

EXCLUSIVE: Scots dress designer on her out-of-this-world creations for Natalie Portman

My Star frocks



TO THIS She wears this sexy, £10,000 silk chiffon halterneck for a romantic break with Skywalker in the new film. Above, her 'working clothes' for her stint as a senator on the planet Coruscant



ATHIS In *The Phantom Menace*, Natalie, playing the Queen of Naboo, wore dresses so stiff and formal that she couldn't sit down except on concealed stools

STAR Wars beauty Natalie Portman is set to melt the hearts of a whole new generation of fans... with the help of a Scots designer.

Trisha Biggar has transformed Natalie into a beautiful temptress for *Attack of the Clones*.

The costume designer revealed how she gets her fabric and her inspiration from her favourite Scottish costume show. So nearly every one of Natalie's amazing costumes – including the backless, gravity-defying £10,000 halter-neck dress above – has a bit of Scotland in it.

To match the latest film's romantic theme, Trisha has traded the actress's staid *Phantom Menace* costumes for more clinging, sexy numbers. Natalie, 20, plays Senator Padme



By DONNA WHITE and CAROLINE WATERSTON

Amidala, whose forbidden romance with Anakin Skywalker turns the young Jedi to the dark side, and he becomes Darth Vader.

Trisha, who lives in Glasgow, said: "Natalie is so beautiful, I would say it is inevitable Star Wars fans will fall in love with her – as they did with Carrie Fisher's Princess Leia 25 years ago."

Now Trisha, 36, who is head of costume design for *Episodes I to III*, has revealed some of the secrets behind Natalie's outfits. She said: "I got a lot of the small details – ribbon, antique lace and so on – from my favourite store, Saratoga Trunk in Glasgow. "There's a piece from that shop in nearly

every one of Natalie's costumes. I also had textile students from Glasgow School of Art produce ideas and make my fabrics for me."

Attack of the Clones is set 10 years after *Phantom Menace*, when Amidala has stepped down as Queen of Naboo, as the democratic system dictates. It meant a change from the ceremonial costumes Natalie previously wore – and a chance to show her softer side.

Trisha said: "We get to see Amidala in much more natural settings – at home, on a picnic and simply relaxing. This gave us the chance to show the real woman."

"We probably spent about £10,000 on the most expensive costumes, which could take up to two months to make," said Trisha.

Her most stunning outfit is the halterneck dress which she wears when she and Skywalker visit an island on Naboo. Made of

silk chiffon, dyed in a variety of colours, it was designed to appear as if the character was floating when she walked.

"The outfit is completely backless, and it seems the only thing holding the dress together is 'The Force'," said Trisha.

"I used intricate antique ribbon around the hem of the dress from Saratoga Trunk."

On the planet Coruscant, where Amidala is a senator, fans will see her in a more formal costume – effectively her working suit.

The hooded panel on the chest of this outfit was from Saratoga Trunk. "I took the lace from an Edwardian House and added some characteristics of Naboo," said Trisha.

"My inspiration for the fabric of the gold dress also came from a piece of embroidered material from Saratoga Trunk," Natalie and Hayden Christensen, who plays Skywalker,

were said to have fallen for each other on set. The actress says they are "just good friends", but director George Lucas revealed the Canadian actor, 20, was cast because of the pair's sensual chemistry.

Whatever the truth, Natalie was more than happy to swap the formal costumes of *Phantom Menace* for more sexy, revealing attire.

"She loved the fact she could move around a bit easier," said Trisha. "In the first film, she couldn't sit down in costume. We had to construct little stools which could fit under her dresses so she could rest on them."

Natalie said: "Now it's my turn to be Revealing Outfit Girl!"

Galaxies of Star Wars fans are going to have no problem with that.



Space traveller: Trisha based this embroidered outfit on the clothes of an old Russian peasant



Time ward: A medieval-style travel outfit. Well, space is big, so a girl can't have too many



Star-crossed lovers: Natalie with Hayden Christensen, left who plays Skywalker; right, Trisha works on a head-dress

