Boise State University
# Digital Theatre Costume Collection

Act I: The Project

o **_Sponsor:_** Scholarly Communications and Data Management Unit, Albertsons Library, Boise State University

o The institutional repository (IR) ScholarWorks collects and provides access to Boise State's academic scholarship, but lacks non-traditionally published work in the humanities.

o Institutions are digitizing historical dress collections, but not theatrical costumes.

o Costumes are altered & repurposed - unless the garment is documented each version is lost.

o **_Goal:_** Create new IR collection for Boise State theatre costume designs starting with the 2013 production of _Thoroughly Modern Millie_.


Theatrical Lobby Poster

Act II: The Process

o Background research on both sponsor & published studies of how designers use libraries for their work

o Tried to find collections of historic & theatrical costumes to base metadata (i.e. descriptive information) scheme on – 3 Italian efforts with theatre costumes are no longer available online

o Created basic record format with 11 metadata fields using Dublin Core Simple schema

o Scanned and prepared 38 individual costume renderings in high-resolution lossless TIFF file format.

o Selected & photographed 13 costumes (25 pictures total); photos prepared for publication & saved in a lossless TIFF file format

o Collected metadata of physical costumes including: fabric content, construction, basic measurements, & additional info specific to the performance

o Ensured Designer's Statement was obtained to provide additional context
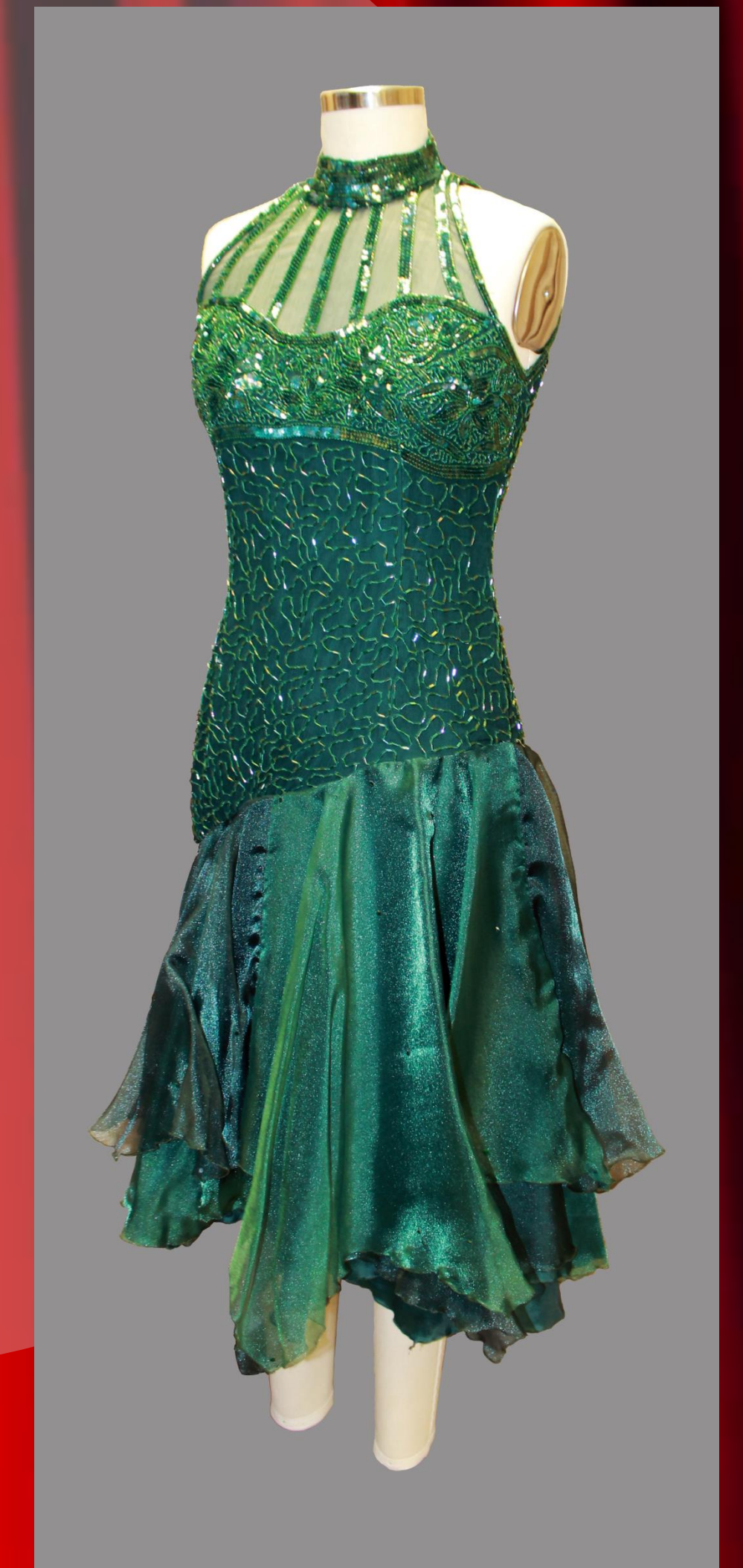
Example of an altered garment. Designed for the character of Millie Dillmount, Act II, Scenes iv-viii
doi: 10.18122/B2S88J

Act III: The Outcome

o Digital publication of 63 individual records with DOIs (Digital Object Identifier): http://scholarworks.boisestate.edu/millie_2013_costumes

o Creation of uploader's manual specifically for new collection to aid entry consistency & troubleshooting

o Creation of submission form for future production designs to gather necessary metadata & allow for faster processing
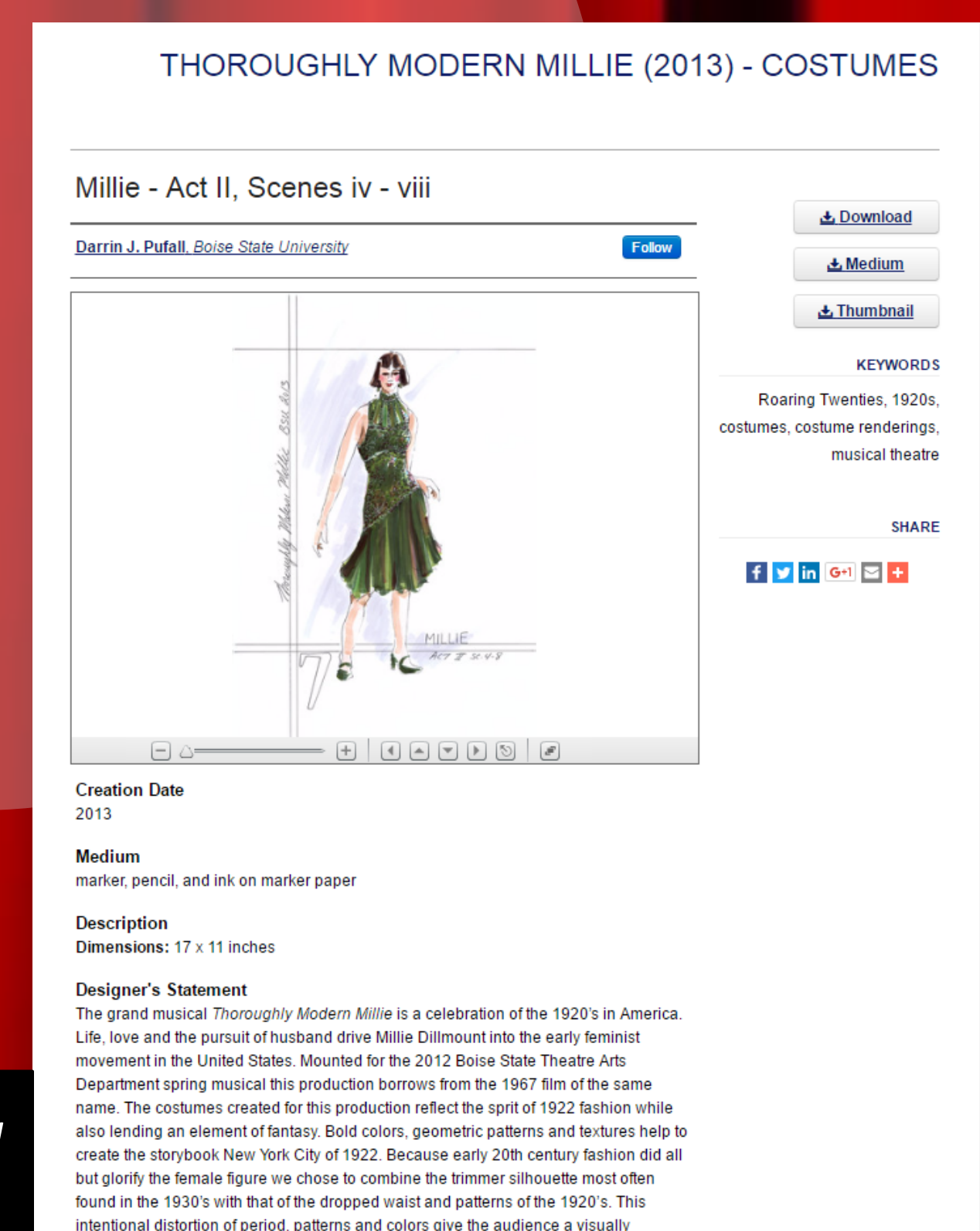
Screenshot of published record of rendering
doi: 10.18122/B2VC7T

Act IV: The Impact

o Project turned into a digital publishing opportunity rather than a type of archival collection

o Project is a renewed step in the library world in terms of cataloging & presenting theatrical costume designs

o A new beginning for Boise State in capturing this type of academic scholarship & an expansion of original open access publishing

o Open access ensures these efforts are available worldwide

o All record contents are indexed through Google - increasing discoverability

Published version of rendering by Darin J. Pufall
(Dress worn in lobby poster)
doi: 10.18122/B27P46

Act V: Up Next

o Capture previous & future costume designs & garments

o Create collections for other theatre elements (ex. stage design)

o Record knowledge process, create checklists, & gather references for uploaders with no garment background to aid in verifying metadata

Kimberly A. Holling, MLIS – Capstone 2016
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