

Basic Detail Report

Superman Costume from the Television

Series "Adventures of Superman"

Date

c. 1954

Primary Maker

Adventures of Superman

Medium

wool (hair); cotton (textile); silk (textile); felt; leather

Description

.A Shirt with attached cape .B Trunks .C Belt .D. .E Boots .F Tights This custom-made three-piece costume is steel blue and red with the Superman insignia 'S' in red and yellow. The upper body piece is made of a blue cotton wool knit, with Western Costume label typed '9-2020-1 George Reeves' and sewn into the crotch strap. The central 'S' logo measures 9 x 7 in., is made of red and yellow felt and is sewn to the front of the garment. Attached to the shoulders of the upper body piece is a crimson red silk cape gathered at the shoulders and hanging to the floor. An identical Superman 'S' logo is sewn on the cape. The costume also has a pair of red wool knit briefs, with yellow leather belt having a hook-and-eye closure. The matching wool-knit tights have a black elastic waistband with Western Costume label typed '2305-1 George Reeves' and handwritten 'Wet (2),' indicating that this costume may have been used for scenes requiring water. Integral stirrups are sewn onto the ankles. The costume also comes with a pair of red suede reproduction boots, perfectly matched to the originals, which complete the costume. This costume comes from the very first television series featuring Superman, and was worn by none other than George Reeves, who many consider to be the very best Superman to ever play the part. Comes with full textile report prepared by an independent textile conservator who examined the garment in May 2003. Most notably, the conservator states that "all pieces were constructed at the same time and are of a similar age. The presence of polyester yarns definitely dates the costume, at the earliest, into the early to mid-1950s." Judging by this date estimate, one can easily conclude that this costume was made for the latter part of the series, when it was filmed in color. "The Adventures of Superman" aired 1952-1957. Comes with a letter of provenance from Henry Alvarez of Alvarez Wax Models. Alvarez states that this costume was originally donated in the 1960s by Western Costume Co. to his colleague, wax modeler Katherine Stubergh, who created the wax figures for Sid Gruman for display at the Chinese Theater in Hollywood.

Dimensions

Overall (HWD) (cape): 16 1/4 x 51 3/16 in. (41.275 x 130.017 cm) Overall (HWD) (shirt, across shoulders): 21 1/16 x 29 1/8 in. (53.499 x 73.978 cm) Overall (HWD) (trunks): 14 3/16 x 31 11/16 in. (36.036 x

80.486 cm) Overall (HWD) (belt): 38 9/16 × 1 3/4 in. (97.949 × 4.445 cm) Overall (HWD) (boot, footprint):
11 3/4 × 3 5/16 × 14 1/2 in. (29.845 × 8.414 × 36.83 cm) Overall (HWD) (tights, inseam): 31 1/2 × 34 5/8
in. (80.01 × 87.948 cm) Overall (HWD) (tights): 43 11/16 in. (110.966 cm)