

V&A Academy

# THE ART OF SET AND COSTUME DESIGN



# Introduction

This course will explore designing for film, television and theatre. It will examine the different techniques for each medium and how set and costume designers work together to create new worlds.

Set designers, art directors, set dressers and costume designers create everything that is seen on stage and screen. The environments imagined by the set designer is complemented by the characters defined by the costumes, and this collaboration creates a believable world.

This course focuses on the best practitioners across theatre, film and television. From the Ballets Russes, the Golden Age of Hollywood and long running series like The Crown, set and costume are essential tools of story-telling.

V&A Academy regular Keith Lodwick will be joined by Cathy Whitlock (Designs on Film: A Century of Hollywood Art Direction) and Emily Harris, V&A Curator of Film (TBC) and Jane Pritchard, V&A Curator of Dance. The course will end with a special interview with a leading industry professional.

# Information

Thursdays, 30th October to 27th November 2025, 14.00-16.30 Online.

Watch lecture recordings on demand, available at the end of each day, until Thursday 8th January.

## Your course leader

Keith Lodwick is a writer, curator and theatre and film historian. He is the former Curator of Theatre and Screen Arts at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. At the V&A, Keith was the assistant curator for the major exhibition Hollywood Costume (2012). He curated the exhibition Vivien Leigh: Public Faces, Private Lives, which toured the UK and co-curated Censored: Stage, Screen, Society (2019) for the Theatre & Performance galleries. Keith has contributed to a wide range of publications including The Bloomsbury Encyclopedia of Film and Television Costume Design (2025), George Hoyningen-Huene (Thames & Hudson 2024), DIVA (V&A, 2023), Studies in Costume and Performance (Bloomsbury 2021), Shoe Reels: The History and Philosophy of Footwear in Film (Edinburgh University Press 2021), Hollywood Costume (V&A, 2012) and Oliver Messel: In the Theatre of Design (Rizzoli 2010).

Keith has recently finished The Costume House: The Inside Story of Cosprop (Yale University Press) to accompany the exhibition Costume Couture: 60 Years of Cosprop at the Fashion and Textiles Museum in London.

*Note: V&A Academy programmes are subject to change without notice.*

## Week 1 – 30 October

- 13.50 Welcome and introduction
- 14.00 Introduction to Stage and Screen Design **Keith Lodwick**
- 15.30 Inside the Costume House: 60 Years of Cosprop **Keith Lodwick**

## **Week 2 – 6 November**

14.00    Designing for Stage **Keith Lodwick**

15.30    Design for Dance **Jane Pritchard, Curator of Dance, V&A**

## **Week 3 – 13 November**

14.00    Designing for Film **Keith Lodwick**

15.30    Hollywood Art Direction: A History **Cathy Whitlock, Author ‘  
Designs on Film: A Century of Hollywood Art Direction’**

## **Week 4 – 20 October**

14.00    Designing the Multi-Series Television Drama **Keith Lodwick**

15.30    Crafting The Crown V&A Curator **TBC**

## **Week 5 – 27 November**

14.00    Putting it Together **Keith Lodwick**

15.30    Q&A with **Vin Burnham, Costume Designer and Maker,  
Author Get Into Costume: Design, Styling, Construction  
and Supervision in Film, TV and Theatre**

**Notes:**