

# COSTUMES OF DOWNTON ABBEY OPENS AT WINTERTHUR MARCH 2014

*40 Designs From Award-Winning TV Series To Be Showcased In Winterthur-Curated Exhibition*

**WINTERTHUR, DELAWARE**—*Costumes of Downton Abbey*, a major exhibition of costumes from the award-winning *Downton Abbey*<sup>®</sup> television series, opened at Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library on March 1, 2014. It will run through January 4, 2015.

Forty costumes and accessories worn upstairs and downstairs on the period drama television series are displayed in the Galleries at Winterthur. The costumes are lent by Cosprop, the world's leading costumier to film, television, and theater.

"The first time I looked at the costumes up close, I was amazed at the incredible detail. They are surprisingly ornate. This is going to be one of the most beautiful exhibitions ever held at Winterthur," said Maggie Lidz, one of the three co-curators of the exhibition. Lidz went to London in July to choose the costumes directly from Cosprop. Winterthur's popular exhibition, *Fashion in Film*, also featured costumes by Cosprop.

*Costumes of Downton Abbey* is presented by M&T Bank and DuPont. With support from the Glenmede Trust Company.

*Costumes of Downton Abbey* compares and contrasts the fictional British world of *Downton Abbey* with the real-life American counterpart Winterthur in the first half of the 20th century. Among the highlights are Lady Sybil's harem pants, Lady Mary's engagement dress, and Lady Edith's wedding dress. The servants' call system, H. F. du Pont's Savile Row evening jacket, and the du Pont family's 1874 Tiffany silver tea service are also on exhibit. Winterthur is hosting a wide range of lectures, workshops, and events, including programs for adults and families focusing on entertaining and country house life in Britain and the United States. Winterthur Members are being offered special programs and times of exclusive access throughout the run of *Costumes of Downton Abbey*.

The exhibition is organized chronologically, and visitors move through the times of day, both upstairs and downstairs. Visitors enter past a working recreation of the bell system of *Downton Abbey*. Servants' uniforms and livery are contrasted with elegant tweeds, sumptuous tea gowns, and elaborate evening clothes.

A co-production of Carnival Films and Masterpiece, *Downton Abbey* depicts life in an aristocratic household of the fictional Earl and Countess of Grantham and is one of the most popular and critically acclaimed period dramas ever produced. It has won a Golden Globe Award for Best Miniseries and seven Emmys including a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Miniseries. It has become the highest rated drama series on PBS. By the third season, it was one of the most widely watched television shows in the world. The Guinness World Records recognized *Downton Abbey* as the most critically acclaimed English-language television series of 2011.

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March 1, 2014



## MEDIA CONTACT

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Winterthur—known worldwide for its preeminent collection of American decorative arts, naturalistic garden, and research library for the study of American art and material culture—offers a variety of tours, exhibitions, programs, and activities throughout the year. General admission includes a tour of some of the most notable spaces in the 175-room house, as well as access to the Winterthur Garden and Galleries, special exhibitions, a narrated tram tour (weather permitting), the Campbell Collection of Soup Tureens, and the Enchanted Woods children's garden. \$20 adults; \$18 for students and seniors; \$5 for ages 2–11. Tickets are valid for two consecutive days, except for timed tickets to view *Costumes of Downton Abbey*; reservations for timed tickets must be made in advance of each visit to the exhibition.

## Museum hours

10 am–6 pm, Tuesday–Sunday

Winterthur, located on Route 52, six miles northwest of Wilmington, Delaware, and five miles south of U.S. Route 1, is closed Mondays (except during Yuletide), Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day.

Winterthur is committed to accessible programming for all. For information, including special services, call 800.448.3883, 302.888.4600, or TTY 302.888.4907, or visit [winterthur.org](http://winterthur.org).



**WINTERTHUR**

Winterthur, Delaware 19735

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Downton Abbey* is seen on Masterpiece on PBS and is a Carnival Films/Masterpiece co-production. Downton™ and Downton Abbey®.

In conjunction with the exhibition, Winterthur will release *The du Ponts of Winterthur*, a newly designed update of its popular and out-of-print book *Life at Winterthur: A du Pont Family Album*. The perfect accompaniment to *Costumes of Downton Abbey*, it traces the fascinating story of the estate and its occupants through pages and pages of family photos and memorabilia, including new color photography.

Timed tickets are required to view *Costumes of Downton Abbey*.

### **COSTUMES OF DOWNTON ABBEY PROGRAMMING:**

#### ***Costumes of Downton Abbey***

March 1, 2014–January 4, 2015

This original exhibition inspired by the award-winning drama series features 40 historically inspired costumes and accessories worn upstairs and downstairs by the characters in *Downton Abbey*. Also on display are photographs and vignettes inspired by the fictional program and real life at Winterthur. Plus an exciting range of related programs.

#### **Members-only Preview of *Costumes of Downton Abbey* Day**

March 3, 10 am–5 pm

“Behind the Scenes of *Costumes of Downton Abbey*,” is an informal and illustrated lecture by Tom Savage, director of museum affairs, and Maggie Lidz, estate historian, who will describe her London visit to choose the costumes. Guided Gallery Walks.

Lectures at 11 am and 2:30 pm. Museum Stores and cafés open. *Members free, guests admitted with guest pass. Call 800.448.3883 or 302.888.4600 for reservations.*

### **AFTERNOON LECTURES**

#### **Downton Within, Downton Beyond: Lunchtime Lecture Series**

Lunchtime Lectures are at 12:15 pm in Copeland Lecture Hall at Winterthur.

The lectures offer an opportunity to consider the artful presentation of television fiction as well as the varying histories, values, issues, and clothing of *Downton's* evolving eras. Period undergarments spark your interest? Jazz and mixed societies? Changing roles of women and fashion? *Members free. Included with admission.*

#### **March 20: “How to Costume the Costume Drama: Design, Adaptation and Recycling at Downton”**

Alden O’Brien, Curator of Costume and Textiles, DAR Museum, Washington, D.C.

How does the costume designer put together the look of a costume drama? Using vintage garments and vintage fragments in newly made designs, while designing new outfits and reusing costumes from earlier productions are all strategies used to create the cohesive and beautiful look of *Downton Abbey*.

#### **April 17: “Behind Jack Ross: Jazz, Romance and High Society Harlem”**

A’Lelia Bundles, Madam C. J. Walker biographer and Chairman, Foundation for the National Archives.

Before Leslie Hutchinson—the inspiration for Jack Ross—arrived in London, he was part of a thriving community of African Americans traveling to Europe since the 19th century. Bundles has explored Harlem's elite and the fascinating network of transatlantic American, British and French friendships and liaisons between the wars.

### **May 15: “Downton Undressed: Underwear and the Fashionable Ideal in the Teens and Twenties”**

H. Kristina Haugland, Le Vine Associate Curator of Costume and Textiles & Supervising Curator for the Study Room, Dorrance H. Hamilton Center for Costume and Textiles, Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Feminine undergarments changed dramatically during the *Downton* years, as curvaceous corsets and voluminous layers were replaced by flattening brassieres and scanty underthings. This generously illustrated talk explores the undergarments and attitudes behind the revolutionary shift from Edwardian to modern aesthetics.

### **EVENING LECTURES**

This series is held at 6 pm at Copeland Lecture Hall.

### **March 11: “Dumfries House: A Georgian Masterpiece Saved.”**

The Hon. Mrs. Lucinda Chetwode, Trustee of the Royal Collection Trust, will acquaint you with one of Scotland’s most beautiful country houses. Completed by Robert Adam in 1759, the remarkably intact interiors were furnished by Chippendale and Edinburgh cabinetmakers. The contents were scheduled to be sold in 2007 until saved by HRH The Prince of Wales at the eleventh hour. *Members \$5 / nonmembers \$15.*

### **April 11: “Castle Howard: Family Home and Restoration Drama.”**

The Honorable Simon Howard discusses Castle Howard, home to the Howard family for over 300 years. This magnificent 18th-century residence is set on 1,000 acres of breathtaking landscape in the heart of North Yorkshire. Castle Howard became known to millions in 1981 as the location for the television adaptation of Evelyn Waugh’s *Brideshead Revisited*, starring Anthony Andrews and Jeremy Irons. *Members \$5 / nonmembers \$15.*

### **AFTERNOON TEAS & ENGLISH BRUNCHES**

Held at the Winterthur Visitor Center

**Afternoon Tea:** March 15 & 16, 29 & 30; April 12 & 13; May 18

**English Brunch:** March 22 & 23, April 5 & 6

### **HISTORIC AUTOS DISPLAY & LECTURE**

**May 17:** Display of “Motorcars of the Downton Abbey era, 1912–30” and lecture on “Grand Motor Cars and Great Country Houses, 1905–41”

For more information, please visit [winterthur.org/downtonabbey](http://winterthur.org/downtonabbey).

The exhibition is presented by  **M&T Bank** 

With support from the Glenmede Trust Company

*Downton Abbey*® is seen on MASTERPIECE. on  **PBS**  
and is a Carnival Films/Masterpiece Co-Production. 

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