San Francisco Opera
Massenet’s **MANON**

*an opéra comique in five acts*
MANON

An exploration of character through costume design


http://catalogue.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/cb42159957k
San Francisco Opera: Massenet’s *MANON*

*MANON*

*MASSENET*

**NOVEMBER 4 – 22**

Manon Teaser with Matthew Shilvock - Fall 2017 [https://youtu.be/jhm2bbhFAC0](https://youtu.be/jhm2bbhFAC0)
San Francisco Opera’s

**Manon**
- a co-production with Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre and the Israeli Opera.

VINCENT BROUSSARD
Director and Costume Designer

A couple’s joys of youth and pleasure are interrupted by tragedy and betrayal.
Costume Design Basics

Stage costumes can provide audiences with information about a character's occupation, social status, gender, age, sense of style and tendencies towards conformity or individualism. As well, costumes can:

- reinforce the mood and style of the production
- distinguish between major and minor characters
- suggest relationships between characters
- change an actor's appearance
- suggest changes in character development and age
- be objects of beauty in their own right.

— American Association of Community Theater, [https://www.aact.org/costume-designer](https://www.aact.org/costume-designer)
Color

The visual sensation dependent on the reflection or absorption of light from a given surface. The three characteristics of colors are hue, intensity, and value.
Texture

The surface quality of materials, either actual (tactile) or implied (visual). It is one of the elements of art.
Contrasts

*Differences between two or more elements (e.g., value, color, texture) in a composition; juxtaposition of dissimilar elements.*
Light

Illumination, i.e., the aspect of radiant energy of which a human observer is aware through the visual sense. Lighting can enhance a costume design to great effect.
Costumes must move with an actor through space, and the amount of movement should reflect the character and action of the play.
La Belle Epoque

*Manon* was composed at the height of the **Belle Epoque**, a period characterized by optimism, regional peace, economic prosperity, an apex of colonial empires and technological, scientific and cultural innovations.

Evening gown by George Barbier; May 1913; Costumes Parisiens: French Fashion Plates from 1912-1914 at the Chester Beatty Library.

[https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/beta/exhibit/1QISUVHTEPVjKA](https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/beta/exhibit/1QISUVHTEPVjKA)
Images of *Manon* - Victoria and Albert Museum [https://www.vam.ac.uk/collections/fashion](https://www.vam.ac.uk/collections/fashion)
Interview with Vincent Boussard, *Manon* Director & Costume Designer

https://youtu.be/rqKUVcaVvRQ
“What a costume designer does is a cross between magic and camouflage. We create the illusion of changing the actors into what they are not.

We ask the public to believe that every time they see a performer on the screen, he’s become a different person.

–**Edith Head**, American costume designer (1897-1981)
Manon costume designer rendering
Manon
costume
designer
rendering
Lescaut costume designer rendering
Des Grieux costume designer rendering
Backstage at the Met Opera’s costume shop

Guardian Culture: Elissa Iberti, head of the Metropolitan Opera’s costume shop, 2015. 
https://youtu.be/jhbZpQ3HsEk
Your *Manon* Costume Design Challenge:
Design a costume for Manon or Chevalier des Grieux

- **Manon**
  - Soprano Elle Dehn

- **Chevalier des Grieux**
  - Tenor Michael Fabiano
A Costume Research Guide

- What is the story of Manon and how does costume aid the plot and setting?
- How does design and types of materials aid the telling of the story?
- Who are the main characters and how does costume provide information and clues about them?
- What practicalities do you need to think about when designing a costume for an opera singer?
- How is the costume affected by the time of day, period, season, and mood?
- How do your material choices react under stage lighting?

— from the Royal Opera House Costume Design Challenge, 2017-2018
http://www.roh.org.uk/learning/young-people/design-challenge/project-details/costume-design
OBEISSONS QUAND LEUR VOIX APPELLE

("Let Us Hede Their Voices" from "Manon") - Massenet -

BIDU SAYAO (Soprano) with orchestra conducted by ERICH LEINSDORF

17301-D (CO 31072)
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For more music to design by
visit San Francisco Opera’s Manon Audio Gallery
https://sfopera.com/1718season/201718-season/manon/audio/
Please share your costume designs with San Francisco Opera on Twitter & Instagram!
@SFOpera #ManonSF