.php> - prop collector, trader and authenticator, whose site you can use to see what props and costume parts look like in detail

<http://doctorwhocosparty.blogspot.com/p/costume-reference-sites.html> - this list has numerous reference sites including costume breakdowns of most of the Doctors, some companions and even Daleks, Cybermen and Weeping Angels



Etsy.com, eBay.com, ThinkGeek.com, Hot Topic.com and Alien Entertainment's DoctorWhoStore.com are great places to get props such as sonic screwdrivers, coats, etc. I even found a jeweler on Etsy who made a Clara Oswald necklace from a particular episode. On Amazon.com, you can find an out-of-print book called "Doctor Who Pattern Book," which has patterns for Tom Baker's scarf, Peter Davison's cricket jumper, Nyssa's jacket; Romana's t-shirt and sailor top, Adric's tunic and anorak, etc.

“Doctor Who” costuming has gone on for more than 50 years and seems likely to go on for years to come. Everyone is eagerly anticipating the ninth season coming out in the fall of 2015. And, of course, we hope to see you at the upcoming GBACG Doctor Who “Who Dunit” Murder Mystery on October 17 at the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos (<http://gbacg.org/current/doctor-who.php>). At this event, Christopher and I will be reprising our roles as the Fifth and Twelfth Doctors, respectively, which we did for our award-winning “Twelve Doctors” masquerade costume entry (we won Judge’s Choice/Second Place and an Honorable Mention for Best Recreation) at last year’s San Diego Comic-Con International.

Jean Martin is editor-in-chief, writer and photographer for Science Fiction/San Francisco (www.efanzines.com/SFSF/). She is also the SF Costume Design Examiner for Examiner.com ([www.http://www.examiner.com/costume-design-1-in-san-francisco/jean-martin](http://www.examiner.com/costume-design-1-in-san-francisco/jean-martin)). She is involved in costuming/cosplaying, dancing, singing and acting, and has won awards for costuming/cosplaying and as part of masquerade teams.

Christopher Erickson is managing editor, writer and photographer for Science Fiction/San Francisco. He is also an experienced costumer who has won individual and group awards for costuming. Christopher is known as the Bay Area Doctor as he often portrays most of the Doctors and aims to do all of them.

Editor’s Note: Philip Gust has provided us access to The February 2014 issue of *The Virtual Costumer* magazine from the Silicon Web Costumers' Guild is all about "Doctor Who" costuming. This would be great background for those attending the "[Doctor Who Dunit Murder Mystery](#)" on October 17th. This issue of *The Virtual Costumer* includes

The Well Dressed Doctor

The Cybermen -- Nightmare in Silver

Recreating "The Impossible Astronaut"

The Third Doctor's Sonic Screwdriver

Madame Vastra: Making Latex Prosthetics in your Kitchen

Virtual Postcards from Gallifrey One 2014

Doctor Who related Short Subjects

Back issues of *The Virtual Costumer* are freely available to the costuming community. You can access the “Doctor Who” issue at http://www.siwcostumers.org/vc_contents.html#v12_i1



Picnic At Cypress Lawn



Sunday, November 15th, 2015 Tour the ranks of the dearly departed in a horse-drawn carriage at Colma's historic [Cypress Lawn Cemetery](#), featuring one of the largest stained glass collections in the US. Victorian mourning attire would be just the thing.

[Ticket Price: \\$\\$](#)

Cypress Lawn is the final resting place of more prominent Californians than other any cemetery in the West. Cypress Lawn is a vast historic archive, and in many cases, stands as the only remaining record of the men and women who shaped the Golden State. It also represents a visual history of the American cemetery movement from the late nineteenth century to the present. The interned are set among thousands of trees and lakes. Famous Californians are memorialized with statuary from leading artists. Cypress Lawn, perhaps as no other single place, represents the political, economic, and cultural history of the American West. Join us on Sunday, November 15th for a Victorian Era picnic in this lovely setting. Horse drawn carriage rides and tours promise a day of elegant repose. Daguerreotype pictures will make a lovely scene to remember the day by.

See more at: <http://www.cypresslawnheritagefoundation.org/historic-restoration/#sthash.08O6wod1.dpuf>

President's Letter



Dear Costume Enthusiasts,

We've had quite a year of fabulously creative events and inspiring learning opportunities. I have been so impressed with the creativity of our volunteer event hosts this year, and can't wait to see how wonderful our upcoming events and workshops are.

More immediately, we're having our semi-annual Costumers Bazaar on Sunday, August 23 at the Albany Veteran's Hall. This is a perfect opportunity to find new outfits, accessories, fabric and trim, or to clean out your stash and costume closet... and make room for the treasures you will find at the bazaar! There are still plenty of vendor spaces available, but they are going fast -- please contact Ann Morton at events@gbacg.org to reserve your space. Also contact Ann if you would like to volunteer -- that

gets you into the building early and lets you check out where all the good stuff is! This is always a fun day so make sure you don't miss out.

August is a big month for the board; it's when we start planning our events for the following year. It's time to start your creative juices flowing and think about what kind of events you would like to attend next year. The way to make it happen is to volunteer to host! Our events coordinators, Ann and Mia, will be sending out a call for proposals and it's always a treat to see what ideas you come up with.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and I'll see you at the bazaar!

Catherine Scholar
GBACG President

Editor's Letter

What a year! Started with a bang and I haven't caught up yet, as you can see by this being a "Summer Issue" of Finery.

Let's start with my usual plea: If you have any ideas for articles, be they historical, how-to's, areas of special interest, areas that have been neglected, please send them to me. I don't know what the readership wants unless YOU tell me.

Robin McGann
Newsletter Editor



Want A Free Decades of Style Pattern? Here's How!



Stonemountain & Daughter Fabrics in Berkeley is inviting all sewists to join in a celebration of 10 years of Decades of Style at Stonemountain & Daughter Fabrics by making your own Given A Chance Dress! HERE ARE THE DETAILS

1) Wear your Given A Chance Dress by Decades Everyday (Decades of Style's "micro pattern line") made from fabric purchased at Stonemountain & Daughter into the Stonemountain & Daughter store (2518 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley) from Wednesday, July 15, 2015 through Wednesday, September 16, 2015)

2) Get your photo taken

3) Receive a FREE Decades of Style pattern of your choosing! REALLY! ANY DECADES OF STYLE PATTERN!

To wrap up the celebration, Stonemountain & Daughter Fabrics will be hosting a finale party on Wednesday, September 16th, starting at 12pm, in-store. This is your chance to get your photo taken and meet the awesome pattern maker behind the Decades of Style pattern line, Janet Manning. Not to mention, check out how other awesome sewists have used this versatile pattern.

The Given A Chance Dress is available on the Decades of Style website, at Stonemountain & Daughter Fabrics (Berkeley), Piedmont Fabrics (Oakland), Hart's Fabrics (Santa Cruz)

Link to Stonemountain & Daughter Fabrics website

<http://www.stonemountainfabric.com/>

Link for Given A Chance Dress on Decades of Style website

<http://www.decadesofstyle.com/products/no-102-given-a-chance-dress>

Link for Given A Chance Dress on Stonemountain & Daughter Fabrics website

<http://www.stonemountainfabric.com/shop/SEWING-PATTERNS/Decades-of-Style/Dress-Patterns/p/Decades-Everyday-Given-a-Chance-Dress-x7047773.htm>

Link for Given A Chance Dress on Hart's Fabrics website

<http://www.hartsfabric.com/decades-everday-given-a-chance-dress-sewing-pattern-82524.html>

Link for Piedmont Fabrics

<http://piedmontfabrics.com/>



Stonemountain & Daughter Staff with Janet Manning (second from right), designer and owner of Decades of Style Patterns.

Upcoming Events



GBACG Costumers Bazaar Sunday, August 23rd, 2015

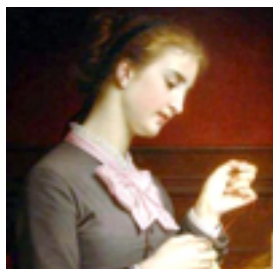
Come rent a table and sell your gently used or new items. Or come and shop for your next great set of gloves, or a hat, or a whole dress. Meet and chat with other fabulous costumers



Costume Salon: Dr. Who
Sunday, September 6th, 2015

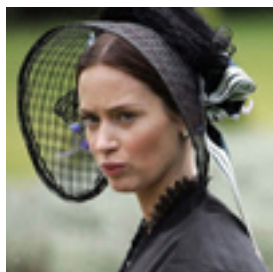
Join us for potluck tea, snacks, socializing, and sharing resources. Theme appropriate books, patterns, garments and projects are welcome. No costume is required. If you'd like to attend, email costumesalons@gbacg.org.

Ticket Price: Free



Style a High 18th Century Lady's Wig
Sunday, November 8th, 2015

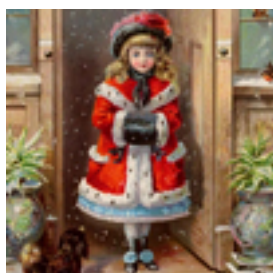
Take a modern wig and turn it into a fashionable high woman's style of the 1770s (modernly called a "pouf" — think Marie Antoinette with a ship on her head)! This hands-on class will cover making a high frame, and then styling the wig. Allergy note: we'll be using a LOT of aerosol hairspray.



Picnic at Cypress Lawn
Sunday, November 15th, 2015

Tour the ranks of the dearly departed in a horse-drawn carriage at Colma's historic [Cypress Lawn Cemetery](#), featuring one of the largest stained glass collections in the US. Victorian mourning attire would be just the thing.

Ticket Price: \$\$



GBACG Open House
Saturday, January 16th, 2016

We invite all our Members, Non-members, and Sister Organization Members to join us for our annual meeting where we highlight upcoming events, raffle costume items, present a fashion show, and other fun stuff. Meet your board members, see old friends, and so much more. Location TBD. Free for members, \$5 for non-members.

Ticket Price: \$

HERE COMES THE SUN KING!



Court of the Sun King
May 2016, exact date TBD

While the details of this event are still evolving, you can nonetheless plan on a glittering evening of 17th century elegance.

Ticket Price: \$\$\$\$

Additional events and information can be found on the Calendar of Events page at GBACG.org