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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **SHELDON ART GALLERIES EXHIBIT CELEBRATES THE GLAMOUR OF STAGE AND SCREEN**

ST. LOUIS, MO - The Sheldon Art Galleries presents *Glamour: Costumes and Images from the Collection of Mary Strauss*, October 4- December 28, 2013 in the Bellwether Gallery of St. Louis Artists and Collections. Join us for an opening reception on Friday, October 4, 2013 from 5 – 7 p.m.; Galleries will be open until 9 p.m. for First Fridays in Grand Center, a monthly event in which galleries and museums in Grand Center are open late. Admission is free.

This dazzling exhibit, celebrating the fabulous fashions of film, theater and music, gives the visitor a glimpse into the magical world of showbiz glamour through the decades – enveloping and captivating the viewer with dresses and artifacts that reflect a larger-than-life magical world of the stage and screen. As fashion designer Diana Vreeland remarked of the medium, “Everything was an exaggeration of history, fiction and the whole wide extraordinary world.”

On film and on stage, costumes have been used as a tool to convey a mood, reveal the essence of a character and illuminate a personality. In this exhibit, the visitor will come face-to-face with original costumes worn by Norma Shearer (*Marie Antoinette* 1938); Elizabeth Taylor (*Cleopatra*, 1963; *A Little Night Music*, 1977; and *Poker Alice* 1987); Susan Hayward (*With a Song in my Heart*, 1952), two Bob Mackie runway gowns from the designer’s personal collection; Whitney Houston (1997 Pacific Rim concert, 1997); Joan Collins (*Dynasty*) and many others. Two special loans, a dress designed by Valentina for Katherine Hepburn from the Kent State University collection, and a dress designed by Edith Head from the collection of Paramount Pictures are also included in the exhibit. Designers featured in the exhibition are Adrian, Donald Brooks, Alexandra Byrne, Edith Head, Florence Klotz, Bob Mackie, Charles Le Maire, Nolan Miller, Irene Sharaff and Valentina.

Accompanying the costumes are an array of photographs by George Hurrell and other celebrity photographers that celebrate New York and Hollywood glamour, as well as video clips and ephemera that set the scene.

Mary Strauss has been collecting theater costumes and other related materials such as original movie and theater posters, vintage photographs and memorabilia for fifty years, amassing a museum-quality collection. “My whole life has been influenced by the movies and theater,” says Strauss. “The costumes and images I have collected continually transport me to a fantasy world of beauty, perfection and romance.”

MORE...

**Related Programs:**

**VIP Champagne Preview: September 23 at 6 p.m.** Ticket includes a special sneak preview of the exhibit, champagne and hors d'oeuvres. Tickets are \$50 through MetroTix at 314.534.1111 or at TheSheldon.org. Presented by Ladue News. Proceeds benefit the exhibition and education programs of the Sheldon Art Galleries.

**ArtSounds: Divas and Designers, October 25 at 6 p.m.** Join us for an evening of jazzy music by Coco Soul and Erin Bode, a fashion show featuring the latest in gala fashion by Neiman Marcus and Distinctions, signature cocktails and gourmet hors d'oeuvres catered by Orlando's. Patron tickets start at \$100. Call The Sheldon at 314.533.9900. Proceeds from this special event benefit the exhibitions and education programs of the Sheldon Art Galleries.

**Gallery Talk: November 9, 11 a.m.** Mary Strauss discusses her costume collection, the history of costume design in the movies and its influence on fashion. Bellwether Gallery of St. Louis Artists. Admission Free.

**FASHION REELS: A Sidebar at the Saint Louis International Film Festival** – November 14-24, 2013. Craft Alliance's Fashion Lab presents a series of movies, documentaries and lectures with a focus on fashion. Information at <http://craftalliance.org/events/fashionlab.htm>. Sponsored by Craft Alliance.

**A Conversation with Edith Head, December 6 and 7, 2013 at 8 p.m. Sheldon Ballroom.**

Enjoy an Evening of Wit, Wisdom and a Whisper of Gossip! Susan Claassen stars as Edith Head in this behind-the-scenes feast of great movie lore and delicious stories. In her six-decades as a costume designer, the multi-academy award winning Edith Head worked on more than 500 films and dressed most of the great stars – including Mae West, Grace Kelly, Audrey Hepburn and Elizabeth Taylor. Join us for a cabaret-style experience in The Sheldon Ballroom on December 6 and 7 at 8 p.m., and hear “Miss Head” tell her own story, filled with humor, ambition and above all, glamour! Tickets: \$40 on sale beginning September 21 through MetroTix at 314-534-1111 or at TheSheldon.org.

The not-for-profit Sheldon Art Galleries exhibits works by local, national and international artists in all media. Over 6,000 square feet of the galleries' spaces on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor are permanently devoted to rotating exhibits of photography, architecture, jazz art and history, and children's art. A sculpture garden, seen from both the atrium lobby and the connecting glass bridge, features periodic rotations and installations, and the Nancy Spirtas Kranzberg Gallery on the lower level features art of all media. The Sheldon actively supports the work of St. Louis artists in all mediums and features a dedicated gallery with museum-quality exhibits by St. Louis artists, past and present.

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