

# Masquerade – Phantom of the Opera

Presented by Philip Gust at the BayCon 2012 Historical Masquerade



This costume is based the one worn by on Lon Chaney Sr. as Red Death in the only surviving Technicolor sequence, Masquerade, from the silent film version of ‘The Phantom of the Opera’ (1925).

It is constructed of red velvet and satin and has sequined trim similar to the original costume. This is the first sewing project I have completed on my own. I made the staff prop carried by the character and the hat from buckram and velvet with a satin lining. The tights, shoes, teeth and both facial masks were purchased, but the wig was made for me at home by my partner. The make-up is my own, based on the photos from the film.

The foam latex full facial prosthetic used during performance is one of a limited number of copies created for the Universal Studios ‘Tribute to Lon Chaney Sr.’ in 2004, and is based on his Phantom character makeup.

Chaney spends much of his screen time during this sequence wrapped in the extremely long cape or cloak that is part of his costume. It is possible to see the elaborate sleeves and at times there are opportunities to see the v-neck area of his doublet and the undershirt with its ruffled high collar.

In 2004, a back up costume that was not used in the production came up for auction. I used photos of that costume as a guide to the basic style – separate pieces - and the particular red color.



Alternate costume. Red velvet doublet and shorts with almond-shaped motifs with red puffed fabric. Velvet stand-collar cape. United Costumers label has handwritten in black ink "Lon Chaney".







