

FANTASTICAL FEET

Shoes star as the leading men, and ladies, in a new exhibition at the Salvatore Ferragamo museum



When Cinderella famously slipped her dainty little toes into a single slipper and won her prince, she wasn't just satisfying her need for something other than clogs, she was moving up the social ladder, from put-upon servant to princess. Throughout history the use of shoes, along with all forms of apparel, has been seen as a status of wealth and power, and no less so in the fairy tales and stories told to children.

From 'Puss in Boots' to 'The Red Shoes', the foot furnishings of women, and men, have been used to tell the tale of good triumphing over or trumping evil, and love winning all. Today, it may seem a little far-fetched for shoes to be seen as magic, but we all know that feeling of pure joy when we slip on a new pair – your day can be transformed. As an ode to the shoes in fairy tales, mythology and legend the Museo

Salvatore Ferragamo in Florence is hosting an exhibition, The Amazing Shoemaker: Fairy Tales and Legends about Shoes and Shoemakers.

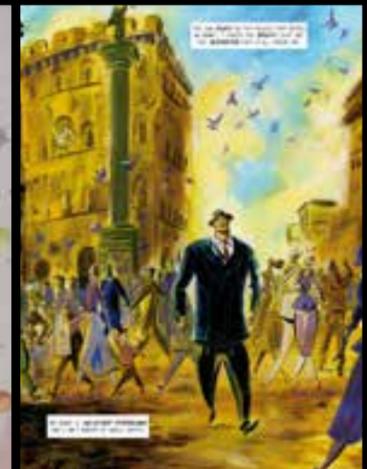
Covering a range of topics, the collection of wonders is the creation of curators Stefania Ricci, Sergio Risaliti and Luca Scarlini. It is broken up into different sections in different rooms, and exhibits shoes, illustrations, music and film – one specially made short is 'White

Shoe' which tells the story of Ferragamo creating a pair of shoes in a single night for his sister's First Holy Communion.

Artists of varying disciplines have contributed to the exhibition, expressing their own thoughts on the traditional fairy tale, including well-known children's authors Antonio Faeti and Michele Rak, film historian Alessandro Bernardi, and writers and poets like Hamid >



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› Ziarati, Michele Mari and Elisa Biagini who have written new fairy tales specifically for the project, with illustrations by Michela Petoletti and Francesca Ghermandi.

A particular highlight is the music written especially for the show by composer Luis Bacalov, while photographers Simona Ghizzoni and Lorenzo Cicconi Massi, together with Arrigo Coppitz, have photographed Ferragamo shoes in fairy-tale settings.

As a man who spent his life making the women who wore his shoes feel like those princesses in fairy tales, the exhibition couldn't be more apt, and to tell the story of the grand shoemaker himself there are the graphic illustrations of Frank Espinosa, creator of the famous comic book 'Rocketo'. As Audrey Hepburn, one of Ferragamo's clients once said: "I still read fairy tales and I like them best of all."

*The exhibition will run until March 2014
 Museo Salvatore Ferragamo
 Palazzo Spini Feroni, Florence*