

Propstore

Entertainment Memorabilia Live Auction

# STAR WARS

## A New Hope (1977)

Lot No. 404

Princess Leia's (Carrie Fisher)  
Screen-Matched Ceremonial  
Dress



Treasures from  
Film and Television



Los Angeles

June 28 - 30, 2023



## Entertainment Memorabilia Live Auction

Los Angeles | June 28 - 30, 2023

### Day 1

Lots 1 - 523  
June 28  
Live Bidding  
Petersen  
Automotive  
Museum

### Day 2

Lots 524 - 1014  
June 29  
Online, Telephone  
and Absentee  
Bidding Only

### Day 3

Lots 1015 - 1487  
June 30  
Online, Telephone  
and Absentee  
Bidding Only

► **Lot No. 404** — Princess Leia's (Carrie Fisher) Ceremonial Dress will be auctioned on **Day 1, June 28, 2023.**

Auction Begins 8:00am (PDT) / 4:00 PM (BST) Each Day  
[propstore.com/liveauction](https://propstore.com/liveauction)



252

INT. MASASSI OUTPOST - MAIN THRONE ROOM

252

Luke, Threepio, Han and Chewbacca enter the huge ruins of the main temple. Hundreds of troops are lined up in neat rows. Banners are flying and at the far end stands a vision in white, the beautiful young Senator Leia. Luke and the others solemnly march up the long aisle and kneel before Senator Leia. From one side of the temple marches a shined up and fully repaired Artoo-Detoo. He waddles up to the group and stands next to Threepio who is rather awestruck by the whole event. Chewbacca is confused. Dodonna and several other dignitaries sit on the left of Princess Leia. Leia is dressed in a long, white dress and is staggeringly beautiful. She rises and places a gold medallion around Han's neck, then repeats the ceremony with Luke. They turn and face the assembled troops, who all bow before them.

FADE OUT

END CREDITS





## Lot No. 404

### Princess Leia's (Carrie Fisher) Screen-Matched Ceremonial Dress **Star Wars: Episode IV – A New Hope (1977)**

Princess Leia's (Carrie Fisher) original screen-matched ceremonial dress conceived by legendary costume designer John Mollo for George Lucas' *Star Wars: A New Hope*. Leia donned the gown during the film's final scene in the throne room where she graciously bestowed Luke and Han with their well-earned medals of honor. This historically significant piece is the only Princess Leia costume known to still exist from the original film.

The regal costume is symbolic of the princess' royal lineage and commanding presence. Like Leia's hooded dress from the first film, the ceremonial gown was again crafted completely in white fabric. This was a deliberate choice on the part of George Lucas to signify the purity and beauty of Leia's character. As Lucas wrote in the final scene of the film's original screenplay, "Luke, Threepio, Han and Chewbacca enter the huge ruins of the main temple. Hundreds of troops are lined up in neat rows. Banners are flying and at the far end stands a vision in white, the beautiful young Senator Leia. Leia is dressed in a long, white dress and is staggeringly beautiful."

Deborah Nadoolman Landis, former president of the motion picture Costume Designers Guild and author of six books on the subject, points to the romantic, medieval style of the gown as a look that further solidifies Leia's rightful place as a leading character in the timeless epic. "If Luke's quest has been compared to King Arthur's then Princess Leia is our Guinevere. With her crown of braided hair, Leia's romantic gown harkens back to Camelot with its glamorous long-hanging sleeves, narrow silhouette and silver armored girdle. Unmistakably Leia, it pairs perfectly with the high-necked white gown that serves the Alliance in the rest of the film. The simplicity and brilliance of John Mollo's costumes have staked a place in the iconography of costume design," Landis said.

Beyond its use in the film, this costume was also illustrated into a number of *Star Wars* posters including the original Style A one-sheet by Tom Jung and the Hildebrandt's artwork for the UK Quad. Carrie Fisher was shot by photographer David Steen for numerous publicity photos in the dress which were used as reference for these posters, and have also been published in other various other media.

Slightly more form-fitting and detailed than the costume she wore earlier in the film, the ceremonial dress is made from a cream lightweight silk fabric and includes intricate draping. It was fabricated by leading costume house Bermans and Nathans in conjunction with a French dressmaker. The costume features a hidden zipper along its side as well as hook-and-eye fasteners on the white shoulder. Unlike Leia's more conservative dress with a turtleneck collar, the ceremonial gown is distinguished by its empire-waist bodice, lower-cut neckline and unique integral sleeve drapery, all of which helped earn Mollo an Oscar® for Best Costume Design for *Star Wars* at the 50th annual Academy Awards in March 1978.

Once believed to no longer be in existence, the dress was stored for many years in a London attic. Upon its rediscovery a meticulous, museum-caliber restoration was conducted by museum-grade textile conservators in London. Over an eight-month period, the dress was carefully and thoroughly cleaned by hand to remove years of dust and dirt that had accumulated while in storage. The original structure of the garment was restored with archival precision. A conservation-grade gauze was adhered to the fabric in the most fragile areas, and tiny holes were infilled using the gauze as a base. The hem was restored in full and open seams were re-stitched. All work was carried out to top archival standards and is, therefore, fully reversible.

Costume designer Mollo stated later that he believed only a single ceremonial dress was created for the film, and there is no evidence to suggest otherwise. Details in the stitching of the dress, unique wrinkles and folds in the leather of the belt, and scratches on the belt's plates screen-match and photo-match to the film and publicity stills.

The dress is presented on a custom-made display mannequin and is complete with the original belt, which is backed with a neutral material to prevent it from rubbing and wearing on the dress while displayed. Included with the costume are printed copies of seven contact sheets featuring David Steen's publicity photos of Fisher in the dress, and an additional five printed contact sheet copies showing the filming of the throne room scene.

The significance of the original Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) Ceremonial Dress cannot be overstated. Considered globally to be a touchstone of modern entertainment, *Star Wars: A New Hope* has inspired generations worldwide. With the *Star Wars* IP now in the care of Disney, one of the world's top-entertainment companies, the characters and stories will undoubtedly be part of global culture for decades to come.

Like the film, Carrie Fisher is also considered a Hollywood mainstay. In her varied career, Fisher was nominated for an Emmy, a Grammy (she won the Best Spoken Word Album for her recording of *The Princess Diarist*), a BAFTA, and a Saturn Award. As the daughter of Debbie Reynolds and Eddie Fisher, she is a cornerstone of American film history and forever linked to her most memorable character, Princess Leia. Fisher's sad passing in late 2016 brought a global outpouring of love from her fans. The 2017 *Star Wars* film *The Last Jedi* was dedicated to Fisher's memory, and she received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2023.

**Estimate. \$1,000,000 - 2,000,000**







In the seminal film in the saga, *Star Wars: A New Hope* (1977), Princess Leia wore only two costumes—each a white dress that George Lucas intended to project the purity of the character. One was her standard white dress worn through the earlier sequences of the film, notable for its hooded simplicity. The other was her stylized ceremonial dress from the film's finale, a more elaborate ensemble representing the significance of the Princess and her royal background.

Leia wore the dress in the climactic scene of the original film, as she presented Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) and Han Solo (Harrison Ford) with their ceremonial medals before a crowd of hundreds.



Princess Leia's ceremonial dress was conceived by costume designer John Mollo. Fabricated by costumer Bermans and Nathans in conjunction with a French dressmaker, the dress is distinguished by its lower-cut neckline and unique integral sleeve drapery. It features a hidden zipper along the side as well as hook and eye fasteners on the white shoulder. At the 50th annual Academy Awards in March 1978, designer Mollo won the Oscar for the costumes he created on Star Wars.



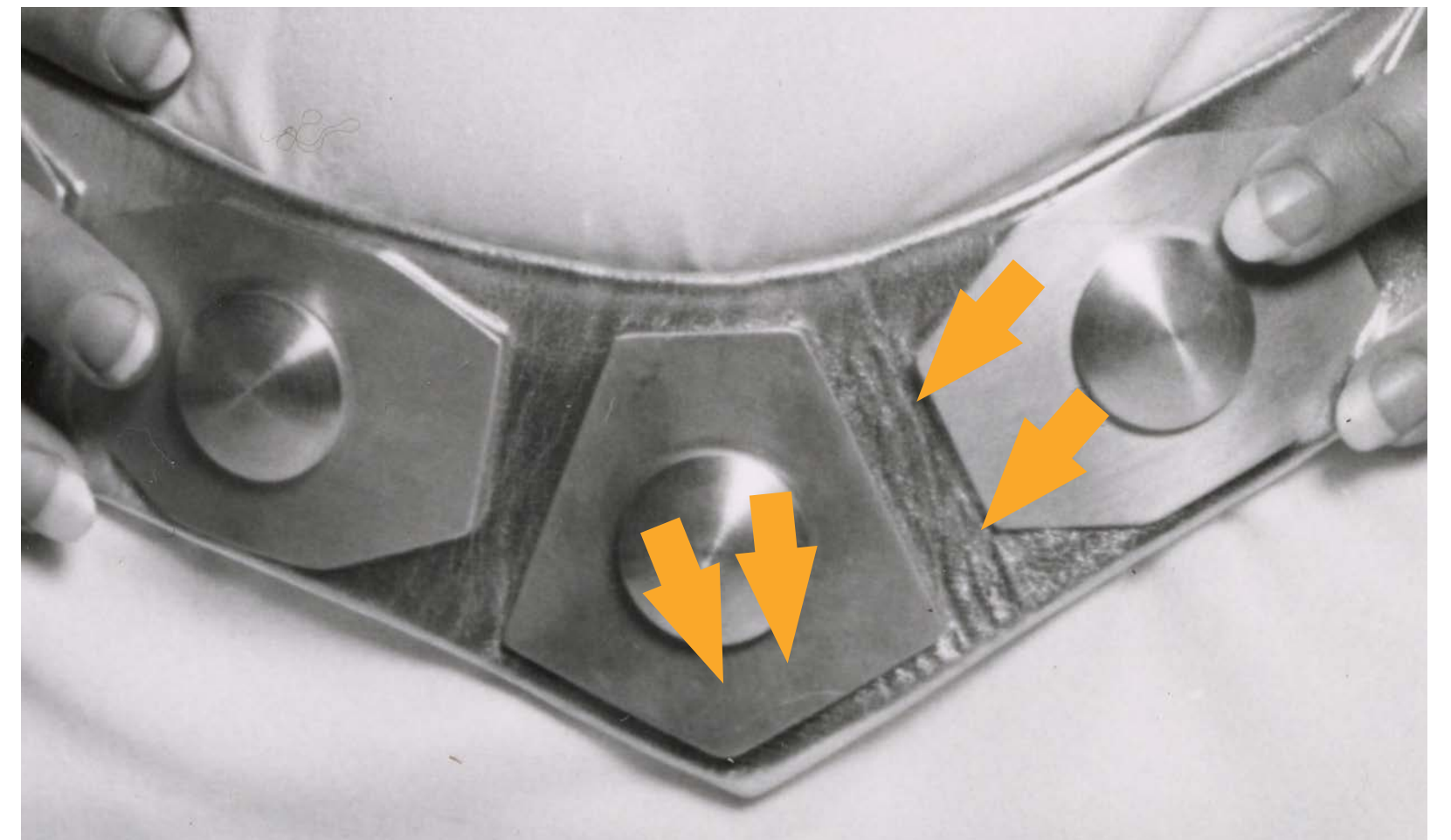
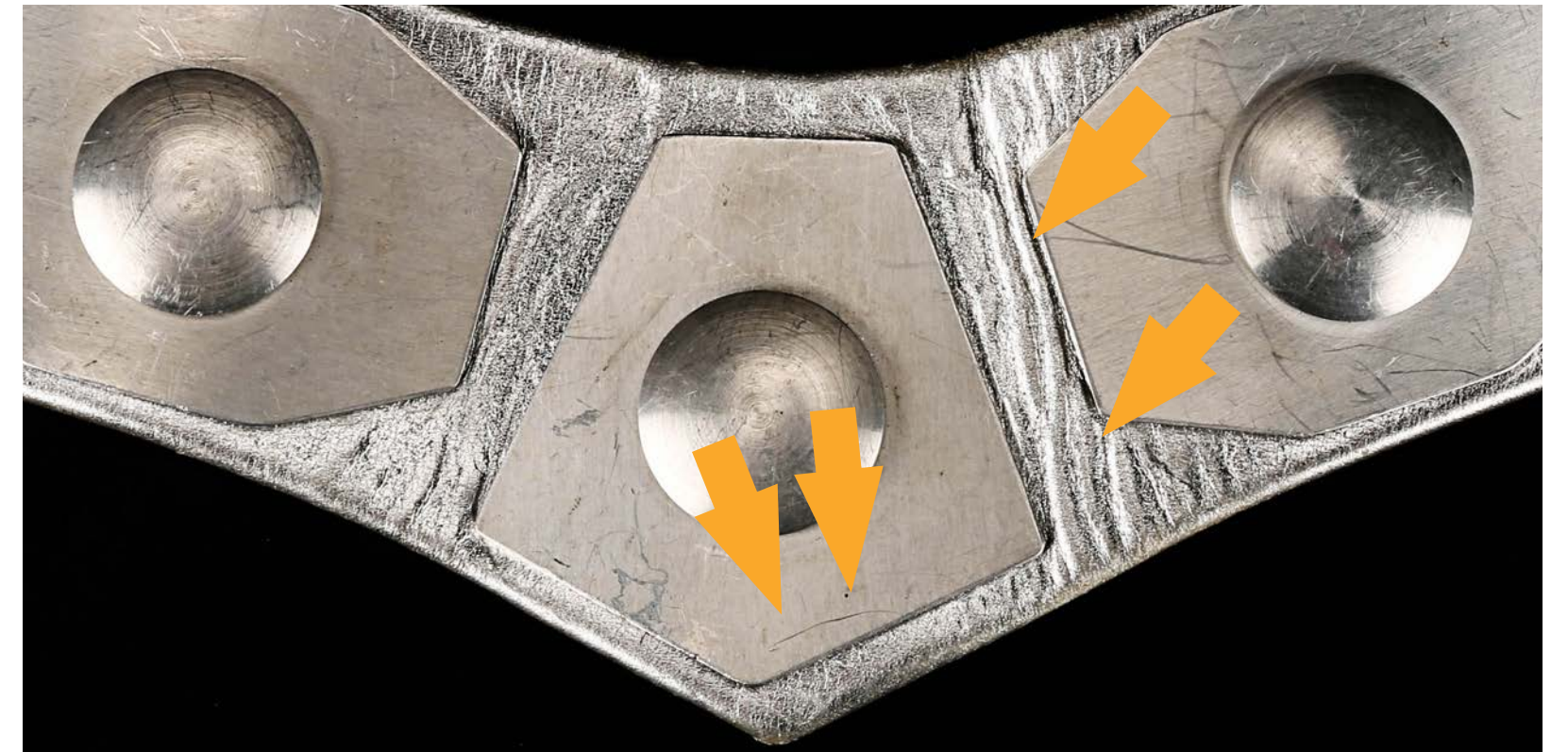
Beyond its use in the film, this costume was also illustrated into a number of Star Wars posters including the original Style A one-sheet by Tom Jung and the Hildebrandt's artwork for the UK Quad.

Once believed to have been destroyed after filming, the dress was stored for many years in a London attic. Princess Leia's Ceremonial Dress is now the only Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) costume known to exist from the original film. The George Lucas collection has previously exhibited a Leia costume that is her dress specifically from the end scene of The Empire Strikes Back, which has several differences to her A New Hope dress.

In discussions with John Mollo after the dress was found, the designer stated he believed only a single ceremonial dress was created for the film, and there is no evidence to suggest otherwise.







The unique cut, stitching and construction of the dress create folds and seams which can be matched to the screen. The costume's belt has a reflective silver base layer and photo-matches to publicity photos and screen matches based on a distinct scratch on the front aluminum plate as well as unique folds and wrinkles in the leather.









Upon its rediscovery a meticulous, museum-caliber restoration was conducted by professional historic garment conservators in London. Over an eight-month period, the dress was carefully and thoroughly cleaned by hand to remove years of dust and dirt that had accumulated while in storage.

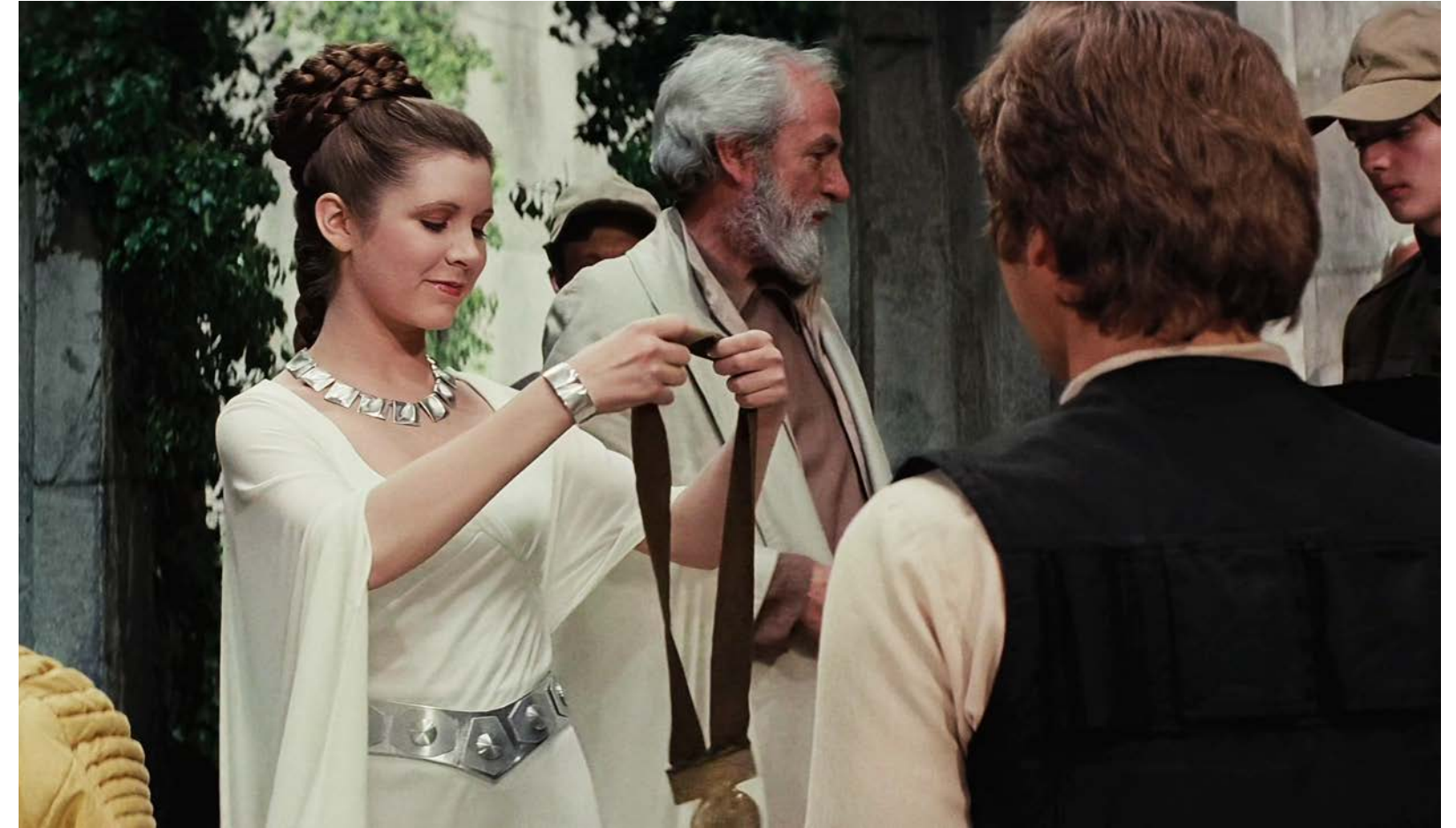


The original structure of the garment was restored with archival precision. A conservation-grade gauze was adhered to the fabric in the most fragile areas, and tiny holes were infilled using the gauze as a base. The hem was restored in full and open seams were re-stitched. All work was carried out to top archival standards and is, therefore, fully reversible.



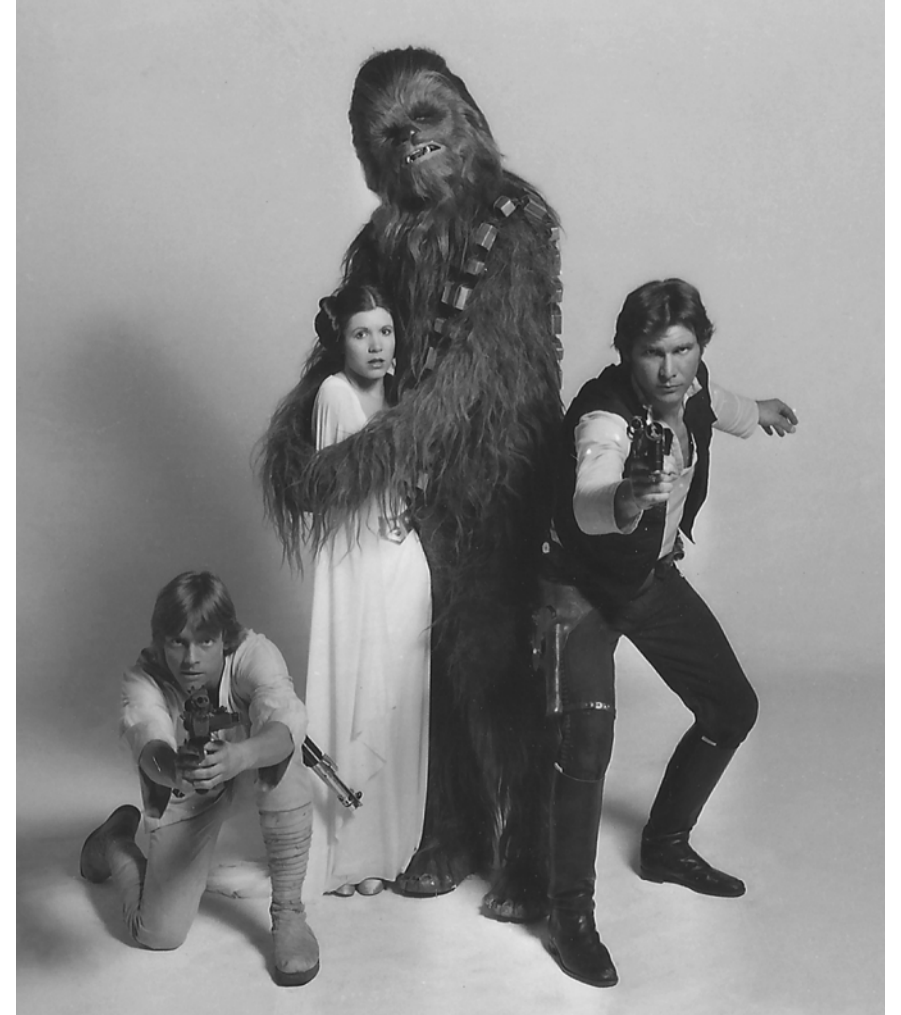


The dress is presented on a custom-made display mannequin and is complete with the original belt, which has been backed with a neutral material to prevent it from rubbing and wearing on the dress while displayed.





The significance of the original Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) Ceremonial Dress cannot be overstated. Considered globally to be a touch stone of modern entertainment, the original, groundbreaking Star Wars: A New Hope has been cited as a key life inspiration by everyone from filmmakers to astronauts and remains in a class of its own. With the Star Wars IP now in the care of Disney, one of the world's top-entertainment company, the characters and stories will undoubtedly be part of global culture for generations to come.





In the same vein as the film itself, leading actress Carrie Fisher is viewed as Hollywood royalty not only by her millions of fans but by the entertainment community at large. In her varied career Fisher was nominated for a wide range of awards including an Emmy, a Grammy (she won the Best Spoken Word Album for her recording of *The Princess Diarist*), a BAFTA and a Saturn Award. As the daughter of Debbie Reynolds and Eddie Fisher, Carrie Fisher will always be viewed as Hollywood royalty will remain forever linked to her most memorable character, Princess Leia. Fisher's sad passing in late 2016 brought a global outpouring of love from her fans. The 2017 Star Wars film *The Last Jedi* was dedicated to Fisher's memory, and it was recently announced that she will receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2022.











[propstore.com/liveauction](https://propstore.com/liveauction)

Document © Propstore, 2023. All logos, images and trademarks are property of their respective owners.