

Christopher Reeve's Original Superman Costume Now Available at Sotheby's Luxury Week – Lot Closes 9 December

Screen-Used Ensemble from Three Landmark Films Headlines Standalone Auction

NEW YORK, NY, UNITED STATES, December 8, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- A rare, complete Christopher Reeve Superman costume from the groundbreaking films Superman (1978), Superman II (1980), and Superman III (1983) is currently being offered in a standalone auction during Sotheby's prestigious [Luxury Week](#) from 21 November–9 December 2025, with the lot closing at 8:01 PM GMT.



Man of Steel: An Original Costume for 'Superman' on display at Sothebys Luxury Week

Sotheby's is presenting the independent lot titled "Man of Steel: An Original Christopher Reeve Costume for 'Superman'" – elevating it to the same rarified status as the world's finest watches, jewels, handbags, whiskey and collectibles featured during Luxury Week's global sales series spanning Hong Kong, Geneva, London, Paris, and New York.

This is not merely a costume, it is the embodiment of the Man of Steel himself. This screen-used ensemble has been authenticated to all three films and recently screen-matched to a specific scene in Superman III, making it one of the most exclusive superhero costumes in existence. Academy Award-winning costume designer Yvonne Blake's masterwork transformed Christopher Reeve into cinema's definitive Superman, establishing the visual blueprint for every superhero to follow.

The timing of this auction could not be more poignant. The recent theatrical and streaming release of 'Super/Man: The Christopher Reeve Story' has rekindled global appreciation for Reeve's profound impact - both as the actor who made us believe a man could fly and as the real-life hero who transformed tragedy into advocacy for disability rights.

The complete six-piece ensemble includes original production labels connecting each component directly to Reeve and to specific films. The tunic's Bermans & Nathans wardrobe label reads "CHRISTOPHER REEVE NORMAL 18628 SUPERMAN 3" to differentiate it from the darker "evil Superman" costume. The leggings are made of the same material, and include a handwritten label that reads "S/7 NEW 22/5/78". The red trunks feature an elastic waistband and include a yellow-painted leather belt labeled "CHRISTOPHER REEVE Harness 15129 SUPERMAN II." The cape carries the notation "CHRIS REEVE FLYING CAPE 14-9-79" and "REMADE JULY/82," documenting its creation as a flying cape for the original film before being converted to a walking cape for Superman II. The red boots are flying boots, identifiable by the red tape applied to their soles to create the perfectly smooth appearance required for aerial sequences.



Screen-used Christopher Reeve Superman Ensemble, Tunic

New research by Martin Lakin of [CapedWonderEurope.com](https://www.capedwonder.com) - a recognized authority on the history of the Superman Movie series 1978-1987 and affiliate of the US-based [Capedwonder.com](https://www.capedwonder.com) (founded in 2001) - has screen-matched the tunic to a scene early in Superman III where Superman tackles a fire at a chemical plant. Landing at a nearby lake, Superman freezes it with his super-breath to skim off the surface and use it to extinguish the fire.

Lakin's authentication is supported by photographic evidence from the film itself and images from the legendary "Five Faces of Superman" exhibit and screening held at The Daily News building in New York on June 14, 1983 - just two days before Superman III's US theatrical release. Historical photographs show this exact costume on display alongside Superman III star Pamela Stephenson, providing documentation of its production use and immediate post-filming exhibition. The costume's journey from the Warner Brothers soundstages reads like its own adventure story. The tunic was previously owned by legendary Superman collector Jim Hambrick, founder of the Super Museum in Metropolis, Illinois, who displayed it at that historic 1983 Daily News exhibit. After remaining in private collections for decades, the complete ensemble appeared at Propstore's 2022 Entertainment Memorabilia Live Auction, where it sold for £312,500 (approximately \$413,000 USD today).

Now, this historic costume returns to auction with enhanced provenance, expert authentication, and a cultural moment that has never been more perfect.

Complete superhero costumes of this significance and provenance are extraordinarily rare. Other known Christopher Reeve screen-used Superman costumes reside in the permanent collections of the Smithsonian Institution and the Young V&A Museum in London, both featuring original suits from 1978's *Superman*. This places the current offering in truly rarefied company; museum-quality material that rarely, if ever, becomes available to private collectors. While individual costume pieces occasionally surface at auction, a complete ensemble worn across multiple films by cinema's most iconic superhero is essentially unprecedented in the market.

The costume is displayed on a bespoke full-body mannequin that is itself a work of art. Constructed from a Stuart Freeborn lifecast created during production of the original *Superman* film for special effects use, the mannequin captures Christopher Reeve in extraordinary detail - from the iconic "S" curl in his hair to meticulously painted features designed to appear remarkably lifelike. The lifecast provides a perfect timestamp from the original production, preserving Reeve at the height of his portrayal of the Man of Steel and immortalizing him in that defining era. This painstaking attention to detail ensures the mannequin enhances rather than detracts from the beauty of the costume itself. The complete presentation is mounted on a silver "S"-shaped metal base, creating a museum-quality display worthy of cinema's greatest superhero.

For collectors, investors, institutions and Superman enthusiasts worldwide, this represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to acquire not just a costume, but a tangible piece of the dream that has inspired generations to believe in heroes.

The memorabilia market has demonstrated extraordinary strength in 2024-2025:

- First Edition 'Superman' Comic: \$9M (November 2025)
- Citizen Kane Rosebud sled: \$14.75M (July 2025)
- Dorothy's ruby slippers: \$32.5M (December 2024) – nearly 11x estimate

Sotheby's has estimated the costume at \$600,000-\$800,000 with a starting bid of \$250,000 USD. However, given recent market dynamics and the costume's unparalleled cultural significance, industry observers believe the final price could dramatically exceed estimates.



A complete costume attributed to Christopher Reeve in Richard Donner's *Superman* and its sequels *Superman II* and *Superman III*, ca. 1978-1983

AUCTION DETAILS

Auction: Man of Steel: An Original Christopher Reeve Costume for 'Superman'

When: 21 November-9 December, 2025, lot closes at 8:01 PM GMT

Where: Online bidding via [sothebys.com](https://www.sothebys.com)

Includes: Complete 6-piece costume on bespoke Stuart Freeborn lifecast mannequin, Propstore Certificate of Authenticity, LIFE Superman magazine featuring the item, and digital brochure of supplementary research which includes letter of provenance from Martin Lakin and supporting images.

For more information, high-resolution images, condition reports, and bidding registration, visit <https://www.sothebys.com/en/buy/auction/2025/man-of-steel-an-original-christopher-reeve-costume-for-superman/superman-ensemble>

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