

TEXTILE TERM

The Pink Suits from “The Great Gatsby”

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1a. The original novel of “The Great Gatsby” was first published in 1925 and written by Francis Scott Fitzgerald. In the 1920’s, America had just come out of World War I. After years of suffering from the war, Americans felt entitled to concentrate their energy in something positive and finding pleasure and comfort to forget about what they just went through. So they created the Jazz age movement, which served as a way for them to enjoy life. By 1925, the novel became one of the greatest literary documents in America, in which the economy and prosperity in the nation rose. By writing “The Great Gatsby”, Fitzgerald attempted to address his conflicting feelings about the Jazz Age. In 1974, the novel was converted into a movie and later in 2013, an adaptation of the same movie was created.

1b. Both actors, Robert Redford from “The Great Gatsby” in 1974 and Leonardo DiCaprio from “The Great Gatsby” in 2013, used two similar pink suits. The pink suit from 1974 looked casual because of the way that Redford left its tuxedo open. In the other hand, the pink linen suit from 2013, which is also slimcut, looked more dressy (Differences will be shown in the costume illustrations)

1c. The garment created in 1974 was called the pink suit. Although, the garment created in 2013 was very similar to the one from 1974, they called it the pink linen suit because the designer added some white vertical lines to the suit. Both garments in the movies represent the wealth and the romanticism of Jay Gatsby.

1d. The costume designer of the pink suit from 1974 was Theoni V. Aldredge. She was a Greek-American screen and stage costume designer. She is known for her work and participation in *Ghostbusters* in 1984, *Network* in 1976 and *Addams Family Values* in 1993 and for her designs for musicals. In 1961, she won her first Tony and Oscar nomination. She also won Drama Desk Awards for Outstanding Costume Design for a 1970 production of *Peer Gynt*. She was chosen to design the costumes of the “The Great Gatsby” when the film’s producer was changed and the film’s director Jack Clayton hired her to make all costumes within two months.

The pink linen suit costume designer from “The Great Gatsby” in 2013 was Catherine Martin. She is an Australian film producer and an interior, costume and production designer. She have won 5 BAFTAs, a Tony award and four Oscars and has been inducted into the Rodeo Drive “Walk of Style” for her magnificent work and participation in the film “The Great Gatsby”. Catherine Martin became the costume designer for this film because she was married to Baz Luhrmann, director of “The Great Gatsby” and she always loved and dreamed up the looks for the movie. In fact, The Brooks Brothers partnered Catherine Martin for the men’s costumes.

2i. Most of the parts of Catherine Martin’ s pink linen suit were made of silk and linen. For example, the white and pale pink shirt as well as the maroon and pink tie and pocket square were made from silk. The pants and tuxedo were made of linen. In addition, the front and cuff buttons of the pink suit were made of white plastic.

2ii. Both suits were hand made and were woven.

2iii. No technology went into making the garments.

2iv. Both suits were pink. However there are some differences between the two of them. The pink suit that Redford wore in 1974 was a solid pink suit with a single-breasted jacket that has 2-button front, a welted breast pocket, large notch lapels, flapped hip pockets 3-button cuffs and a ventless rear. His trousers were pleated with a lower rise and held with a white belt. His vest had a low-fastening double-breasted front with wide, sweeping peak lapels and a 6×3 button front. He wore a white dressy shirt and a blue printed silk tie. In the other hand, the pink suit that DiCaprio wore in 2013 was a pink pinstripe linen suit with a single-breasted that has a low-fastening 3-button front, slanted breast and hip pockets, moderate peak lapels, single rear vent and 2-button turnback cuff. His trousers have a flat front, high rise, and frogmouth pockets. He wears a maroon and pink striped silk tie and a white and pink striped shirt with button cuffs. His vest is a single-breasted 5-button version with a notched bottom.

2v. Both Catherine Martin and The Brook Brothers used linen fiber to make the suit breathable in the intense summer weather when the film was taking place. Another benefit of the linen fiber is that repels dirt.

3a. Although in 1974, pink was considered as a girly and vulgar color in a way, F. Scott Fitzgerald, author of *The Great Gatsby*, decided to assign the pink suit to Jay Gatsby because it showed the intense romanticism that lives inside Jay Gatsby's heart. In other words, he wore that suit because he loved Daisy (the person he's in love with in the film) and think it's the best suit that he got for the special occasion. Another reason why the pink suit was selected is because the material was soft linen, which was perfect for the day's extreme heat in the movie.

5 Illustrations of the two suits. The first one is from “The Great Gatsby” in 1974 and the second one is from “The Great Gatsby” in 2013



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