

Fashion in the World of Netflix

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The influence of fashion has been seen through various forms throughout history from the runway, films and television, magazines, advertising and even the streets of everyday life. Recently, two of the most popular shows with a great showcase of fashion and dress include the Netflix series “The Crown” and “The Queen’s Gambit.” During this digital age and hard time due to the pandemic, everything has been focused a lot on social media platforms and websites. The Brooklyn Museum has created an online exhibit in collaboration with Netflix to showcase some of the costumes worn on both series. It was curated by the senior curator for fashion and material culture at the Brooklyn Museum, Matthew Yokobosky. The exhibition is online, and it’s displayed in a big room as if you were in the actual museum. There are also some pieces of art and props displayed that relate to the shows.

When you enter the website, you can see all of the mannequins lined up in one big hall room. The costumes are divided, on one side there are the costumes worn by characters in “The Queen’s Gambit” while on the other side there are outfits worn by characters in “The Crown”. The costume designers are Gabriele Binder for The Queen’s Gambit and Amy Roberts for The Crown. It’s an interactive exhibition since you can click on the mannequins and read about the garments or watch video clips of where in the series they were worn. Each costume has their own name, information on how the garment was designed and what textile they are made of, close up photos of the details and some contain video clips. This exhibition is not a traditional historical exhibition because they’re not in a historical chronological order but in a time-based chronology depending on the show.

For the side of the Queen’s Gambit the first garment you see is one from Beth, the main character’s childhood and towards the middle and back, you see her outfits from her journey as a chess player and everyday life. The same thing on the side of The Crown, you first start off with

an outfit Queen Elizabeth wore as she stepped into her role as monarch. This side features important outfits worn by The Queen and other characters like Princess Margaret, Margaret Thatcher and Princess Diana. Overall, the exhibit's underlying theme is about women and the position of power that they hold. What really brings the exhibit together is the fact that they feature outfits that are worn during an important event as well as outfits that have an emotional attachment to the characters that make them feel comfortable, classy and elegant. In the Queen's Gambit, some of the outfits featured include the dress Beth wore when she arrived at the orphanage which is one that her mom made for her. At the back of the exhibit, they feature a high end red dress that she wears to meet her friend which makes her feel comfortable and elegant. On the side of "The Crown" there's important dresses that have emotional attachment to the characters like Queen Elizabeth's trooping of the color uniform that she wears for the celebration. Princess Diana's iconic wedding dress is also featured, and it took about 600 hours to create.

This exhibit is focused more on the artistic progress in the creation and wear of the garments rather than the commercial. It's a way of showing the audience and fans of the shows the creative progress of what it took to create these garments and help bring the characters to life. Along with the garments the exhibit showcases pieces of artwork that relate to the shows, props and even close ups of the textiles used to create the clothing. Some of the outfits feature the original sketches drawn by the costume designers as well as video clips of them speaking of what it took to create them. The exhibit really educates those who are interested to see how the design process became about as well as how much labor went into creating them. An example of this includes Princess Diana's wedding dress which took about four weeks to create along with help from David Emmanuel, who is the original designer of Diana's real wedding dress. The Australia

tour dresses worn by Diana were also harder to create in terms of finding the right fabric. In order to create the dresses as similar as possible, the costume designers had to find similar fabric which became harder to do since as time moved on, so did the use of certain fabrics. Due to the time period the dresses were worn, it was also harder to find the exact color of the fabrics. During the 1980s, the fabrics worn by Princess Diana during the tour were silky and light which led to the process of finding vintage fabric and taking them through a dying process to match them as best they could.

One specific outfit that stuck out to me was the Australia tour two piece worn by Emma Corrin as Princess Diana. This is a 1983 floral silk suit with pin tuck blouse tailored by Sue Crawshaw, paired with a hat. Most of the outfits made for Princess Diana on the show were based off her real-life outfits, especially the color schemes that were used. The colors used for her outfits include shades of red, black, purple and green. According to the description of the outfit, they used these colors for Diana and not the other royals to emphasize on the viewpoint of “her vs. them.” Since Diana was a person who didn’t follow all royal rules through her actions and wardrobe it created this viewpoint on her that she didn’t blend in with the royal family. Diana was for the people and she did a lot of things to help others while staying true to herself and not being absorbed into the royal family customs. She was loved by the people from all over the world and they showcased her personality and charisma through the recreation of her attire. In the show you see her in this outfit as she gets out of the plane and greets everyone with a wave as she is surrounded by photographers. This specific outfit relates to contemporary fashion due to the details it contains, the pattern that is used as well as the silhouette it creates. The blouse has a short collar with button detailing which can be seen worn today for formal attire. The floral pattern is also something we can see in contemporary fashion especially during the spring and

summer time. The two-piece outfit is paired with a belt at the waist which creates a snatched waist and hourglass silhouette. The bottom of the dress has a nice drapery that flows down and provides for comfortable movement. The role this garment plays in the exhibit is very outstanding and it draws the viewer's eyes due to its pattern and color, which makes it stand out. We can learn a lot from this outfit because of the way it pops out, you can tell that this dress was one worn by Princess Diana and not someone else from the royal family.

Overall, fashion can be used to represent many things and make people feel powerful, but it can also be seen as a work of art in order to create something impactful. The wardrobe used in both *The Queen's Gambit* and *The Crown* strongly represent how the use of fashion creates huge statements in people's life's and also can be used to showcase different emotions, expressions and status. This exhibit is successful and worth taking a look for fun, for educational purposes and also to admire the process of creation and execution. I would recommend for others to take a look at this exhibit since it did enhance my understanding as fashion as a form of art.