

Designed for *Drama*: Fashion from the Classics



~ Cornelia Powell *Special Event* ~
'Social Graces'
at
BILTMORE

Back by popular demand! Join us this spring in the glorious Blue Ridge Mountains during Biltmore's new costume exhibition, ***Designed for Drama: Fashion from the Classics***—costumes on display from historical films inspired by much-loved novels.

Spend a memorable day with fashion historian, wedding folklorist and author **Cornelia Powell** to enjoy **'Social Graces'**....a celebration of beauty, the creative spirit and the art of fashion!

WHEN: Tuesday April 18, 2017. 9:30am–4:30pm

WHERE: Biltmore Estate. Asheville, NC ([Registration](#) info below)

WHAT the DAY INCLUDES:

- Morning Fête in Antler Hill Village
~**Jane Austen Social** – A refreshment of sweets & savories—English style!
~**Going Behind-the-Scenes** – Cornelia famously sets the stage for our afternoon tours with stories and beautiful images highlighting costume designers from featured 'literary' films. (See exhibition details below.)

~**Something Most Royal** – No “royal” costumes at Biltmore, but a *regal* exclusive for attendees only! Cornelia presents “Victoria & Elizabeth: Recreating Crowns & Gowns” (A presentation showcasing two new royal costume dramas, *Victoria* on PBS and *The Crown* on Netflix.)

~**Vintage Jewelry ‘Pop-Up’ Boutique** – For one-of-a-kind designer shopping.

~**Assorted Delights** – Gifts and Door Prizes, Special Guests and Book Signings!

- Afternoon Touring

~**Regency on Display** – A chance to visit *Designed for Drama* costumes exhibited in Antler Hill Village from Jane Austen films.

~**Cornelia Redux!** – Visit the ongoing exhibit of Vanderbilt and Cecil family wedding treasures at the Biltmore Legacy museum. (See details below.)

~**Designed for Drama** – Tours of designer film costumes and prized Vanderbilt historical novels on exhibition in the grand Biltmore House. (More info below.)

~**On Your Own** – Time for dining, viewing exhibits, shopping and exploring spring gardens in bloom at your own pace.

- Bid Adieu!

~**Invitation** – End the day together with a cup of tea or glass of Biltmore wine at the Village Social!

~**Special Offer** – For those who would like to stay overnight at the new [Village Hotel on Biltmore Estate](#). (Details sent to event attendees after registration.)

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EXHIBIT DETAILS:

Biltmore premieres a new costume exhibition, ***Designed for Drama: Fashion from the Classics***, inspired by George Vanderbilt’s love of literature. After our **Morning Fête** in Antler Hill Village, you are a short walk away from various costume delights: Two ensembles on display from films featuring Jane Austen’s life and novels, plus the Biltmore Legacy museum’s ongoing exhibit of Vanderbilt family wedding treasures. (See ***To Note** below.)

Then we’ll journey to the other side of the estate—a lovely drive—to enjoy the ***Designed for Drama*** exhibition in Biltmore House (**previewed at our Morning Fête.**) The exhibit showcases over 40 elaborate costumes, displayed throughout the house, from a dozen recent films that bring literary characters to life! The original novels, many first editions, from **George Vanderbilt’s extensive library** accompany the costumes.

A few exhibition highpoints: From the entertaining detective duo of Holmes and Watson in “Sherlock Holmes” to the creation of the Peter Pan story in “Finding Neverland,” you’ll be on a storied English-themed adventure! And from “The Portrait of a Lady” to “Jane Eyre” to “Twelfth Night,” you’re sure to find a favorite romantic heroine! Plus the grand fashions of 19th century Russia are strikingly portrayed in “Anna Karenina,” while the simpler attire of Jane Austen’s

characters in “Pride and Prejudice” portrays one of the BBC miniseries’ most memorable scenes.

The costumes on display reveal the attention to detail involved in period costume design, and represent the work of costume designers at the highest level of their profession, numbering **Academy Awards and Emmys** among their honors. In addition, the collaboration with a renowned **paper wig designer** who visited Biltmore from Los Angeles to create wigs on-site for the costumed mannequins gives a unique élan to this year’s exhibition!

You’ll enjoy these exhibits even more after our Morning Fête together because—like she’s done for audiences all over the country—Cornelia will take you into the imaginations of the featured costume designers, then share bits of behind-the-scenes magic we all love! ~

***To Note:** *If you haven’t seen the Vanderbilt and Cecil family wedding exhibit at **Biltmore Legacy** museum (a highlight at our Fête last spring!), then don’t miss a visit there while in Antler Hill Village. This includes the first-ever display of the antique lace wedding veil worn by Mary Lee Ryan Cecil (married to the grandson of George Vanderbilt) and her cousin Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy; plus the re-creation of Cornelia Vanderbilt’s 1924 bridal dress and veil, refashioned by celebrated London costumiers Cosprop, Ltd. —of Downton Abbey fame!*

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[Map of Biltmore Estate](#)
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COST:

‘Social Graces’ Early Bird Special!

Register by February 25: \$149.00 (\$109. if [Biltmore Annual Passholder](#))

After February 25: \$169.00 (\$129. if [Biltmore Annual Passholder](#))

[Costume Society of America](#) members = \$139.00 (\$99. if [Biltmore Annual Passholder](#))

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

(Reserve your spot today! Limited spaces available.)
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After registering, you’ll receive more details about our time together at Biltmore Estate, including a **list of period films and television dramas** represented in Biltmore’s costume exhibition (plus my “royal additions”). Then you can enjoy watching the movies beforehand—or reread the historical novels that inspired it all!

I look forward to seeing you this spring for **‘Social Graces’**... a fashionably delicious sort of day!

-Cornelia Powell (cornelia@corneliapowell.com)