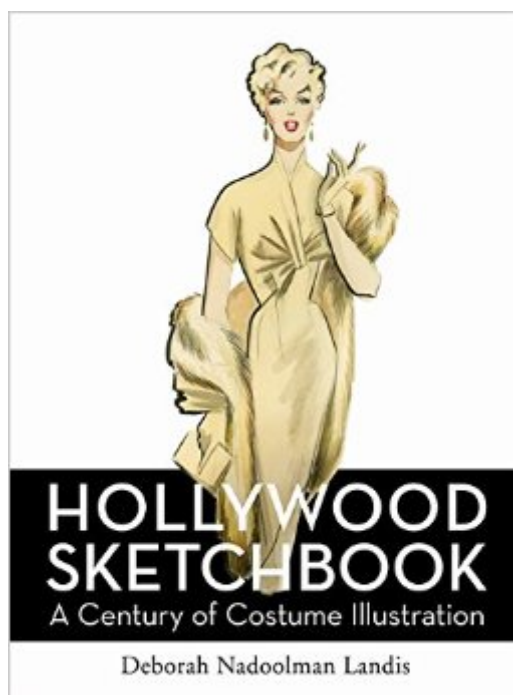


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# Hollywood Sketchbook: A Century Of Costume Illustration



## Synopsis

The very first book on the subject of costume illustration for the movies, *Hollywood Sketchbook*, contains over 500 previously unpublished drawings. More than just pretty pictures, each drawing provides a blueprint for the creation of a costume and a character. This gorgeous volume affords the viewer a rare peek inside the portfolios of a century of costume designers and illustrators including Theadora Van Runkle (*Bonnie and Clyde*, *The Godfather: Part II*), Piero Tosi (*The Leopard*, *Death in Venice*), and Travis Banton (*Scarlet Empress*, *Blonde Venus*). Academy Award-nominated costume designer Deborah Nadoolman Landis follows-up her acclaimed *Dressed: A Century of Hollywood Costume Design*, to showcase the artistry of costume illustrators and designers from silent film to today's blockbusters.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

First, let me say that anyone interested in film costume should buy this book. It is a wonderful reference source for the work of sketch artists and designs from the earliest years of the industry to current films. The sketches are stupendous, ranging from rough sketch styles of Harold Grieve for "Ben-Hur" to the perfectly finished drawings of Anthea Sylbert and Theadora Van Runkle. It suffers however, from a dependence on earlier reference works that are incomplete, and provides little or no context for the illustrations so gloriously included. For instance, in the section on Adrian, it is claimed that the designer and the studio head ( it does not say whether that head is Thalberg or Mayer) each made \$75,000 a year. Although simple logic will tell you that you never get to make as much money as your boss, before 1936 Thalberg made \$500,000 a year and after 1936 Mayer

made a million a year. Adrian never had anything more than a year's contract with a year's option until 1938 when he was signed to a 3 year contract and made under \$400 when he started with M-G-M in July of 1928 and at the most made \$1000 a week when he left the company in December of 1941. Although rare sketches from "Two Faced Woman" are published here for the first time (with the exception of the Greek-inspired gown which has been in several publications since FIDM's "American Fashion" in 1974) it is not pointed out that the black satin quilted costume from "Two-Faced Woman" is that of Constance Bennett and the Greek design for Garbo. Given that the wardrobe problems of this film led to Adrian's departure from the studio after 13 years, this is unfortunate. The context there is everything.

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