

17TH CENTURY TAILORING COURSES SUMMER 2026

The following short courses for Summer 2026 are now open for bookings on our webshop at <https://shop.theschoolofhistoricaldress.org.uk> under COURSES

All courses take place at The School of Historical Dress, 52 Lambeth Road, London SE1 7PP

<https://www.facebook.com/theschoolofhistoricaldress> [instagram/theschoolofhistoricaldress1](https://www.instagram.com/theschoolofhistoricaldress1)

THE CUT & CONSTRUCTION OF PETTICOAT BREECHES MONDAY 10th AUGUST to FRIDAY 14th AUGUST



5-Day Course –10am to 6pm

Students on this course will get the chance to participate in the cut and construction of two different pairs of men's silk 'Open' or 'Petticoat' breeches based on exceptionally rare surviving examples that we have studied and included in our upcoming book *Patterns of Fashion 7: the content, cut, construction and context of European menswear c.1620-1710*.

The breeches will be decorated with elaborate laces, including parchment lace, and 'knots' of ribbons. The course would suit those who have a passion for men's tailoring and for the many styles and types of decorations used on them.

In addition to the petticoat breeches themselves, we hope to make at least two differing pairs of the kind of legwear worn beneath petticoat breeches in the mid-to late-17th century. Up to four other layers of legwear were worn with them at the same time including silk stockings, boothose and 'stirop' hose.

Examples of extant 17th century textiles, garments and accessories worn by both men and women will be available for close examination by students.

TUTORS Jenny Tiramani & Paweł Tomaszewski

£250 - half-price concession fee 6 PLACES



THE CUT & CONSTRUCTION OF JAPPAN WADDED GOWNS

MONDAY 24th AUGUST to FRIDAY 28th AUGUST



5-Day Course –10am to 6pm

Students on this course will participate in the construction of these gowns which were luxurious and very fashionable for both men and women in the second half of the 17th century. In the 18th century they became acceptable garments for men to wear in public. We are publishing the patterns of two such gowns in our upcoming book *Patterns of Fashion 7: the content, cut, construction and context of European menswear c.1620-1710*. The gown we will reconstruct on this course is an interpretation of a unique extant example from the Rijksmuseum collection in Amsterdam, which has had the inner garment (of silk muslin with silk wadding inside it) removed from the silk satin outer layers. We will make both the outer garment and the inner one separately, in a way in which they can also be put together. We are delighted that one of our past students bought a very large wadd of silk fibre from China for us to use on this exciting project.

The original gown we will focus on was almost certainly made for King William III and stadtholder of the Netherlands. His accounts include entries such as 'three Bundles of ffine wadd' and 'One peice of gold and purple Atlas'. The gown was originally deep purple silk satin (now faded) with gold brocaded serpentine stems with plant forms. It is lined with rich green silk taffeta.

Examples of extant 17th century textiles, garments and accessories worn by both men and women will be available for close examination by students. This course is suitable for those with less tailoring experience and those with a passion for quilting.

TUTORS Jenny Tiramani & Irene D'Antonio

£250 Half-Price Concession Fee 6 PLACES



DRESSING SIR THOMAS EISOME IN 1681
MONDAY 31st AUGUST to FRIDAY 4th SEPTEMBER

5-Day Course – 10am to 6pm

Students on this course will get the chance to participate in the cut and construction of this 1681 ensemble which consisted originally of a coat, waistcoat and breeches. The white satin waistcoat does not survive but the tailor's bill for all three garments does, so we are making the waistcoat, coat and breeches as described by George Crump the tailor.

Patterns of the coat and the breeches are featured in our upcoming book *Patterns of Fashion 7: the content, cut, construction and context of European menswear c.1620-1710*.

Both the waistcoat and the breeches are described as being 'Richly Laced with gold and Silver Lace and knots of Ribbon Round the knees' on July the 2nd 1681. Unlike the V&A museum images of the breeches as they are today, ours will give people an impression of how spectacularly decorated they were originally.

Extant 17th century textiles, several mid-17th century tailored items and accessories worn by both men and women will be available for close examination by students during the course. This course is suitable for those with some experience in hand-stitching.

TUTORS Jenny Tiramani & Colleagues

£250 Half-Price Concession Fee 6 PLACES



PATTERNS OF FASHION 7 STUDY DAY & BOOK LAUNCH
The Content, Cut, Construction and Context of European Menswear

FRIDAY 20th NOVEMBER
10am to 10pm



Provisional Programme

Session 1. 10am–11.45am
Presentations on the CONTENT of 17th Century Menswear.

Session 2. 12 noon–1.15pm
Mini-workshops on 17th century Menswear. Participants can choose three subjects (25 minutes each).

Session 3. 2.15pm–3.30pm
Presentations on the CUT & CONSTRUCTION of 17th Century Menswear.

Session 4. 3.45pm–5pm
Mini-workshops on 17th century Menswear. Participants can choose three subjects (20 minutes each).

Session 5. 5.15pm–6.15pm
Presentations on the CONTEXT of 17th Century Menswear.

Session 6. 7.15pm–9.45pm
Live Dressings on models of 17th Century European Menswear followed by Conclusions & Book Signing. Finish 10pm

£95 full price / £75 concession price – Tickets available from August 1st 2026

The premises at Conway Hall are fully accessible for wheelchair users. All coats and bags can be stored on rails behind the registration desk in the foyer at Conway Hall but they remain under your responsibility.

Our books and posters can all be purchased throughout the day, payment by cash or card.

The ticket price includes one drink per person so we can all raise a glass to the late Janet Arnold, Santina M. Levey and Wendy Hefford, the three friends and colleagues who trusted us and our school to carry

The School of Historical Dress, 52 Lambeth Road, London, SE1 7PP
Company Registration Number: 7017312. (England and Wales) Registered Charity Number: 1142188
TRUSTEES Harriet Barsby Claire Thornton Professor Maria Hayward
Vanessa Hopkins Nabil Nayal Koy Spencer-Nwadike Susan Witherow

info@theschoolofhistoricaldress.org.uk
www.theschoolofhistoricaldress.org.uk