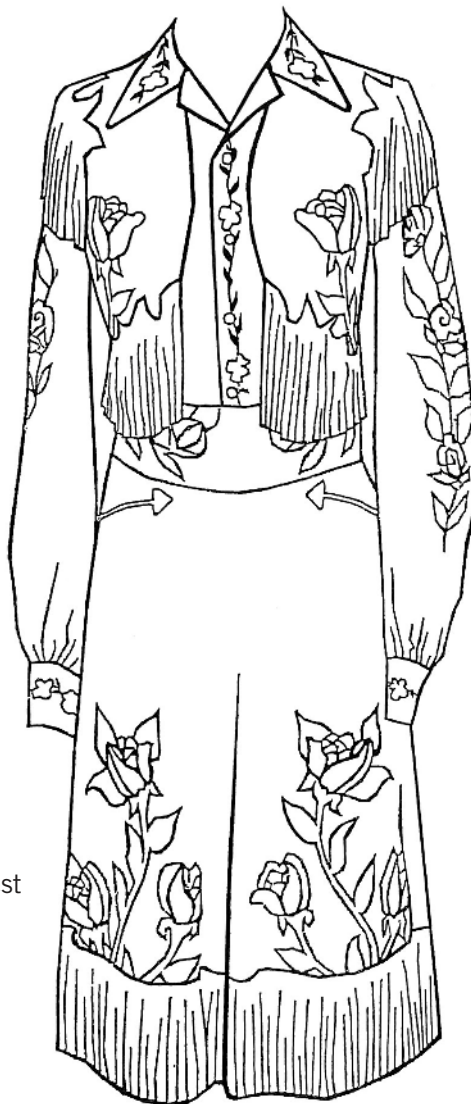


► **Country Costume Designers**

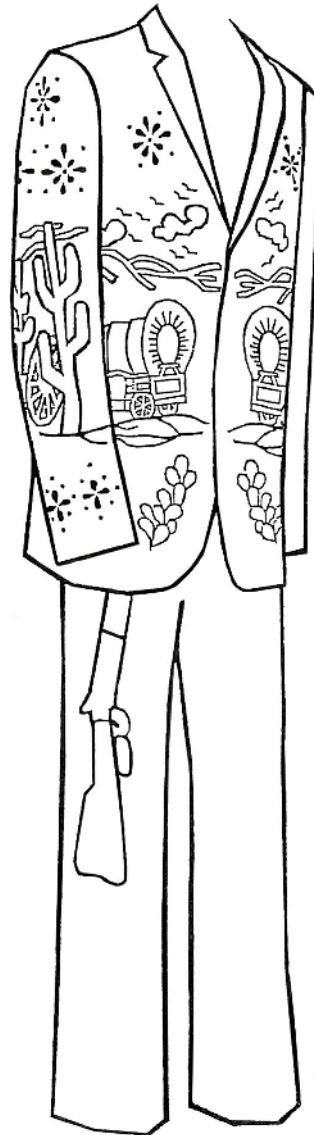
The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum has a large collection of stage costumes reflecting the many images adopted by country artists. Some costumes are on display, while others are stored carefully in our Frist Library and Archive. Among the most visually striking costumes in the collection are the bold creations of Nathan Turk and Nudie Cohn, clothing designers whose work defined the look of country in the mid-twentieth century.

NATHAN TURK

Nathan Turk was born Nathan Tieg in Minsk, Poland, in 1895. At age ten, he began apprenticing with a tailor in Warsaw. Eight years later, he immigrated to America and in 1923 opened a shop in Sherman Oaks, California. Turk's earliest clients were cowboy stars Gene Autry and Roy Rogers. In the 1940s he began designing for country artists, including the Maddox Brothers & Rose. The Turk outfits worn by the Maddoxes dazzled with an array of rich hues and eye-catching flowers, hearts, and other organic embroidery designs. Many of Rose Maddox's colorful suits featured the flower for which she was named. Turk's designs combined western elements such as fringe, embroidery, and arrowhead-bordered smile pockets, with tailored men's and women's suit styles. He often designed embroidery motifs inspired by Dutch, German, and Scandinavian folk art.



**Turk suit designed
for Rose Maddox**



**Nudie suit designed
for Porter Wagoner**

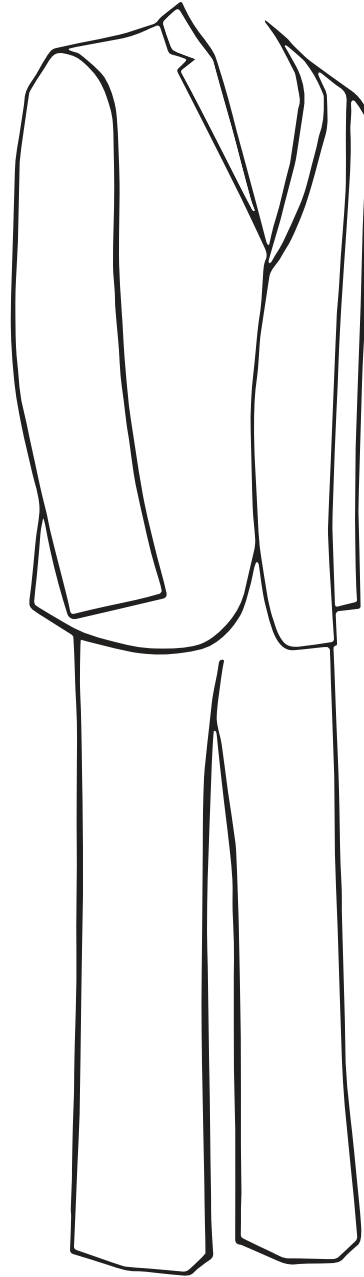
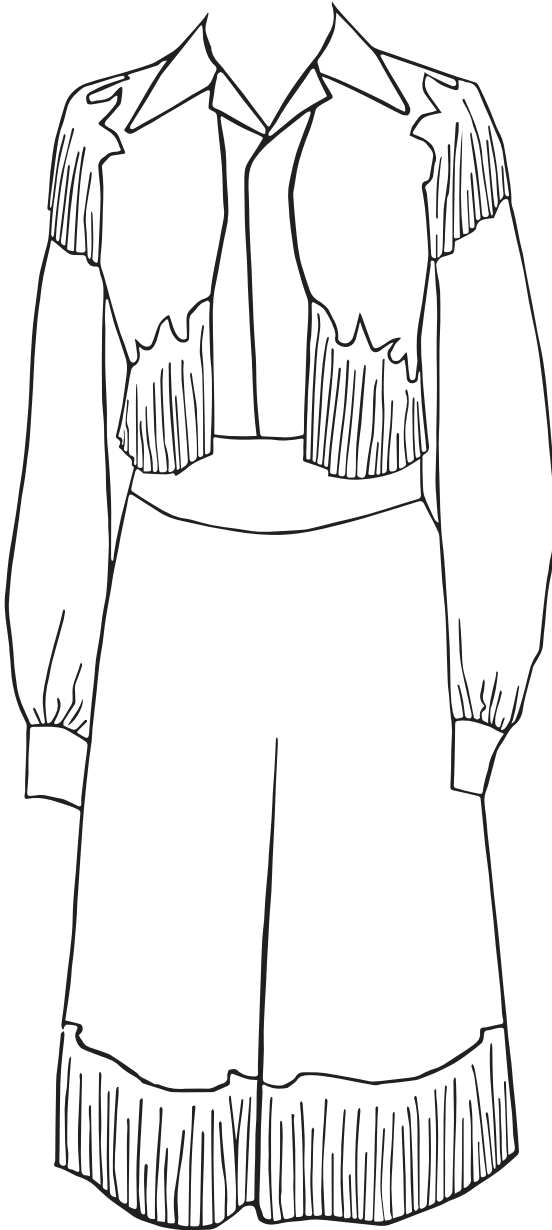
NUDIE (The Rodeo Tailor) COHN

Nudie Cohn (or Cohen) was born Nuta Kotlyarenko in Kiev, Ukraine, in 1902. The third son of a boot-maker, he immigrated to New York City at age eleven (the name Nudie was an Ellis Island corruption of his real name). After working as a tailor's apprentice in New York, Nudie moved to Los Angeles, where he set up a small tailoring shop in his garage in 1940. His reputation grew, and in 1947 he opened a store in North Hollywood. Catering to western film stars and musicians, Nudie stumbled on his signature design when he fashioned a rhinestone-accented shirt for Lefty Frizzell in late 1951. Nudie specialized in designing embroidered

motifs symbolic of the star's name or repertoire, thus, jail cells for Webb Pierce (for his hit "In the Jailhouse Now"), wagon wheels for Porter Wagoner, and Husky dogs for Ferlin Husky. Nudie's designs crossed over to rock & roll when he created a gold lamé suit for Elvis Presley in 1957. In 1968, country-rock pioneer Gram Parsons became a regular client. You can see Nudie's sewing machine, the large sign from his North Hollywood store, and some of his designs, in the museum's third-floor gallery.

► *Design Your Own*

Design your own country costume on the templates below. Use symbols that have meaning to you.



SUPPORTED BY:



Museum programs are funded in part by ACM Lifting Lives, Metropolitan Nashville Arts Commission, Nashville Parent, Springer Mountain Farms, and Tennessee Arts Commission.

@CountryMusicHOF • Downtown Nashville • CountryMusicHallofFame.org • 615.760.6500

The Country Music Hall of Fame® and Museum is operated by the Country Music Foundation, Inc., a Section 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization chartered by the state of Tennessee in 1964.