



Wednesday 25 November 2009

Welcome to a bumper issue of Midweek Moments. As well as our usual columns like Show and Tell and Wardrobe Mistress, you'll also get the goss on the annual quilting boot camp that was held in the Hunter Valley (in sweltering conditions) last weekend. Enjoy.

The Great 2009 Quilting Boot Camp
[Click here to read the goss
and see the photos.](#)



Wardrobe Mistress

The life of legendary Hollywood costume designer, Edith Head.

Episode 5 - "And the winner is..."

After years of lobbying from industry stakeholders, in 1949 The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences had finally inaugurated the Academy award for Costume Design although Edith Head was inexplicably overlooked in its first year. However, she was soon to more than make up for this.

For many years after the introduction of the Costume Design category, black and white movies and colour movies were nominated separately. In 1950 Head won her very first Oscar in the black and white movie category for her work in *The Heiress*, starring Olivia de Havilland. However, even more impressive was the following year when she won the Oscar for costume design in both the black and white and colour categories. At that time it was almost unheard of for the same person to win more than one award in the same year, so Head was already rewriting the rules in her own terms.

The black and white movie she won for in 1951 was the Bette Davis classic, *All About Eve*, which still remains one of the most popular and well known movies from the 'classic' era, and contains the famous line; "Fasten your seatbelts, it's going to be a bumpy night". Davis' most famous frock in the movie was a dark burgundy off-the-shoulder, full length cocktail dress (pictured) and widely considered to be one of Head's masterpieces. The colour movie Head garnered her other award that year for was the Cecil B. DeMille biblical epic *Sampson and Delilah*, which only served to underscore Head's versatile range.



From All About Eve (l to r), Anne Baxter, Bette Davis wearing one of Head's masterpieces, a very young and unknown Marilyn Monroe and George Sanders.

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The following year she won again in the black and white category with A Place in the Sun, then again in 1954 for Roman Holiday. However in 1955 she struck controversy when she was nominated for and won for the Audrey Hepburn movie Sabrina, even though most of Hepburn's outfits in the film were not designed by Head at all, but by Hubert de Givenchy. Because the costumes were sewn in the costume department at Paramount that Head was actually in charge of, it was felt that Head deserved the nomination instead of de Givenchy. Head had no qualms at accepting the Oscar for someone else's work and the episode remains one of the most controversial in her entire career.

Tune in next week...

New Fabric - Tried and True

We have a great range of colours available in a new range of Fabric called Tried and True for \$25.50 per metre, click on the picture to view the fabrics.



Show and Tell

Show us the item and tell us the story

Peggy Mansfield – helping to tie the knot

What was your inspiration for this quilt?

I made it for my son and his fiancée who are getting married next week. As my (almost) daughter-in-law has spent a lot of time doing charity work in Africa, I made the pattern up to look tribal. The colours are African and it has a bit of a grass pattern.



What about the fabric?

The main fabric is Aboriginal, which is also fitting as she is very much an advocate for Aboriginal rights as well. It has red, beige and green with a bit of black and some brown that looks like tiny dot paintings.

What else did you do when making the quilt?

Well my son loves Celtic knots so I hand appliquéd about 20 Celtic knots around the border. Then I realised the Celtic knots were also significant as they're about to tie the knot. The corners of the Celtic knots have little fishes on them, which is also symbolic as they're both devoted Christians.

How long did it take you to make the quilt?

I started in May and just finished it last week, so that's about six months.

Have you made many other quilts before this one?

I've probably made over 50 quilts of all different sizes over the last 22 years. I've been sewing since I was six years old so it's pretty much in my blood.

Til next week!

The Blueberries Team.

