

CHARLES  
DICKENS  
MUSEUM  
*London*

**MISS HAVISHAM'S WEDDING DRESS ARRIVES AT THE HOME OF CHARLES DICKENS**

16 January 2017 -- The silk wedding gown worn by Tuppence Middleton when she played Miss Havisham in the acclaimed BBC TV series, *Dickensian*, is about to be displayed near the desk at which Charles Dickens created the character. The silk dress will go on display from Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January until Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January in the Drawing Room at the Charles Dickens Museum at 48 Doughty Street, the London townhouse where Dickens completed *The Pickwick Papers* and wrote *Oliver Twist* and *Nicholas Nickleby*. In the adjoining room, Dickens's study, is the desk at which he sat to write *Great Expectations* in 1861.

Miss Havisham's wedding dress was created by BAFTA & EMMY award-winning costume designer, Andrea Galer, whose work includes costumes for the films *Withnail & I* (1987), *Mansfield Park* (1999) and *Persuasion* (2007). The costume is made from pure silk taffeta and tulle, embellished with handmade silk bobbin lace.

The luxurious material of Miss Havisham's dress symbolises her great wealth. In *Great Expectations*, Havisham is an elderly woman who has been wearing her deteriorating gown for decades, as if frozen in time after being jilted at the altar. The *Dickensian* series imagined her as a young woman.

First screened at Christmas 2015, *Dickensian* was a twenty-part drama series that invited viewers into the 19<sup>th</sup> century London of Dickens. It was shot on a vast set of Victorian streets, populated by a multitude of characters from Dickens's novels. The programme's costumes were central its atmosphere and the Havisham dress is perhaps the most powerful of all of those made by Andrea Galer.

Andrea Galer said, "In Dickens's time, fine dressmaking work, such as lace trims and buttons, was often done by children and the elderly under exploitative conditions. Therefore, in creating Miss Havisham's dress, I wanted to do all I could to highlight the plight of the Sri Lankan lace makers whom I commissioned to produce its intricate lace hearts, flowers and snowflakes using highly

skilled traditional techniques. I am very keen to deliver a message that clothes should be made ethically and traditional skills cherished.”

The Charles Dickens Museum holds the world’s most comprehensive collection of Dickens-related material. As visitors make their way through the house, they can see the raised reading desk he designed and from which he gave countless public readings; and pore over original manuscripts of his great works, letters, personal items and photographs.

When Charles Dickens moved into 48 Doughty Street, he was a little-known writer, still using his pen-name, Boz. By the time he left, he was an international superstar, having written *The Pickwick Papers*, *Oliver Twist* and *Nicholas Nickleby*. The rooms are still filled with the furniture he bought - most of the fireplaces, doors, locks, window shutters and fittings are still in place as they were when the family resided there.

### **VISITOR INFORMATION**

**Opening hours:** Seven days a week, 10am-5pm (last admission 4pm).

**Admission prices:** Adults £9; Concessions £6; Children (6-16) £4; Under 6 free.

**Address:** Charles Dickens Museum, 48 Doughty Street, London WC1N 2LX.

**More information:** [www.dickensmuseum.com](http://www.dickensmuseum.com) 020 7405 2127 [events@dickensmuseum.com](mailto:events@dickensmuseum.com)

-ends-

**Issued by *The Press Office*. For further information and images, please contact Michael Barrett on 020 8295 2424, 07813-558772 or [mb@thepressoffice.uk](mailto:mb@thepressoffice.uk).**