

NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM & LIBRARY

The Gift of Laughter ***On View February 5 – September 5, 2021***

Selected PR Images

A companion exhibition to So Ready for Laughter: Bob Hope and World War II, The Gift of Laughter blends fact and fiction to illustrate Bob Hope's wide-ranging career as USO entertainer, television star, and Academy Award host and the many roles comedians fill. Objects on view include an honorary Oscar presented to Hope for "his contribution to the laughter of the world," mementos from his later USO tours, awards and memorabilia, and the outfit worn for Bob Hope's Bicentennial Star Spangled Spectacular. Also on display are costumes by Emmy Award-winning costume designer Donna Zakowska from the popular Amazon Prime Video series The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel, including a red, white, and blue dress worn by Miriam "Midge" Maisel (Rachel Brosnahan) during a stand-up routine for the troops in season three.

Bob Hope surrounded by Oscars at the 13th Academy Awards, 1941

Courtesy of the Bob & Dolores Hope Foundation

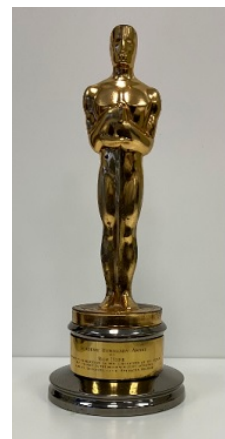
The king of Academy Awards festivities, Bob Hope hosted the Oscars 19 times between 1940 and 1978. No other host came close.



Academy of Motion Pictures, Arts, and Sciences Honorary Oscar presented to Bob Hope for "his contribution to the laughter of the world" at the 25th Academy Awards ceremony, 1952

Courtesy of the Bob & Dolores Hope Foundation

Not once nominated, Hope often derided his own acting abilities during the hosting gigs. Over his lifetime, he would receive five honorary awards from the Academy.



Brigadier General Henry G. Thorne Jr placing a Viking helmet on Bob Hope, 1958

Courtesy of the Bob & Dolores Hope Foundation

During a Christmas USO tour in Iceland in 1958, Hope was presented with a Viking helmet. He joked: "I hated to leave [Iceland]...the seals were the best audience I ever had."



Bob Hope greeting the audience at a USO show at Cu Chi Base Camp, Vietnam, 1970

Courtesy of the Bob & Dolores Hope Foundation



City of New York Mayor John V. Lindsay and Bob Hope, 1972

Courtesy of the Bob & Dolores Hope Foundation

On September 21, 1972, Mayor John Lindsay proclaimed Bob Hope Day in the City of New York.



Costume worn by Bob Hope on *Bob Hope's Bicentennial Star Spangled Spectacular*, NBC, July 4, 1976

Courtesy of the Bob & Dolores Hope Foundation
Photo courtesy of Hollywood Museum

On April 9, 1950, Bob Hope made his national TV debut on NBC's Bicentennial Star Spangled Spectacular. Supported by a team of restless writers, Hope broke new ground in the way comedy was performed on television. His delivery of topical jokes about politicians, Hollywood, and himself was fresh and snappy.



Dress worn by Miriam "Midge" Maisel during a performance for the troops, 2019

The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel, Season 3:
Episode 1

Designed by Donna Zakowska.
Costume maker: Eric Winterling, Inc
Dress: satin-faced silk chiffon. Red-drape: heavy-silk chiffon
Courtesy of Amazon Prime Video



Rachel Brosnahan as Miriam "Midge" Maisel in Season 3 of *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, 2019

Costume Designer: Donna Zakowska
Courtesy of Amazon Prime Video

In the Season 3 premiere of The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel, Miriam "Midge" Maisel—played by Rachel Brosnahan—is invited to perform her stand-up routine in front of the troops.



Costume worn by Moms Mabley at the Apollo, 2019

The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel, Season 3: Episode 8

Designer: Donna Zakowska

Costume maker: Timberlake Studios, Inc.

Milliner: Ann Morin

Dress: cotton. Hat: boiled wool

Courtesy of Amazon Prime Video



Wanda Sykes as Moms Mabley in Season 3 of *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, 2019

Costume Designer: Donna Zakowska

Courtesy of Amazon Prime Video

Born Loretta Mary Aiken (1894–1975), Moms Mabley started her career in Black vaudeville venues known as the Chitlin’ Circuit. She was the first female comedian to be featured at the Apollo, the first to have booked Carnegie Hall, and the first openly gay comedian. On The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel, she is played by Wanda Skyes.



Dress worn by Miriam “Midge” Maisel for a telethon, 2018

The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel, Season 2: Episode 9

Designer: Donna Zakowska. Costume maker: Eric Winterling, Inc

Dress: silk. Bubble dress: silk wool

Courtesy of Amazon Prime Video



Alex Borstein as Susie Myerson and Rachel Brosnahan as Miriam “Midge” Maisel in Season 2 of *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, 2018

Costume Designer: Donna Zakowska
Courtesy of Amazon Prime Video

In Season 2 of The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel, Miriam “Midge” Maisel—played by Rachel Brosnahan—makes her television stand-up debut on an Arthritis Foundation telethon.

