

Canine Couture

for the *Beverly Hills Look*

Beverly Hills Chihuahua director Raja Gosnell instructed costume designer Mariestela Fernández to use fine, expensive materials like silk and lace in Chloe's custom costumes so the audience could "feel the rich, rich, rich lap dog that she is." Beautiful designer material was imported from Europe: Italian organza and embroidery, plus a beautiful Armani silk satin from Spain. "Chloe's look is beautiful, elegant, fashion-forward, wealthy, rich... a Beverly Hills dog in every sense," says Fernández.



Fernández modeled many of Chloe's custom fashions after classic designs inspired by Chanel and Valentino. Seamstresses made each of Chloe's outfits by hand, using safe, comfortable, natural, lightweight fabrics in designs that were easy to put on and take off the canine actress. The heat of shooting in Mexico was also taken into account, "She's in these dresses for a few hours at a time, so it's important they fit her as a second skin and feel soft to the skin... comfortable and light." Fernández also designed the couture creations "always trying to keep her looking slim. Just like with any actress."

Did You Know?

The opulent diamond necklace that Chloe wears in Beverly Hills Chihuahua was designed in three weeks and cost \$25,000

Beverly Hills Chihuahua now available in High-Def only on Blu-ray™ and Disney DVD. ©Disney

Rags to *Riches*



From a Rescue Shelter to the Big Screen

Beverly Hills Chihuahua filmmakers and animal trainers know a good dog when they find one and they found many of them in rescue shelters in both Los Angeles and Mexico. In fact, the Chihuahua tapped for head hound Papi was rescued from the Moreno Valley Animal Shelter, located about 60 miles outside of Los Angeles.

Head trainer/animal coordinator Mike Alexander of Birds & Animals Unlimited says it was Rusco's big ears and great expression that drew the trainer and the filmmakers to the part-Chihuahua, part-mutt mix.

Rusco took to his training like a pro. According to Christi Miele, the trainer responsible for getting Rusco up to speed, he'd had no training prior to his first starring role. "We began with the basics: stay, sit, jump, bark on cue," says Miele.

Within weeks, she was able to teach Rusco how to do more advanced behaviors – from picking up objects to hitting a mark and interacting with other dogs. "He is very intelligent," says Miele.

Their biggest challenge for the film was getting Rusco acclimated to the set. "I worked with him around fake cameras and lights till he felt comfortable," she says. The enthusiastic canine cast member was regularly rewarded with treats – steak topped his list.

Did You Know?

Rusco's favorite toy was a stuffed squeaky daisy called Daisy May. By the end of filming he wore out her squeaker.

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