

Colonial Williamsburg

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
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First-ever Colonial Fashion Days to Feature Influencer, Revolutionary in Residence Zack Pinsent Feb. 7-9



Historic tailor and influencer Zack Pinsent participates in Colonial Williamsburg's first-ever Colonial Fashion Days Feb. 7-9 ahead of Mr. Jefferson's Palace Garden Party May 1. (Zack Pinsent)

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (Jan. 29, 2020) – Colonial Williamsburg invites guests to discover and celebrate the beauty, artistry and secrets of the 18th century during its first-ever Colonial Fashion Days Feb. 7-9, featuring Revolutionary in Residence Zack Pinsent.

Three days of Historic Trades interpretation, Art Museums exhibitions and programming, and special events set the stage for Mr. Jefferson's Palace Garden Party May 1.

“Every February the fashion world converges on New York to celebrate the newest and best designers and attire. Here, we craft and showcase superior attire of a slightly older vintage,” said Bill Schermerhorn, Colonial Williamsburg creative director of signature events. “For the first time this year, we invite history and fashion enthusiasts alike to join us as we celebrate the craft and finery that will be on proud display come May at Mr. Jefferson's Palace Garden Party.”

A self-taught tailor and social media influencer profiled by the BBC, Pinsent has not worn an article of modern clothing since age 14. He operates Pinsent Tailoring in Brighton, East Sussex, England, crafting bespoke items reflecting fashion of the late 17th through early 20th centuries and shares his skills and passion with enthusiasts, students and new audiences.

Colonial Fashion Days programming features Historic Trades interpretation at shops including the Tailor, Milliner and Mantua Maker, Shoemaker and Wigmaker as well as the exhibition “Textile Arts of Britain” at the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum, one of the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg.

Colonial Fashion Days programs include:

Friday, Feb. 7

“A History of Colonial Williamsburg Costume Design” - 11 a.m.-noon in the Art Museums' Hennage Auditorium: Explore decades of costume research with Brenda Rosseau, manager of the Colonial Williamsburg Costume Design Center.

“Fashion on Your Feet” - 4-5 p.m. in the Art Museums' Hennage Auditorium: Colonial Williamsburg Associate Curator of Costumes and Textiles Neal Hurst explores 200 years of fashionable footwear.

“The Fashionable Garden: Influences on the Governor's Palace Landscape” - 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Art Museums' Hennage Auditorium: Discover the trends of our signature historic gardens with Laura Viancour, Colonial Williamsburg landscape director.

“Colonial Costume Night at Chowning's” 4 p.m.-close at Chowning's Tavern on Duke of Gloucester Street: Guests dressed in 18th-century costume attire receive a 25 percent discount. Excludes alcohol and cannot be combined with other offers.

Saturday, Feb. 8

“A Tarpley, Thompson & Company Costume Fashion Show” – 11 a.m.-noon in the Art Museums' Hennage Auditorium: Preview the finest in this spring's Governor's Palace Garden Party styles currently available.

“Jefferson on Display” – 3:30-5 p.m. in the Art Museums’ Hennage Auditorium: How did Thomas Jefferson fashion his public persona to promote his political agenda? Author G.S. Wilson, senior historian at Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello answers the question along with Colonial Williamsburg Nation Builder Thomas Jefferson (special \$10 program ticket required in addition to admission).

“Fashion Fanatics” – 3:45-4:30 p.m. at the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg. On a guided tour, view period British fashion trends such as tartan plaid, silk heels, and serpentine printed patterns.

“Colonial Costume Night at Chowning’s” – 4 p.m.-close at Chowning’s Tavern: Guests dressed in 18th-century costume attire receive a 25 percent discount. Excludes alcohol and cannot be combined with other offers.

Sunday, Feb. 9

“A Fashionable Encounter” – 11 a.m.-noon at Tarpley, Thompson & Company on Duke of Gloucester Street: Meet Pinsent as he prepares for Mr. Jefferson’s Palace Garden Party (free and open to the public).

“Dressing Virginians” – 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the Art Museums’ Hennage Auditorium: Hurst explains how Virginians got dressed in the 18th century.

Colonial Williamsburg’s Revolutionary in Residence Program honors notable achievers in the worlds of art, media, education and politics to ignite conversation about ongoing national issues while illuminating the link between our nation’s historical roots and contemporary life. The program is generously sponsored by the Grainger Foundation of Lake Forest, Illinois.

Sites and programs are included in Colonial Williamsburg or Art Museums admission except where specified. Program information is subject to change. Historic Area sites are open 9:30-4:30 p.m. during Colonial Fashion Days, and the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays in winter during their ongoing \$41.7-million expansion, funded entirely by donors. The Art Museums are currently accessible via a temporary entrance facing W. Court Street.

Colonial Williamsburg retail stores are open to the public. Costume items for Mr. Jefferson’s Palace Garden Party are available to purchase at Tarpley, Thompson & Company Tuesdays through Sundays 11 a.m.-4 p.m. (and until 5 p.m. Saturdays) and to rent at William Pitt Shop Thursdays through Tuesdays 11 a.m.-4 p.m. (also until 5 p.m. Saturdays).

Additional information and admission tickets and tickets for special events are at Colonial Williamsburg ticketing locations, online at colonialwilliamsburg.com/fashion-days, or by calling 1-855-296-6627 toll-free. Information is also available by following Colonial Williamsburg on [Facebook](#) and [@colonialwmsburg](#) on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation preserves, restores and operates Virginia's 18th-century capital of Williamsburg. Innovative and interactive experiences highlight the relevance of the American Revolution to contemporary life and the importance of an informed, active citizenry. The Colonial Williamsburg experience includes more than 600 restored or reconstructed original buildings, renowned museums of decorative arts and folk art, extensive educational outreach programs for students and teachers, lodging, culinary options from historic taverns to casual or elegant dining, the Golden Horseshoe Golf Club featuring 45 holes designed by Robert Trent Jones and his son Rees Jones, a full-service spa and fitness center, pools, retail stores and gardens. Philanthropic support and revenue from admissions, products and hospitality operations sustain Colonial Williamsburg's educational programs and preservation initiatives.

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