

For many, *The Legend of Lizzie Borden*, which was filmed for television release in 1975, sparked interest in the Borden Case. Elizabeth Montgomery, who can claim Lizzie Borden in her family tree, and who was called “Lizzie” as a child, gave a convincing portrayal of the complex and enigmatic Miss Borden.



LEGEND OF LIZZIE

The late Guy Verhille, veteran costumer of many large screen and television productions won an Emmy, as did the set designer, in 1975 for his work on this film.



The McGinns, house owners when the bed and breakfast museum opened in 1996, received Lizzie’s famous acquittal dress from Paramount Film Studio, and it is currently on display in the room where Abby Borden met her violent end. It is a popular item for visitors spending the night at the house on Second Street.

Miss Montgomery was a size 4 when she wore this dress, which is actually a gray nubby-textured wool blend with a caplet with long lappets which hang down the front and tuck into a belt at the waist. The very full accordion-pleated wide sleeves give the impression of the popular leg o’ mutton sleeve which was growing ever-larger in 1893 at the time of her trial. The back of the cape is finished off with heavy metallic bead fringe. The hat to this ensemble was unfortunately thrown away. It featured a strong vertical bow embellishment and a clutch of chartreuse ostrich feathers on the crown, which was exactly correct for the era.

