

# SPARKLE

By Tatyiana Flood (1976) & Destiny Gilmore (2012)

# Context Of Film

## **1976 Film:**

- ❖ **Directed by Sam O' Steen (Imbd, n.,d.)**
- ❖ **This 1976 musical was inspired by The Supremes, a 1960's female singing group of Motown Records (Benjaminson, 2007).**
- ❖ **Three sister's, Lonette McKee (Sister), Irene Cara (Sparkle), and Dwan Smith (Dolores) strived to turn a dream into reality during the 1950's in the ghettos of Harlem (Imdb, 2012). Their worlds are flipped upside down as hope and dreams of becoming stars begun to dwindle resulting in the addiction and death of the eldest sister, Lonette Mckee.**

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# Context Of Film

## **2012 Film:**

- ❖ **Directed by Salim Akil**
- ❖ **This film was also inspired by The Supremes of Motown Records as well as a remake of the 1976 film directed by Sam O' Steen (Imdb, 2012).**
- ❖ **This classic musical film consisted of more than tragic and great performance but of style and glam (Imdb,2012). Though not the main character, Carmen Ejogo(Sister), managed to captivate viewers with her dazzling beauty, snappy attitude and her glamorous wardrobe (Imdb, 2012). Her obsession of becoming a star resulting in her becoming a domestic violence victim and soon landing in prison (Imdb,2012).**

# Introduction of Garments



## 2012 Film

- ❖ The garment had more cut-outs than you see right there (Carter, 2015).
- ❖ Because they were doing so much movement in the routine, Carmen felt it was going to be really hard to hold the pieces of the dress in place (Essence, n.d).

Figure 2 MOVIE REVIEW N.p Sparkle (2012)

# Introduction of Garments

## 1976 Film

- ❖ Red Mermaid tail gown (Imdb, 2006).
- ❖ Worn in the scene where Sister is performing “Hooked on Your Love” written by Curtis Mayfield (Youtube, 2013).

*Figure 1: Imdb. (n.d.) Sparkle (1976)*



# Introduction of Garments

2012 Film

- ❖ **Black Sequin Gown**
  - ❖ **Creative to show that Sister was more contrastive than her sisters.**
- It was created to show the glamour and fame amongst the groups**



**Figure 2: Miranda. (3 March 2014) "Pragmatic Obots Unite." M  
American Costume**



# History Behind the Gowns

## 1976 Film

- ❖ **Also known as fishtail dress (Zuriack, 2013).**
- ❖ **Dated to have originated in the Golden Era (Zuriack, 2013).**
- ❖ **Costume created in 1976 but was designed to reflect the performance gowns of The Supremes in the 50's.**

# History Behind the Gowns

## 2012 Film

- ❖ Evening gown which is a long flowing dress usually worn to a formal affair (*Wiki*, 2015).
- ❖ Originated in the 15th century with the rise of the Burgundian court and its fashionable and fashion-conscious ruler (Queens vintage, 2012).
- ❖ Showed a glamour and beauty from the flow and texture of the gown.

# Costume Designer

**Film 1976**

**Daniel Paredes**

- ❖ **Born on December 21, 1946 in California (Imdb, n.d).**
- ❖ **His start at designing was styling windows and displays for Bendel's and Bloomingdales in New York City (Imdb,n.d).**
- ❖ **He entered the industry around the 1970's collaborating with film designers such as Deborah Goodrich and Susan Barnes (Imdb, n.d.)**

# Costume Designer

**Ruth Carter**

**Film 2012**

- ❖ **Grew up in Springfield, Massachusetts.**
- ❖ **She first started as an intern in the costume shop at Stage West and did everything from crafts to sewing and working backstage.**
- ❖ **In 1986, she met movie producer Spike Lee. He generously hired her to help work on his new film, "School Daze".**



**Figure 3: Haili Z(2013)The Butler(N.p)**

# Natural, Cellulosic, Non-Cellulosic

## 1976 Film

- **Polyester: manufactured fiber: Non-Cellulosic**(Encyclopedia of Textiles, 1980).
- **Comes from the combination of coal, petroleum, air and water** (Encyclopedia of Textiles 1980).
- **Primarily created through a chemical reaction of an alcohol and an acid** (Encyclopedia of Textiles, 1980).

## 2012 Film

- ❖ **Sequin is a non cellulose fiber because it is man made after the fabric is finished**
- ❖ **The sequins are generally 6mm (1/4in) in diameter and made from polyester or cotton**(sewing Technology,.n.d.)
- ❖ **Sequin made out of plastic so you're not able to put heat to it.**

# Construction of Gown

## 1976 Film

- **The body of the dress (the halter neckline, the front and back bodice and the fitted A-line skirt):constructed using sewing machine.**
- **The tulle/tail of dress hand stitched together to keep alignment of the many layers, then machine stitched directly onto the body of the dress.**
- **The silk ribbon:hand stitched. Tacked around circumference of the tulle and then neatly tied into a bow.**

# Construction of Gown

## 2012 Film

- ❖ **The of the sequin finishing is when the plastics are being embroidered onto the finish fabric.**
- ❖ **They can be bought loose or pre-stitched in long strands or appliquéd figures ready to be applied as trim.**
- ❖ **Often they are faceted to better catch and reflect light.**

# Construction of Gown

## 2012 Film

- ❖ **To convey this garment Ruth Crater used a three-pronged stitch.**
- ❖ **When doing a Three pronged Stitch it is three stitches radiate from each hole.**
- ❖ **Sequence is mainly used for evening gowns.**

**Figure 4 : Pinterest(2015) N.p Sparkle**





# Making of the Fabric

## 1976 Film

- **long chain synthetic polymer combined with at least 85% of ester (“itextiles” ,2015).**
- **Using the Melting Process(Cheap and Easy) (“itextiles” ,2015), turned into a cloth.**
- **Filament yarns( multiple long fibers twisted together)or Spun yarns( fibers are cut short and then combined and spun together )(schwartz.eng.auburn.edu 2015).**
- **Blended with other fibers (ex. Rayon) which keeps the fabric resistant and its shape.**
- **Weaves and then finished to improve the quality for consumer usage (schwartz.eng.auburn.edu 2015).**

# Making of the Fabric

## 2012 Film

- ❖ **The sequin fabric is a filament that can be manufactured long.**
- ❖ **They are often round shapes but may also be available in other shapes as well .**
- ❖ **Sequin fabric can be made of materials like gems, crystals or metals but today its frequently made of plastic.**
- ❖ **With sequin many individuals usually look for it because of its shimmery look.**

# Physical Properties

## 1976 Film: Polyester

- **Color is white (“itextiles” ,2015).**
- **Thermoplastic fiber its crosssection, size, luster and texture are easily altered through Melting Process (“itextiles” ,2015).**
- **The characteristics based on the natural fibers manufactures would like it to imitate (“itextiles” ,2015).**
- **A commonly used crosssection is circular (“itextiles” ,2015). A trilobal crosssection is used when making carpets. A multichannel crosssection enhances wickability (“itextiles” ,2015).**
- **The size of Polyester fibers varies, but microfibers are used for several end uses (“itextiles” ,2015).**

# Physical Properties

## 2012 Film: Sequin

- ❖ **Created for a finished garment**
- ❖ **Sequin finishing : Transparent, Satin, Silver Lined, Luster, Matte, and Metallic**
- ❖ **Sequin sizes can come in 4mm to 12mm and up, depending on the material used to create them.**
- ❖ **sequin Material type :Glass, Acrylic, Plastic, Crystal, Stone, Pearl, Coral, Gemstone, String**

# Mechanical Properties

## 1976 Film: Polyester

- **high abrasion resistant-fabric, may have pilling depending on blended fibers(“itextiles” ,2015).**
- **When heated, keeps shape preventing shrinkage or stretching (“itextiles” ,2015).**
- **High elongation.**
- **Its elastic recovery is only at low levels of elongation anything higher may not recover well (“itextiles” ,2015).**
- **The flexibility and drape of polyester depends on fiber structure.**
- **Excellent drapability causing it to bend easily (“itextiles” ,2015).**
- **High resiliency .**
- **The tenacity of Polyester is good and its staple and filament fibers are strong in strengths (Iqbal, 2008).**

# Mechanical Properties

## 2012 Film: Sequin

**Wrinkle recovery (Bad) . Removing the wrinkles from sequins is slightly more difficult, Since you cannot place an iron directly onto the sequins(Harwell,2011).**

- ❖ **Sequins on fabric need special washing attention to prevent damage and fading to the sequins, and to prevent unravelling of the thread ( Wikihow,2015).**
- ❖ **Depending on the fabric used you may not be able to stretch because of the the embroidered of the beads can pop.**

**Directions: wash with cold water ,do not dry clean, make sure it line dry and do not use bleach.**

# Conclusion

- ❖ Both 1976 and 2012 *Sparkle* was an inspirational film that consisted of garment of that managed to shine when it came to elegance and sex appeal. The Mermaid dress displayed in the 1976 film was selected due to the trends in the industry during that era. Since this movie was inspired by The Supremes, Daniel Parades based wardrobe and costume designs off of garments similar to the ones performed in by singing group. The gown was easily produced due to its manufactured features and able to maintain due to its customized physical and mechanical properties. Polyester possess characteristics that make it able to imitate natural fibers. These features result in this fiber containing high abrasion resistance, great elongation, high resiliency and flawless drapability. Polyester being able to blend and imitate natural fibers gives the industry a second option to a cheap and easy fiber. The 2012 remake of *Sparkle* featured a Sequin dress which was a renovated and advanced version of the 1976 film, Mermaid dress. This garment were used in the movie to show glamour amongst the three girls. Its physical properties and mechanical properties made this dress in expensive but yet hard to maintain or wear. Though both garments have many similar and different physical and mechanical properties both have been recognized as extravagant and elegant pieces.

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