



May 4, 2017

**Smithsonian Exhibition Exploring the Power of *Star Wars*<sup>™</sup>  
Costumes Headed to the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, FL.**

*Exhibition Opens November 11, 2017 at the MFA*

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Iconic costumes from “a galaxy far, far away” are presented in the Smithsonian traveling exhibition, *Star Wars*<sup>™</sup> *and the Power of Costume*. The exhibition will be on view at the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, Florida.

Culled from the collection of the Lucas Museum of Narrative *Star Wars and the Power of Costume* is a partnership of the museum, the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and Lucasfilm. George Lucas imagined and created a fantastical world filled with dynamic characters who told the timeless story of the hero’s journey. The costumes shaped the identities of these now famous characters, from the menacing black mask of Darth Vader and the gilded suit of C-3PO, to the lavish royal gowns of Queen Amidala and a bikini worn by Princess Leia.

“Craftsmanship and artistry in costume design are valued creative components in the *Star Wars* saga,” said Lucas. “The detailed precision of a design can be as bold a measure of storytelling as words on a page, leading to truths at the core of a character, situation or shared history. From initial concept drawings to complex physical constructions, the costumes featured in this exhibition serve to further define crucial aspects of worlds created to move, educate and entertain us—to inspire the imagination.”

“*Star Wars* is an important cultural touchstone across generations, and we are thrilled to have the opportunity to present the artistry of these costume designs at the MFA,” said Executive Director Kristen A. Shepherd. “The exhibition will take visitors inside the creative process by showing how designers interpret and translate George Lucas’s vision for the iconic *Star Wars* characters into reality. Concept drawings and actual costumes will be on view, so visitors can explore the process of their creation and enjoy the sheer beauty of both.



“Design is a critical element in narrative art forms, including film, and these are some of the most significant costumes in film history,” Shepherd added. “The MFA looks forward to announcing details about the exhibition on May 4 (*Star Wars* Day) through our platforms on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.”

Presenting more than 60 of the finest hand-crafted costumes from the first seven films in the *Star Wars* series, the exhibition uncovers the challenges, the intricate processes and the remarkable artistry of Lucas, the concept artists and costume designers. The costumes reflect an eclectic mix of cultural, historical and mythical sources that add rich texture to the story. Through nine presentational “chapters”—Introduction: Dressing a Galaxy; Jedi versus Sith: Form, Function and Design; Concept and Design for Royalty and Beyond; Symbolism and Military Power; Outlaws and Outsiders; All Corners of the Galaxy: The Galactic Senate; After the Throne: Padmé’s Journey; Darth Vader: Iconic Villain; and Droid™ Design—visitors will explore the creative process from Lucas’s vision through concept drawings by artists such as Ralph McQuarrie and Iain McCaig, to the final costume designs of John Mollo and Trisha Biggar, among others.

Featured costumes include the:

- Monk-like robes of Jedi masters Obi-Wan Kenobi and Luke Skywalker
- Intimidating suit and complex breathing apparatus of Darth Vader
- Military-influenced uniforms of the Imperial Stormtrooper, Senate Guard and TIE Fighter Pilot
- Yak hair and mohair costume of the towering Wookiee Chewbacca
- Intergalactic outfits of Senators Bail Organa, Mon Mothma and Mas Amedda
- Fierce armor of mercenary bounty hunters Jango Fett, Boba Fett and Zam Wesell
- Elaborately detailed gowns of Queen Amidala, Queen Jamillia and their handmaidens



Short films in *Star Wars and The Power of Costume* provide a behind-the-scenes look at the creative process and include interviews with artists, designers and actors. The visitor experience will be enhanced by interactive flip books featuring sketches, photographs and notes that capture the creative team's inspiration and vision.

*Star Wars and the Power of Costume* is the third exhibition on which SITES has collaborated with Lucasfilm. Previous projects were *Star Wars: The Magic of Myth* and *Star Wars: The Art of the Starfighter*.

### **Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service**

SITES has been sharing the wealth of Smithsonian collections and research programs with millions of people outside Washington, D.C., for 65 years. SITES connects Americans to their shared cultural heritage through a wide range of exhibitions about art, science and history, which are shown wherever people live, work and play. For exhibition description and tour schedules, visit [www.sites.si.edu](http://www.sites.si.edu).

### **Lucas Museum of Narrative Art**

The [Lucas Museum of Narrative Art](http://www.lucasfilm.com/museum) is a first-of-its kind institution, designed to serve as the country's premiere venue for understanding the connections and lineage of illustrative and visual art. Conceived by George Lucas, the museum is based on the filmmaker's passion for education and the role art can play in inspiring young people. The Lucas Museum of Narrative Art collection ranges from fine art to animation, from fashion to cinematic design and is comprised of works of the great masters of the Golden Age of Illustration through today's digital artists, showing the ways culture is reflected in the popular art of any given time.



## **Lucasfilm Ltd.**

[Lucasfilm Ltd.](#), a wholly owned subsidiary of The Walt Disney Company, is a global leader in film, television and digital entertainment production. In addition to its motion-picture and television production, the company's activities include visual effects and audio post-production, cutting-edge digital animation, interactive entertainment software, and the management of the global merchandising activities for its entertainment properties including the legendary *Star Wars* and *Indiana Jones* franchises. Lucasfilm Ltd. is headquartered in northern California.

## **ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA**

The MFA at 255 Beach Drive N.E. has a world-class collection, with works by Monet, Morisot, Rodin, O'Keeffe, Willem de Kooning, and many other great artists. Also displayed are ancient Greek and Roman, Egyptian, Asian, African, pre-Columbian, and Native American art. Selections from the photography collection, one of the largest and finest in the Southeast, are now on view in a gallery dedicated to the medium. Kristen A. Shepherd is the Executive Director.

Hours are 10 am to 5 pm Monday-Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, until 8 pm on Thursday, and noon-5 pm Sunday. Admission is only \$5 after 5 pm on Thursday. Regular admission is \$17 for adults, \$15 for those 65 and older, and \$10 for students seven and older, including college students with current I.D. Children under seven and Museum members are admitted free. Groups of 10 or more adults pay only \$12 per person and children \$4 each with prior reservations. The MFA Café is open from 11 am.-3 pm Tuesday-Sunday.

Ticketing information for *Star Wars and the Power of Costume* is as follows:

### Non-Member Ticket Pricing

Adults: \$25

Youth (ages 7 – 17): \$18

Children 6 and under: Free



## Member Pricing

\$10 admission price for Individual and Dual (Family) level members after November 12<sup>th</sup>.\*

\*Members receive one free admission to *Star Wars™ and the Power of Costume* during the Members-Only Opening Weekend, November 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Reserved time based upon availability. Members receive special discounted tickets for admission during the run of the show as well as invitations to exciting events.

Unlimited Free admission for Friend level members and above for entirety of show run.

Friend-level Members-Only Pre-Sale Date: September 12<sup>th</sup>

Dual (Family)-level Members-Only Pre-Sale Date: September 18<sup>th</sup>

Individual-level Members-Only Pre-Sale Date: September 25<sup>th</sup>

Members-Only ticket pre-sale through October 18<sup>th</sup>.

Tickets go on sale to public October 19<sup>th</sup> (coincides with Porch Party evening event)

For more information, please call (727) 896-2667 or visit [mfastpete.org](http://mfastpete.org).

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