

# SundayLife

FIRST PEEK



ABOVE: This Michele Clapton dress replicates one worn by Queen Elizabeth for an official portrait taken before her coronation. AT RIGHT: Michele Clapton's Imperial Mantle, decorated with symbols important to the of the British empire, is shown over a white pleated dress. COURTESY OF WINTERTHUR MUSEUM



## Royal debut

Winterthur Museum will host the first global comprehensive exhibition of costumes from Netflix' 'The Crown'

Betsy Price Delaware News Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

If you're among the fans whose tiaras are jiggling in anticipation over Winterthur Museum's exhibit "Costuming The Crown," which opens in March, take a look at these. ■ The show will feature 40 of the outfits worn in the first two seasons of the popular Netflix series "The Crown," which chronicles Queen Elizabeth II's life. The first two seasons dealt with the early years of her marriage and reign.

The clothes, which have been arriving for weeks at the Greenville museum, will include Queen Elizabeth's gold coronation robe and Princess Margaret's wedding dress. Winterthur, which is H.F. du Pont's country estate turned into a museum of American decor, is hoping lightning strikes again with this foray into popular culture. The estate had a huge success with its 2014 "Costumes of Downtown Abbey" exhibit, which sold more than 200,000 tickets, more than double its usual annual ticket sales.

**If you watch**

**WHAT:** Facebook Live event from Winterthur Museum about "Costuming The Crown"  
**WHEN:** About 12:15 p.m. Monday  
**WHERE:** www.delawareonline.com

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## Female directors of color finding a spotlight at Sundance

Lindsey Bahr ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARK CITY, Utah — In the ecosystem of who directs Hollywood's top-grossing films, women of color are the rarest kind. But the 2019 Sundance Film Festival is proving to be a referendum on the dismal industry statistics. And the positive reception to and pricey acquisitions of films like Gurinder Chadha's "Blinded by the Light" (bought by New Line for \$15 million) and Nisha Ganatra's "Late Night" (Amazon purchased for \$13 million) is, at the very

least, promising. In the U.S. dramatic competition alone, where more than half of the 16 features included were directed by women, three films by women of color have stood out: Lulu Wang's "The Farewell," Minhal Baig's "Hala" and Chinonye Chukwu's "Clemency." Each was written by their director and offer boldly personal stories that have captivated critics, audiences and industry dealmakers. "The Farewell," perhaps already one of the best known of the films that de-

buted at Sundance, is based on Wang's real-life experience when she and her Chinese-American family staged a fake wedding as an excuse to visit her terminally-ill grandmother in China, who was totally unaware of her prognosis. Awkwafina stars in the film, which was bought by A24 for \$6 million. Wang, who had previously directed the well-received "Posthumous," took a somewhat roundabout approach to getting her "unconventional" film made.



Director Chinonye Chukwu is one of three women of color with films showing at the Sundance Film Festival in the U.S. dramatic competition. AP PHOTO

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AT LEFT: Jane Petrie's dress for Claire Foy is a close copy of the one Queen Elizabeth wore to meet the Kennedys in 1961. ABOVE: Jane Petrie created this costume to show the change in style as Princess Margaret began to date Antony Armstrong-Jones. AT RIGHT: This is one of 40 outfits from Netflix's "The Crown" that will be on display at Winterthur Museum's "Costuming The Crown" exhibit.



## Winterthur

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"Costuming the Crown" is the first global comprehensive exhibition of costumes from show, the museum said. The exhibit will start with spectacle and pageantry, including royal crowns and tiaras, but also include the everyday clothes worn by the royal family.

Unlike the clothing for "Downton Abbey," which was largely pulled from existing pieces in costume shops, the costumes for "The Crown" were designed by Emmy- and BAFTA-winning designers Michele Clapton and Jane Petrie. They tried to be as authentic as possible in the detailing of everything from King George's medals and military ribbons to Queen Elizabeth's iconic dresses for royal tours.

### Here come the costumes

When the costumes arrive, they stop at Winterthur is the freezer, where the garments are kept in the cold to prevent any biological hitchhikers like mold, mildew or bugs from surviving and infecting the rest of Winterthur's collection. Beyond being a museum devoted to design, Winterthur also has a huge collection of furniture, textiles, ceramics, silver and art.

Once the costumes leave the freezer and go to the preparatory staff, the clothes and accessories are positioned on mannequins and accessorized. "Preparing mannequins for 'Costuming The Crown' requires a lot of fun research," says Laura Mina, associate conservator. "We have to consider historical silhouettes, the costume designers' intentions, and the actors' body postures." One of the biggest challenges: "We need the costumes on mannequins to look good for a full year, while the actors just wore the costumes for a few hours," Mina says.

### 'Downton Abbey' vs. 'The Crown'

While Winterthur's "Downton Abbey" exhibit tied the doings of the fictional Crawley family into the lifestyles of the du Ponts and others with huge country estates, "Costuming The Crown" will look at the significance and importance of costume design to the story.

The show will be told in four sections: Establishing Roles, Dressing the Part, Creating Character and Capturing the Image.

### What you'll see

While Winterthur doesn't want to give away all the costumes that visitors will see, it says that the show will include, complete with jewelry, medals, crowns or tiaras and other accessories:

- Queen Elizabeth's coronation ensemble, with St. Edward's Crown.
- Prince Philip's peer robe worn for the coronation.
- Margaret's and Elizabeth's wedding gowns.
- Navy Uniform of King George VI.
- Charles' Eton suit and accessories.
- Windowpane suit jacket worn by Duke of Windsor.
- Winston Churchill's dinner attire.
- Dresses worn by Elizabeth and Jacqueline Kennedy when they meet.
- Tony Armstrong's motorcycle costume.
- Margaret's motorcycle costume.



This Michele Clapton dress replicates one worn by Queen Elizabeth to a private dinner.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WINTERTHUR MUSEUM



This gown is among the clothes featured in Winterthur's "Costuming The Crown."



### If you go

**WHAT:** Winterthur Museum's "Costuming The Crown" exhibit

**WHERE:** Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library, 5105 Kennett Pike

**WHEN:** March 30-Jan. 5, 2020; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday

**TICKETS:** \$20 adults; \$18 for students and seniors; \$6 for ages 2-11. Prices rise slightly week of Thanksgiving until Jan. 5 as Yuletide runs.

**FOR MORE INFO:** Call 302-888-4600 or go to winterthur.org.



Michele Clapton designed this polka-dotted suit for Claire Foy's Princess Elizabeth to wear while visiting Kenya in 1952 in "The Crown."