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UCI Libraries  
PO BOX 19557  
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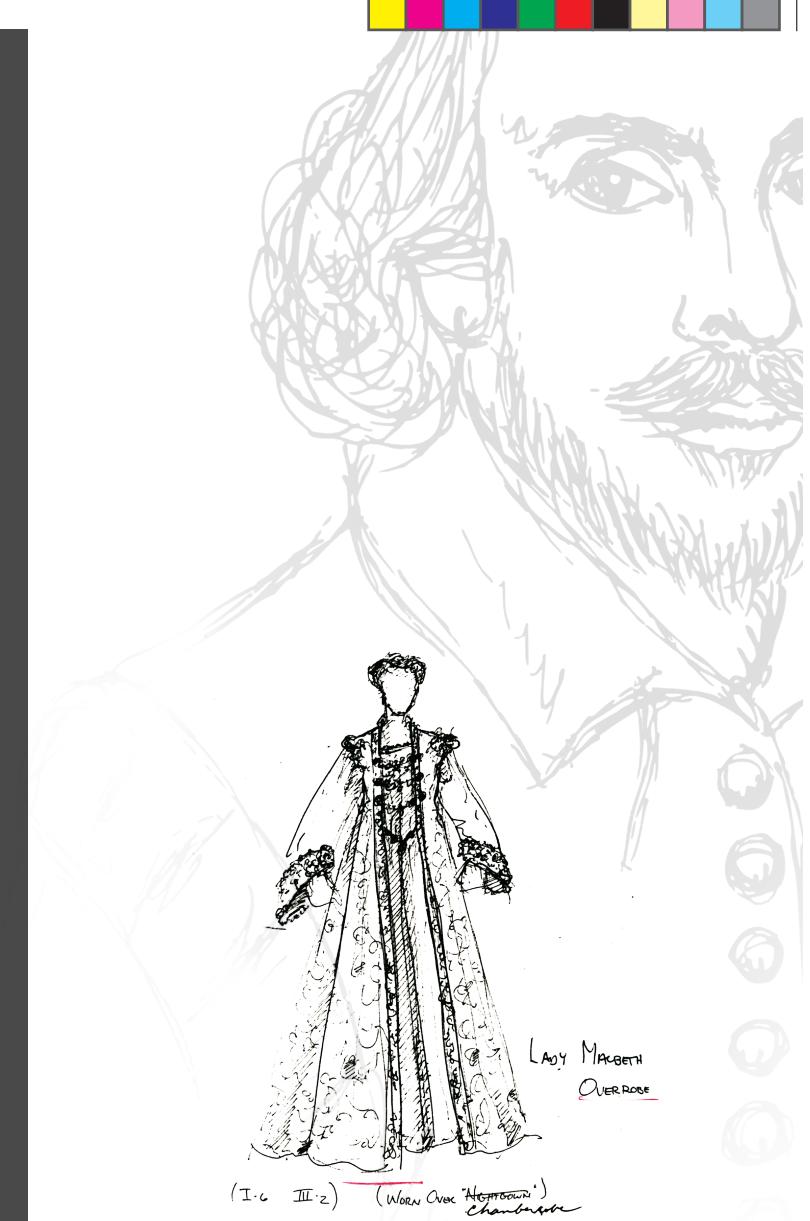
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## COSTUMING THE LEADING LADIES OF SHAKESPEARE: FROM STRATFORD TO ORANGE COUNTY

On display beginning  
**Thursday, April 5, 2018**  
Muriel Ansley Reynolds Gallery, Langson Library  
University of California, Irvine

**UCI Libraries**



# Welcome to the UCI Libraries' 2018 Winter Exhibit

## Costuming the Leading Ladies of Shakespeare

*Costuming the Leading Ladies of Shakespeare* examines the evolution of stage costuming for women in Shakespearian plays, by focusing on two specific themes with Orange County connections: Helena Modjeska, one of the leading Shakespearean actresses on the American stage at the turn of the 19th/20th centuries; and productions at UCI throughout the school's history.

Actors' costumes have always reflected, to a certain extent, both the time period in which they were worn as well as the time period in which the play is set. Conventions in theater staging and popular dress have helped to shape the extent to which costuming reflects historical accuracy, contemporary dress sense, the director's artistic vision, and a variety of other influences. Next time you see a play, take deliberate notice of the costuming choices before allowing yourself to be whisked away into whatever world is being created on stage by the playwright, actors and crew.

The exhibit utilizes the UCI Libraries' strong collection, both in the main circulating collections and in Special Collections & Archives, of Shakespeare studies. This collection includes, and overlaps with, costume studies. Additionally, the Special Collections and Archives department has a significant holding of Modjeska materials.

Special thanks to the Claire Trevor School of the Arts, Drama Department and designers for loaning student and faculty designed costumes and sketches to the Libraries for the run of this exhibit.

*Costuming the Leading Ladies of Shakespeare* was curated by **Joshua Hutchinson**, Cataloging and Metadata Librarian and **Scott Stone**, Research Librarian for Performing Arts; and was designed by **Jen Betonio**, **Allan Helmick** and **Sylvia Irving**.

The exhibit opening, held on April 5, 2018, featured a keynote presentation by **Marcy Froehlich**, Professor and Costume Designer, Drama Department at UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts.

I hope you enjoy the exhibit and will invite others to come view it!

Lorelei Tanji  
University Librarian



Marcy Froehlich

Costumes are not just clothing worn by an actor; instead, they are powerful visual aids that tell stories and create magical new worlds on the stage and in the mind's eye. Just as theatre has changed through time, costuming trends have likewise evolved. This exhibit narrows the focus on historical costuming trends to examine how women's costumes in Shakespeare's plays have both changed and stayed the same throughout the past 150 years. It uses notable actress Helena Modjeska to shine a spotlight on late 19th century costuming and then deeply delves into the world of costumes designed and used at UCI throughout its entire history.

Several significant UCI Libraries collections, as well as the wealth of resources available within the UCI community, are represented in this exhibit. Special Collections and Archives is home to



Helena Modjeska as Ophelia. Circa 1870s -1880s.

several collections of archival material such as photographs, books, and even the occasional piece of costume from Helena Modjeska's life and career. Other materials are drawn from the archives of distinguished UCI faculty emeriti including Professors Clayton Garrison, as well as from our general theatre and art materials in the circulating collections.

UCI students and faculty have designed, created, and worn many creative costumes throughout the history of the Drama Department, both for productions and in fulfillment of requirement for courses, some of which are displayed in this exhibit. We are fortunate to be able to display two dresses worn by Ophelia in the 2016 New Swan Shakespeare Festival production of Hamlet. Ophelia's descent into madness throughout the course of the play is visually traced visual materials such as costume renderings, production posters, photographs, and classic pieces of art portraying her.

This exhibit presents a narrative about the importance of costuming in the creation of characters played by women in productions of Shakespeare, as well as how these costuming choices reflect society. Whether playing female or male roles, actresses tell stories not just with words but also with their costumes.



Concept Design of Gertrude for the New Swan Theater production of Hamlet by designer Kathryn Wilson '06.