Alexandria Lewis-Hawthorne

The performance garment of choice is Barbara Karinska's "Dewdrop", made and designed in 1954. Karinska has influenced many with her beautiful costumes and had a sharp understanding of dancers' needs and catered to them within her designs. One example being her cutting side panels on a bodice to allow room for a dancer to breathe more freely (McPherson, n.d.).

The garment is a soft pink and evokes femininity with its satin bodice that appears to be delicate and airy as well as smooth and shiny as the light reflects it. The tutu skirt displays depth, with its layers of a neutral, beige tulle more layers of a different pink (Sidell, 2019). The garment has an hourglass silhouette with its cinched waist. The silhouette is the outline of the entire garment, and it is often called form (Principles & Elements: Aspects Of Design, 2020). There is repetition as dewdrop crystals are seen draped across both the top and bottom of the bodice and are all evenly spaced. There's also rhythm because the eyes gravitate towards each crystal and each rhinestone intricately placed throughout the skirt. The costume has a theme of jewels. There is line throughout the skirt because of the pleats drawing eyes down to the legs. The line going inwards on the bodice helps the appearance of a slimmer waist. There is a contrast juxtaposition between the mature and sexy look of the bodice and the innocence of the tutu. The length of the tutu is mid length, different from the short classic tutu.

The garment embodies the period of the 1950s with its femininity through its soft pink color, cinched waist, and fluffy skirt. The role of women took a step back during the 1950s.

During WWII, women gained more independence while men were away, which was rare before the war (1950s Fashion History: Women's Clothing., 2016). It was not until men returned home

from war, that women stopped working and assumed their positions again as housewives. Women began to spend a lot of money on getting dressed (2016). Women started focusing more on their appearance. Women who lived through the hardships of WWII and the Great Depression were now able to afford new styles and embraced it all (Monet, 2020). During this time, economic gains provided more comfortable income for some and the society became consumer driven. Also with television becoming more popular, fashion icons such as Audrey Hepburn inspired beauty ideals such as the hourglass silhouette. Housewives seen on television inspired women's effort in appearance even though they remained home to clean.

Ballet has influenced many in the fashion industry. One is reminded of ballet through many garments such as formal gowns with tulle, a satin bodice, leggings or flats. All things that ballerinas have worn made its way into fashion.



Figure 1. This photo provided by The Museum at FIT shows, foreground, "Dewdrop" costume from The Nutcracker and background, left to right: "Rubies" and "Emeralds" costumes from Jewels, that are part of the new exhibit at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. The exhibit features 90 items, including ballet costumes, high fashion and athletic wear, or what we call today "athleisure.", by Eileen Costa/The Museum at FIT (2020)

1950s Fashion History: Women's Clothing. (2016). Retrieved from https://vintagedancer.com/1950s/1950s-fashion-history/

Figure 1. This photo provided by The Museum at FIT shows, foreground, "Dewdrop" costume from The Nutcracker and background, left to right: "Rubies" and "Emeralds" costumes from Jewels, that are part of the new exhibit at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. The exhibit features 90 items, including ballet costumes, high fashion and athletic wear, or what we call today "athleisure." New exhibit examines ballet's lasting influence on fashion, by Eileen Costa/The Museum at FIT, 2020,

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