

Niccolò Machiavelli Figure Adds Political Depth to Italian Renaissance Collection

In the five hundred years since his death, the reputation of Niccolò Machiavelli has risen to where he is now considered the major political thinker and strategist of the Renaissance.

His most famous writing, *The Prince*, has been read and studied by generations worldwide. The pamphlet is a distillation of insights Machiavelli gained during his years as a diplomat in the turbulent times around 1500.



Renaissance Italy is credited by many for bringing Europe out of the Dark Ages. The period around the beginning of the 16th

century was particularly interesting to George Stuart. While art and science flourished in the northern City States, the collision of politics, power and religion was leaving Italy, and most of Europe was in a constant state of war and turmoil.

Nothing in politics was simple and little was as it seemed or is represented. Alliances were made and broken, princes rose and fell, and armies marched and pillaged nearly everywhere. For more about Machiavelli, see *Machiavelli* a recent biography by Miles Unger.



Niccolò Machiavelli, history's greatest political strategist?

Current Stuart Monologs Describe Conquest of the Americas

"Age of the Conquistadors"

3:00 PM Tuesday, June 19th

MVC Pavilion

For Tickets Call

(805) 653-0323 x 7



"Exploring the Western Frontier"

3:00 PM Tuesday, July 31st

MVC Pavilion

For Tickets Call

(805) 653-0323 x 7



Carnevale Ventura News

Lucrezia Borgia Historical Figure Comes to Life in Elegant Costume by Shelley Rogers.

It takes a team to bring to life George Stuart's Historical Figure of Lucrezia Borgia. Her 15th Century-style jewelry is being researched and acquired by Ventura jeweler Debbie Fox. Angel Jones and Robert Lamarche are collaborating on everything from headdress to renaissance shoes.

Ventura costumer and artist Shelley Rogers has taken up the most challenging task—the design and construction of Lucrezia's fabulous dress. After studying Stuart's Lucrezia last winter, Shelley embarked on a two-month search for closely matching fabrics. The journey took her from Los Angeles to San Francisco, where she finally located an elegant green and gold fabric.

Shelley constructed undergarments and dress patterns for a first fitting on the lovely Ojai actress Jennifer Ridgway, who was recently selected to play Lucrezia. For historical accuracy, Shelley is hand stitching most of the costume.

Shelley knows a lot about hands. She specialized in hands while studying Occupational Therapy at the University of California. During her 26 years of practice, Shelley used therapeutic activities, such as ceramics, leather work and sewing, to improve hand function.

At home, Shelley continued to make and earn awards for challenging garments for theater and personal events. As Shelley says, "sewing can be as much art as skill. The beauty is in the fit and the details." The project of recreating Lucrezia Borgia's gown will combine Shelley's love for the human form and handcrafted excellence.



Costumer Shelley Rogers adjusts an under sleeve during second fitting on Ojai actress Jennifer Ridgway, who will portray Lucrezia Borgia.

Fund Enables Costumes for Borgias, Others!

Thanks to generous donations from Foundation Supporters, we will be able to bring to life Borgia Family and possibly a few other Renaissance Figures for the October 7 Fashion Show. To date, more than \$2,000 has been donated for purchase of fabrics and accessories. A very special thanks to long time Historical Figures supporter Robyn Sim for a generous \$1,000 donation!

Costume Fund Donors

*Robyn Sim • Khaled & Sheryl Alawar • Lorraine Finch • Bob & Carol Lamb
Al & Freddie Contarino • Adrienne & Robert Gardner • Mary & Bill Bang
Linda Ochoa • Gail and Joe Reilly • Barbara Topping • Ria & Leroy Becker*

Donors can take comfort in knowing their contributions are being more than matched by hundreds of hours contributed by the expert costume designers, models and researchers, all of whom are donating their time and facilities.

Donations will help fund materials and accessories for Juan Borgia, Lucrezia Borgia, Cesare Borgia, Rodrigo Borgia (Alexander VI), Niccolò Machiavelli, and Christopher Columbus. Others will follow as funds permit.

