

George A. Smathers Libraries Exhibit Looks Back on the Extraordinary Career of Costume Designer
John David Ridge

GAINESVILLE, FL. – The George A. Smathers Libraries begin 2020 with an exhibition from the collection of costume designer and creator John David Ridge. Ridge’s career has spanned more than 50 years (c. 1960-2019) and includes work from Broadway, film, television, and ballet. Ridge has also worked as Design Director of the couture company Halston and dressed celebrities for awards shows and private engagements. Exhibition highlights include costume sketches for The Joffrey Ballet, Ridge’s Union Exam submission, fashion “bibles” for various stage and film productions, a Spider-Man costume from the 2002 movie starring Tobey Maguire, and a personal note from Julie Andrews.

John David Ridge: A Life in Costume is curated by Jim Liversidge. The exhibit is on view in the Smathers Library Gallery January 21 – March 20, 2020. Items on view are from the John David Ridge Collection, Special and Area Studies Collections, George A. Smathers Libraries. Through a long family history with the University of Florida, Ridge established the collection in 1988. His father Dr. John Drew Ridge, was head of the UF Geology Department (1960s-1970s) and his mother, Margaret Ridge, was the Slavic Languages cataloguer/librarian in the University Libraries in the 1970s. John David Ridge continues to donate materials to the expansive and colorful collection.

The Smathers Library Gallery is located on the second floor of the Smathers Library on the University of Florida campus. Hours are Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., unless otherwise specified and with occasional exceptions for maintenance. All exhibitions are open to the public and free of charge.

A complimentary online exhibition will launch April 2020.

<http://exhibits.uflib.ufl.edu>

Opening Reception with guest speaker John David Ridge

Wednesday, January 22, 2:00 pm – 4:00pm

Smathers Library Room 100

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All events are free and open to the public.