

God save MacQueen

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**Purpose of the Piece:** Fashion designer Alexander McQueen was discovered dead 02/11/2010 after taking his own life. He has always been one of my biggest inspirations for designing. I wanted to design something in tribute of his life in the fashion industry. To design a garment that would keep him safe from his personal demons.

**Design Process:** 1784 the very influential Scottish physician William Cullen praised the straitjacket not only as a means of restraint, but also as a remedy. I designed this dress around the idea of a straitjacket, as a guard to protect Alexander; clashing it in a well-known MacQueen tartan. The MacQueen's are said to have provided a guard for the daughter of the chief of another clan; they were seen as heroes, and this is something I felt that Alexander needed.

**Techniques Used:** Through tailoring techniques I accomplished a very structured tailored fit. I achieved this through flat

pattern techniques for the shell, lining, collar and canvas. Horsehair inserted for structured fit. Extended sleeves and sewn at ends to portray straitjacket sleeves; with 4" slit on underarm to allow for hand exit and buckle that snaps to back shoulders. Finishing the garment with a 107" center back separating metal zipper placed down the train.

**Materials Used:** 10oz Wool MacQueen Tartan for shell; pigskin leather for collar, top and straps; black silk for lining; horsehair for inside structure; two 1" metal buckles; matching thread; 107" metal separating zipper.



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