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Frank the Rabbit's (James Duval) Costume
Donnie Darko (2001)

Frank the Rabbit's (James Duval) costume from Richard Kelly's Donnie Darko. Frank the Rabbit was the mysterious figure who set Donald "Donnie" Darko (Jake Gyllenhaal) on his fateful path. On the night of October 2, 1988, Donnie was drawn from his bedroom by a mysterious voice and encountered Frank, a man in a rabbit suit with a grotesque, skull-like visage, who told him the world would end in 28 days, 6 hours, 42 minutes, and 12 seconds. By morning, a jet engine had crashed through Donnie's bedroom, setting into motion the film's central mystery.

Over the course of the film, Frank appeared to Donnie in increasingly unsettling encounters, serving as his eerie guide through a narrative that blended teenage alienation, suburban hypocrisy, and time-travel mystery. He pushed Donnie toward acts that exposed hidden truths, deepened his bond with his girlfriend, Gretchen Ross (Jena Malone), and ultimately lead him toward an understanding of his role within the film's fractured timeline. In the end, Frank helped Donnie understand his fate, but Donnie was the one who chose sacrifice.

Deliberately resistant to simple explanation, Frank remains the film's most enigmatic figure. To create the character that would come to embody Donnie Darko's visual identity, Kelly produced initial sketches of Frank's face, which production designer Alex Hammond translated into detailed mask drawings and a full suit design. Frank's disturbing appearance was then realized by costume designer April Ferry, who constructed his distinctive fur suit in collaboration with special effects artist Dale R. Brady. Brady then commissioned sculptor Rob Burman to create the mask. The completed costume afforded the performer extremely limited visibility and mobility, enhancing Frank's unsettling, dreamlike presence on screen.

Although the film received only a limited theatrical release following its acclaimed premiere at the Sundance Film Festival, it found a passionate audience through home video and overseas release, steadily growing into a cultural phenomenon. Frank the Rabbit emerged as the film's most recognizable image, appearing prominently on theatrical posters, home video releases, and other promotional materials. Donnie Darko ultimately earned Independent Spirit Award® nominations in three categories: Best First Feature and Best First Screenplay for Richard Kelly, and Best Male Lead for Gyllenhaal.

Believed to be the only surviving complete Frank the Rabbit costume - passed to producer and noted film memorabilia collector Jack Morrissey, who reunited actor James Duval with it for the first time since filming concluded before loaning the costume to the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures for public exhibition. This indelible Frank the Rabbit costume is now being offered at public auction for the first time and is believed to be the only surviving complete Frank the Rabbit costume from Donnie Darko.

This costume consists of a polyurethane foam rabbit mask attached to a soft synthetic fur cowl; an unlined faux fur bodysuit with a central white faux fur belly patch, back zip closure, and rabbit tail; and a pair of nylon gloves dressed with matching faux fur and pointed plastic claws. The longer white chest fur shows evidence of light staining, while the bodysuit displays an unusual fur nap pattern, with most of the fur oriented upward. Also included is a replica pair of Adidas shoes (size 9 1/2) added for display purposes, as Frank also appeared in the film as a teenager in a rabbit-like Halloween costume with ordinary sneakers visible beneath his suit.

The mask and claws in this costume are hand-painted in metallic silver, while the eyes are milky white and the teeth are finished in aged ivory tones with yellow-brown staining around the gumline. The sleeves and gloves connect via snap closures, creating a seamless appearance when worn. The mask and claws show evidence of wear consistent with on-set use, handling, and age, including chipped and flaked paint, as well as visible adhesive residue on the interiors of the mask and gloves.

Estimate: \$100,000 - 200,000



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