

San Francisco Opera
Massenet's *MANON*



an opéra comique in five acts



MANON

An exploration
of character
through
costume design

Illustrated score for Massenet's *Manon*,
published Paris, 1884.
National Library of France.

<http://catalogue.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/cb42159957k>

San Francisco Opera: Massenet's *MANON*



Manon Teaser with Matthew Shilvock - Fall 2017 <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>



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.



Movement

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.

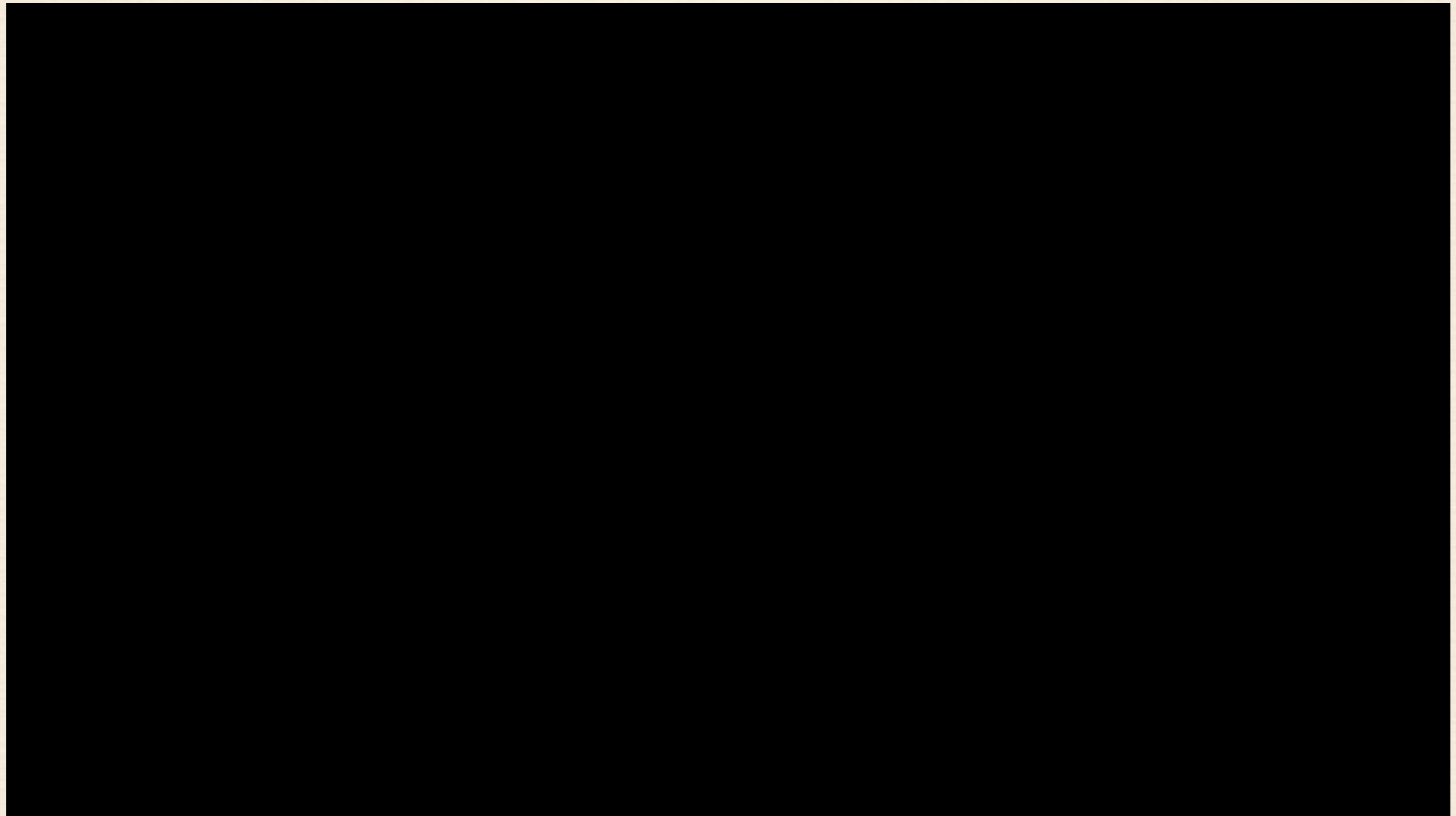
<https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/beta/exhibit/1QISUVHTEPVjKA>





Images of *Manon* - Victoria and Albert Museum <https://www.vam.ac.uk/collections/fashion>

Reimagining *Manon* for Today



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



Manon
costume
designer
rendering



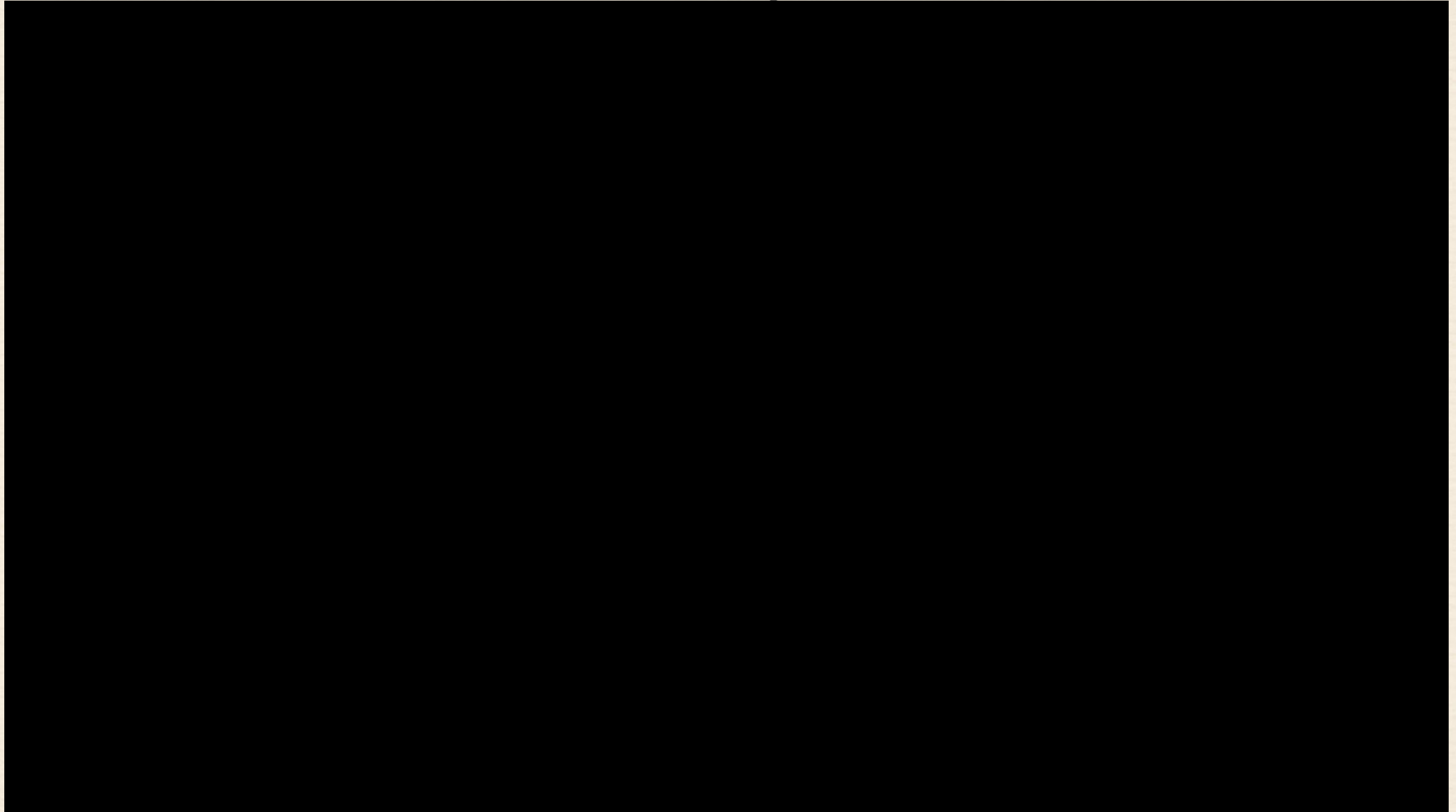
Lescaut
costume
designer
rendering



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 Griex



Manon

[Soprano Elle Dehn](#)



Chevalier
des Griex

[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>



COLUMBIA MASTERWORKS

Mfrd. under U. S. Pat. No. 1,702,564 and Pat. Pending. Trade-
Marks Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.—Marcas Registradas. Made in U. S. A.

For perfect tone
use Columbia Needles



OBEISSONS QUAND LEUR
VOIX APPELLE
("Let Us Heed Their Voices" from
"Manon") -Massenet-
BIDU SAYAO (Soprano)
with orchestra conducted by
ERICH LEINS DORF
17301-D
(CO 31072)

San Francisco Opera
Massenet's *MANON*
an opéra comique in five acts

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