



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI - 2022

STACIA LANG

CLASS 1982

Artist, costume designer, and fabricator Stacia Lang has spent the past four decades building a universe of characters for blockbuster films, television shows, Broadway stage productions, and the recently flourishing platform of streaming entertainment. Collaborations with musicians such as Prince and Dolly Parton, among others, provide another facet to Stacia's oeuvre. Many of her costume designs for Prince stand today as internationally recognized icons of his personal style.

Over the past 25 years, Stacia has built a career as one of Hollywood's premier specialty costumers, creating space suits for *Interstellar*, *Passengers*, and *First Man*; super hero costumes for Marvel's *Shang Chi* and the *Legend of the Ten Rings*, *Thor: Ragnarok*, *The Amazing Spider-Man* movies, *X-Men United*, *Fantastic Four*, *Aqua Man*, *Man of Steel*, and *Superman Returns*; and sci-fi and fantasy attire for *Star Trek Into Darkness*, *Tron: Legacy*, *Star Trek Nemesis*, *The Cell*, and more. Recently, she has continued her work in the science fiction genre with Disney and Lucasfilm's *Obi-Wan Kenobi* and Netflix's *Jupiter's Legacy*.

As a child in Albert Lea, Stacia grew up watching her musician parents, Barbara and Neil Lang, dress for their performances. She spent countless hours watching *The Carol Burnett Show* and *The Sonny and Cher Show*, each with its lavish Bob Mackie-designed costumes. Along with Mackie, Stacia was inspired by designer William Travilla's sumptuous designs for Marilyn Monroe and knew, early on, that she wanted to pursue a career in costume and fashion design. She received invaluable encouragement, not only from her parents, but also from her ALHS Art teacher, the late Peter Flick, who was instrumental in providing space, time, and artistic guidance while she assembled her portfolio for admission to the Fashion Institute of Technology in NYC. For this, Stacia has always felt a deep debt of gratitude to "Mr. Flick."

After graduating from FIT, Stacia sent a letter and costume sketches to her childhood idol, Dolly Parton. Dolly wrote back, explaining that she was already working with a designer, but that perhaps their paths would cross in the future. Many years later, their paths did indeed cross, resulting in a successful costume collaboration. All through the '80s Stacia built costumes for Broadway shows (*Into the Woods*, *Legs Diamond*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, and *Cats*) and dance companies (New York City Ballet, The Joffrey Ballet, and American Ballet Theatre)—honing her costume construction skills and design sensibilities at leading costume houses throughout NYC. In 1990, Stacia moved back to her home state of Minnesota to work with Prince at his fabled production complex, Paisley Park. She designed both his personal and professional clothing throughout the *Diamonds and Pearls* and *Love Symbol* eras.

Stacia considers her time spent working alongside the musical genius a time of profound creative growth, one of the most enlightening and rewarding experiences of her life. Prince's philanthropic endeavors were vast. In recent years, Stacia has served on the Board of Directors of the PRN Alumni Foundation, which carries on Prince's legacy of social justice and charitable giving.