



Wednesday 9 December 2009

Welcome to your Midweek Moments. As we move further into the final month of the year and that crazy whirlpool of Christmas shopping, end-of-year get-togethers, parties, work lunches and the beginning of summer, don't forget to take a quiet moment out of the madness to sit down with a cup of tea (or perhaps something stronger) and give yourself a little "me" time. Your Midweek Moments is just right for that little moment of informed relaxation. Enjoy.

Wardrobe Mistress

The life of legendary Hollywood costume designer, Edith Head.

Episode 7 - The Universal Years

After 44 years and an astonishing 672 movies, Edith Head finally left Paramount in March 1967 when the studio was sold, and took up residence as the head of the Costume Department at Universal Studios. She would remain with Universal for 14 years until her death in the early 1980s.

With the passing of the decades, production of the traditional studio-based feature films had gradually declined, as had the elaborate costume dramas that had been such a perfect fit for Head's unique talent and style. However, there were still some further accolades in store for her.

Most notably among these was for her work on 1973's *The Sting* (pictured), a caper film set in the 1930s and starring Robert Redford and Paul Newman. The film was phenomenally successful, winning seven Academy Awards, including Best Costume Design, which was Head's eighth, and final, Oscar. It was also her first award for working on a film where she outfitted only male stars and was the first time the Academy Award for Costume Design went to a film with no female lead.

Some other well known films that Head worked on while at Universal was the musical *Sweet Charity* in 1969, starring a young Shirley MacLaine, and *Airport* the following year, which was the very first of the large-scale blockbuster disaster movies that were to become so popular throughout the decade. She followed this up seven years later with *Airport '77*, about a luxury jet that crashes into the Bermuda Triangle and sinks underwater. This genre was a far cry from the sumptuous and detailed period outfits Head had produced back in the '30s and '40s, and being 1977, shoulder pads and chunky jewellery were starting to become popular both on and off the screen.



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An unusual highlight of Head's career occurred in the late 1970s when she was approached by the United States Coast Guard and asked to design a uniform for female employees, owing to the rapidly increasing number of women in their ranks. The Coast Guard was so impressed with her work she was presented with the Meritorious Public Service Award, something that Head claimed she was as proud of as any of her eight Oscars.

Next week... Closing Credits – the final episode

Jelly Rolls Discounted - A Great Gift Idea!

We have marked down these Jelly Rolls to \$50. They would make a great gift for someone and we can ship directly to anyone of your choosing. The discount is available til 24th December 2009 or until stocks last. Order [online](#) or visit the shop.

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Birdie Was \$70.00 Now \$50.00	

Show and Tell

Show us the item and tell us the story

Kerrie Butler - raiding the stash

What was your inspiration for this quilt?

It was a pattern by Monica Poole. I had a lot of different fabrics of different colours but not enough of each colour to make something big on its own, so I put it all together when I made this quilt.



Did you customise the quilt in any way when you were making it?

Yes, instead of the rick-rack I used different ribbons and laces. They were other things in my stash that I didn't know what to do with. I really raided the stash for this quilt.

How long did it take you to make?

About one week, as I'm generally fairly quick.

How long have you been sewing?

I've been sewing for seven years and I've made about four dozen quilts in that time. That's not including the quilts I've made with the Calik Care group, which is a group of ladies who make quilts for Westmead Children's Hospital. We're always on the lookout for donations of fabrics, cottons, wadding and batting.

Look out for a full article of the Calik Care group in the last Midweek Moments of the year in two week's time.

Til next week!

The Blueberries Team.