A coat that wouldn’t stay properly dyed. A fat suit that had to be defatted as the show went on. A ceremonial robe so heavy a mannequin had to be reinforced to support it for nine months.

Sewn into the taffeta, silk and period details of the costumes from “The Crown” now on display at Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library are colorful behind-the-scenes stories from the hit Netflix series.

“Costuming The Crown,” the new exhibit at Winterthur looks at how costume designers help create the realism in a show that chronicles the early years of Queen Elizabeth’s life, from her marriage into middle age.

Winterthur Museum’s “Costuming The Crown” exhibit includes faithful reproductions of famous gowns and clothes designed to help create the characters of “The Crown.”

Betsy Price
Delaware News Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK
See CROWN, Page 5B

Cardi B and Travis Scott to headline Made in America

In 2012, the event has generated $82.1 million in economic impact for the city. This year’s festival will benefit the ACLU of Pennsylvania and The REFORM Alliance.

Tickets for the remainder of the public go on sale Friday at 10 a.m. at Ticketmaster.com Made in America will also be live streamed on TIDAL.com/MEA.
No. 1: The gold robe

Told in four scenes, the exhibit opens with “Tatiana’s Closet,” devoted to the luxurious outfits that Elizabeth and Philip wore to her Coronation. The red velvet with a white- and-black fur mantlet. No. 2: The wedding dresses

Clapton says the wedding dresses of Princess Margaret and Princess Elizabeth perfectly illustrate how the world was changing outside the palace — and how the designer used clothes to illustrate that. Seen in the exhibit’s second section, “Dressing the Past,” Elizabeth’s gown is a gold robe worn by Matt Smith as Prince Philip. The material had sold out by the time Eaton and the fat suit had to be defatted, or it would have been too heavy; Margaret’s is sleek, spare and modern (think Meghan Markle marrying Prince Harry). The wedding dresses in the Past are faithful copies of actual gowns, although Margaret’s had to be altered to accommodate actress Vanessa Kirby, who’s about 5 inches taller than the princess. Actress Claire Foy was close to Margaret’s height and size. Throughout the show, Margaret’s costumes inspired by Winterthurs with Elizabeth’s, hinting at changing fashions and behavior.

No. 3: The duke’s suit, duchess’s dress

Graf says his favorite piece is the 1969 tuxedo suit worn by the Duke of Windsor. Eaton says here is in the porch done paired with it, worn by the Duchess of Windsor character.

No. 4: Margaret’s motorcycle coat

When Petrie chose a brown-and-orange mohair fabric for a coat for Princess Margaret’s coronation in season two, she didn’t realize she’d need to create another for a stand-in. The two coats, which are seen in the exhibit’s third section, “Creating Character,” were worn while the actress and her stand-in filmed a motorcycle ride by Margaret and husband Antony Armstrong-Jones. The material had sold out by the time Petrie realized she needed more, so she ordered a similar pattern for the stand-in, but her stand-in dyed it to look like the original. It came back from the first night of shooting looking like it had before it was dyed. So the staff dyed it, only to have it rip every time of the dress, which Clapton says was inspired by Henry Francis du Pont’s idea to be close to the mannequin, though, that hole was so wide that he is a slim 6-foot-4 and Churchill was 5-foot-6. The show chronicles the visit of President John and Jackie Kennedy to Britain in 1961 and includes a discussion of what the queen will wear. Jackie was already known for her chic style, and the queen already was feeling irrelevant and out of fashion.

The show re-creates the queen’s furry toed tuxedo gown but adds a new capeline back to Jackie’s sleek blue silk Cash Siren gown. Eaton says the queen wanted to add interest to the simple gown so the queen showed Jackie around Buckingham Palace.

Why this show is at Winterthur?

The topic doesn’t seem at first blush to be a natural fit for H.F. du Pont’s Winterthur Museum, Garden and library, which celebrates early American antiques and design. Yet the exhibit’s late 2018 exhibition about the clothes of “Downtown Abbey” dovetailed the story of the fictional British country house with Winterthur’s history as a real American one.

The exhibit — the first big show of “The Crown” costumes — came about after Winterthur borrowed the series’ coronation gown for a one-off exhibit during the 2017 holiday season. When Winterthur approached Caroline Cadou, who was so pleased with how the estate handled the gown, they talked about a bigger exhibition, she helped get it going.

If you go

WHAT: Winterthur Museum’s “Costuming The Crown” WHERE: Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library, 1 Winterthur Way, Wilmington, DE 19807 WHEN: March 30-Jan. 5, 2020, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday TICKETS: Adults $12, $8 for students and seniors 60 and older 35% Price goes slightly the week of Thanksgiving until Jan. 10 FOR MORE INFO: Call (302) 888-4600 or visit winterthur.org.

The reproduction of Queen Elizabeth’s gold crown robe welcomes guests to “Costuming The Crown,” Winterthur Museum’s new exhibit featuring costumes from the hit Netflix show. PHOTO BY JENNIFER CORBETT/THE NEWS JOURNAL.

DELAWAREONLINE.COM  SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2019  SS