



## Big Screen Classics

# The Grand Budapest Hotel

### The Grand Budapest Hotel

Directed by: Wes Anderson

©: TGBH LLC, Twentieth Century Fox Film

Corporation, TSG Entertainment Finance LLC

Production Company: American Empirical

Made in association with: TSG Entertainment

With the support of: DFFF - Deutscher

Filmförderfonds, MDM - Mitteldeutsche

Medienförderung, MFG Filmförderung Baden

Württemberg, MBB - Medienboard Berlin-

Brandenburg

Presented by: Fox Searchlight Pictures

in association with: Indian Paintbrush,

Babelsberg Studios

Executive Producers: Molly Cooper, Charlie

Woebcken, Christoph Fisser, Henning Molfenter

Produced by: Wes Anderson, Scott Rudin,

Steven M. Rales, Jeremy Dawson

Co-producer: Jane Frazer

Unit Production Manager: Miki Emmrich

Location Manager: Klaus Grosse Darrelmann

Post-production Supervisor: Gisela Evert

2nd Unit Director: Martin Scali

1st Assistant Director: Josh Robertson

Script Supervisor: Alexandra Torterotot

US Casting: Douglas Aibel

UK Casting: Jina Jay

German Casting: Simone Bär, Alexandra Montag

French Casting: Antoinette Boulat

Screenplay: Wes Anderson

Story: Wes Anderson, Hugo Guinness

Inspired by the writings of: Stefan Zweig

Director of Photography: Robert Yeoman

Steadicam Operator: Sanjay Sami

Special Photography Unit: Roman Coppola

Visual Effects: Look Effects

Special Effects Supervisors: Uli Nefzer, Gerd Nefzer

Editor: Barney Pilling

Production Designer: Adam Stockhausen

Supervising Art Director: Gerald Sullivan

Lead Art Director: Stephan Gessler

Art Director: Steve Summersgill

Set Designer: Josef Brandl

Costume Designer: Milena Canonero

Assistant Costume Designer: Raffaella Fantasia

Assistant Costume Designer (London):

Robert Worley

Costume Supervisor: Patricia Colin

Costume Workshop Supervisor: Marco Piemontese

Milliner: Luca Canfora

Costume Assistant/Researcher: Patrizia Barbera

Costume Assistant/Buyer: Stefanie Bruhn

Costume Assistant/Dyer: Elena Pavinato

Military Costume Assistant: François-Louis Delfolie

Costume Assistant/Dressers: Marta Grassi,

You-Jin Seo, Simone Zimmermann

Costume Department Coordinator:

Federica Giorgetti

Costume Assistants (Rome): Andrea Sorrentino,

Carolina Olcesi

Fabric Designer (Rome): Chiara Cola

Set Key [Costumes] Standby: Laurence Caines

Men's Key Costume Cutter: Giampietro Grassi

Ladies' Key Costume Cutter: Martina Steiner

Fabric Painters: Jan Dieckmann,

Benjamin Tyrrell, Ann Munro

Costume Makers: Gabriele Keuneke, Saskia Irrgang

Hair, Make-up and Prosthetic Designer:

Frances Hannon

Hair and Make-up Artist: Emma Mash

German Key Hair and Make-up Artist: Heike Merker

Make-up Artist: Daniela Skala

Hair Artist: Zoe Tahir

*The screening on Wednesday 28 January will be introduced by*

*Dr Alice Sage, Research Fellow on the Film Costumes in Action project*

### 'Impeccable Exactitude' – The costumes of *The Grand Budapest Hotel*

*The Grand Budapest Hotel* (directed by Wes Anderson, 2014) takes us back, via the 1980s and 1960s, to 1932 in a fictional European state called Zubrowka, a place deeply saturated with colour and nostalgia. Milena Canonero's costume designs enhance the sense of lost time through a procession of formal dress and tailored uniforms in rich, resonant tones: Monsieur Gustave's imperious purple tailcoat, the sugar-plum shades of Agatha's floury apron, Madame D in her aristocratic cocoon of glowing red velvet.

*The Grand Budapest Hotel* was the third film that Canonero designed with Wes Anderson, and won the designer her fourth Academy Award for Best Costume. Many of Canonero's trademarks are recognisable here: a tightly controlled colour palette, sophisticated historicism, and unashamed visibility – Canonero's costumes do not typically fade into the background. This 'flamboyant' style (Pesce, 2016) has been evident since her early work with director Stanley Kubrick (*A Clockwork Orange*, *Barry Lyndon* and *The Shining*), and can be traced through a filmography that includes *Out of Africa* (1985), the TV series *Miami Vice* (1986-7), and *Marie Antoinette* (2006).

When work began on *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, Canonero built a team of around 30 specialist makers to realise her designs (including printers and dyers, tailors, dressmakers and milliners), and brokered collaborations with fashion houses Prada and Fendi. The result is couture costume production, at a superlative level of craftsmanship and luxury. This team included Jan Dieckmann and Benjamin Tyrrell, Berlin-based textile artists who specialise in hand-dyeing, painting and printing. Tyrrell summarised Canonero's approach as 'impeccable exactitude. The combination of Wes and Milena – both of them know exactly what they want. Impeccable exactitude.'

The first costume the duo produced was Madame D's coat, made of luminous red silk velvet, printed with glittering gold motifs. Madame D (played by Tilda Swinton), is an art collector and throwback to the Belle Époque. Taking inspiration from Gustav Klimt, Dieckmann and Tyrrell presented numerous patterns for Canonero's approval, and joined costume fittings to test the placement of motifs. Once agreed, the design was screen-printed onto flat fabric, before it was cut and sewn together into the coat. Then finally came 'the fine tuning and hand-painting that we can do on a finished garment,' says Dieckmann. 'Weeks of our lives were spent on that coat. And we do multiples, so we did that twice.' Only a fraction of the audience will ever notice that the blue silk lining of the coat is also printed, but 'it is part of what they remember, what Madame D wears.' The memorable coat was finished with inky black fur cuffs and collar from Italian couturier Fendi. 'That is a very unique and special part of working with Milena. Because she is who she is, she makes these collaborations.'

*The Grand Budapest Hotel* was filmed in deepest winter in an empty department store in Görlitz, a small town on the German-Polish border. The costume department was installed on the very top floor, next to the stained-

Wigs: Ray Marston Wig Studio  
 Original Music: Alexandre Desplat  
 Orchestra: Orchestre de balalaikas Saint-Georges  
 Original Music Orchestrated and Conducted by:  
 Mark Graham  
 Re-recording Mixers: Wayne Lemmer,  
 Christopher Scarabosio  
 Supervising Sound Editors: Wayne Lemmer,  
 Christopher Scarabosio  
 Stunt Co-ordinator: Volkhard Buff  
 Cast:  
 Ralph Fiennes (*M. Gustave*)  
 F. Murray Abraham (*Mr Moustafa*)  
 Mathieu Amalric (*Serge X.*)  
 Adrien Brody (*Dmitri*)  
 Willem Dafoe (*Jopling*)  
 Jeff Goldblum (*Deputy Kovacs*)  
 Harvey Keitel (*Ludwig*)  
 Jude Law (*young writer*)  
 Bill Murray (*M. Ivan*)  
 Edward Norton (*Henckels*)  
 Saoirse Ronan (*Agatha*)  
 Jason Schwartzman (*M. Jean*)  
 Tilda Swinton (*Madame D.*)  
 Tom Wilkinson (*author*)  
 Owen Wilson (*M. Chuck*)  
 Tony Revolori (*Zero*)  
 Larry Pine (*Mr Mosher*)  
 Giselda Volodi (*Serge's sister*)  
 Florian Lukas (*Pinky*)  
 Karl Markovics (*Wolf*)  
 Zack Volker Michalowski (*Günther*)  
 Neal Huff (*Lieutenant*)  
 Bob Balaban (*M. Martin*)  
 Fisher Stevens (*M. Robin*)  
 Wally Wolodarsky (*M. Georges*)  
 Waris Ahluwalia (*M. Dino*)  
 USA-Germany 2014©  
 100 mins  
 Digital



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glass atrium over the hotel lobby. 'We worked very closely with the other makers because we were under one roof, and therefore you can be absolutely sure what you're doing is going to make sense, especially with the printing,' says Dieckmann. 'It was crazy spectacular without realising,' adds Tyrrell. 'At the time, you're just achieving and delivering, ticking things off the list and trying to please.'

Much of the work on that list involved dyeing costumes to achieve the 'especially enchanting' and specific colours that Canonero had envisioned. They even dyed waistcoat buttons for every member of the Society of Crossed Keys, who appear on screen for just seconds. These tiny details, says Tyrrell, 'add up to the whole big picture, this big wonderful world that's being created.' Dieckmann explains that their work 'is never just one technique... you dye the fabric, then you probably screenprint it, and then you hand-paint dark shades into it... it's a combination of many steps.' Tyrrell adds, 'we even dyed paper, to make the hats for the Mendl patisserie, in that very specific blue... We were dyeing sheets of paper so they had no stain going through, we'd dry them as fast as possible, then iron them, give them to the hatmaker.'

The textile artists also embraced the opportunity to hand-print costumes. Dieckmann recalls, 'when Madame D is in her coffin, it was just a close-up shot of her face and down to her waist. So we hand-blocked a tabard that was laid over her.' Tyrrell continues, 'Milena said she wanted it to be jewel-like. That was a lovely word from her, it was the perfect description for what was required. So, with a little bit of iridescent powder in the paint, and gold, [we created] something more like an insect or a butterfly.'

Despite the months of planning and careful execution, sometimes film costuming requires resourceful quick-thinking. 'We were already wrapped, all our equipment was gone, and there was suddenly a request for new socks for Agatha' (played by Saoirse Ronan). Her original off-white socks now needed to be pistachio-coloured. Tyrrell was in Görlitz with 'no dyes, nothing. So I went over to the drugstore, and they had dyes you use for colouring Easter eggs – so I managed to dye the socks in exactly the right shade... I rinsed them, spun them, and as soon as they came out the dryer they disappeared off to the set.' The socks are seen prominently in close up when Agatha climbs a ladder – so the rush was worth it. 'And that was all miraculously done with Easter egg dye!'

Dr Alice Sage

With thanks to Benjamin Tyrrell and Jan Dieckmann. Dieckmann and Tyrrell have since worked on two more Anderson-Canonero movies, *The French Dispatch* (2021) and *The Phoenician Scheme* (2025).

## References

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Matt Zoller Seitz, 'An interview with Milena Canonero', *The Wes Anderson Collection: The Grand Budapest Hotel* (Abrams, 2015)