

Lorin Flores

Hello everyone, my name is Lorin Flores and my favorite special interest or hobby is historical costuming and also costume design in general. I started out as a historic reenactor and then I ended up hanging out with some friends who really wanted to explore both dance history and also the steampunk aesthetic. One of my inspirations was a famous American dancer named Loïe Fuller who lived and worked in Paris in the late 19th century.

She pioneered the serpentine dance and this used large silk costumes to amplify movement on darkened stages that she lit with elaborate colored lighting. So, although I had created a replica of one of Loïe Fuller's larger dance garments, I was really interested in having something that wouldn't really overwhelm my costumes. So, I ended up using Loïe Fuller's 1894 patented smaller dance garment as a departure point so I could create something that I call the halo veil which was about like 10 yards of silk attached to my head with elastic and then also with some wooden dowels so that way I could manipulate the fabric as I moved around.

The Art Nouveau costume had several different components. It had a little folkloric vest, it had a dance bra, it also had a belt and some type of scarf or drape to go hanging over the hips. I did use mother of pearl closures both for the vest and the belt.

I ended up using capiz shells to have more of a lighter sound with movement. I used the halo veil for the Art Nouveau costume but then I also started becoming interested more in a post-world war one aesthetic and that really just kind of moved me into art deco or what I like to think of as deco punk. And really the the final version that I hit on was more of a cabaret style dress in silver lamé.

I had different pieces that I used throughout the creation and development of this costume. I had also some accessories so I had been with my friends to a pendant making workshop and really the the halo veil was a little too overwhelming especially for more of that I would say close-in cabaret kind of look. So, I did end up creating a set of silk Isis wings in black.

To conclude, I think one of the main parts that I particularly enjoyed throughout this whole entire journey is of course being creative, exploring new things, hanging out with a wonderful set of friends and wearing beautiful clothes and most importantly enjoying ourselves while we make mild spectacles of ourselves.