The Liberace Crystal Experience

An Exhibition Presented by: The Liberace Foundation for the Performing & Creative Arts
Liberace took crystal to a whole new level . . .

Throughout his tenure as a Las Vegas performer, Liberace developed an act incomparable to anything anyone had ever seen. He wanted the crowd to be dazzled and delighted, and he made no reservations or apologies. Excessive opulence became a central theme in Liberace's shows.

As a result, crystals began to adorn every inch of the set, including Liberace himself.

Today, these unique and captivating items are available for exhibition for qualified venues.

Above: One of Liberace’s Baldwin pianos. Every panel of the piano’s body is covered with Austrian AB lead crystals, including the underside. Liberace would use it during his performances on stage in Las Vegas. It is in tune today and played by professionals weekly.

Right: Liberace’s Crystal Suit — a tailcoat suit adorned with thousands of Tiffany mounted Austrian crystals, pearls and beads. The suit can be coupled with the matching White Azure Mink Coat which features crystal lining (page 6).
Liberace began his love affair with crystal in the early 1960's when his costumes started to focus more heavily on the glitz and glamour. When Liberace's audiences could not get enough of the brilliant façades, he went as extravagant as his imagination would take him, resulting in crystal-studded costumes, pianos and even exotic cars. His extravagant stagecraft attracted millions of fans worldwide and earned him the nickname, “Mr. Showmanship.”

Below: The Liberace Dusenberg Roadster. This one-of-a-kind car, covered in Austrian crystal, was used to escort Liberace onto stage. It’s unique style has attracted interest for decades. Rock band Duran Duran used the car for their “Pop Trash” album cover in 2000 (right). Up until 2014, it was on display in the Cosmopolitan lobby. There, it became the most photographed object on the Strip and attracted thousands of visitors every day.
“Well look me over . . . I didn’t dress this way to go unnoticed!”

Bowties (top left to right): One of many crystal-only bowties; bowtie of crystal and bone-white sequins; gold sequin and crystal studded bowtie.

Boots: Liberace’s crystal boots to match the Crystal Suit (page 2). Austrian crystals cover every square inch of the exterior of the boots, just like the suit.
Liberace knew that in his time the availability of quality crystal was slim, and he chose Austrian crystal-makers exclusively for their high standard of product. Liberace would joke that he bought so many crystals from these artisans that he saved their company from bankruptcy several times. Although the industry will not confirm nor deny this claim, it is for certain they loved Liberace. In 1985, the Austrian crystal-makers presented what became known as the “Heart of Liberace” to Liberace himself—a 115,000 carat rhinestone crystal and the largest in the world.
Liberace’s presence in pop culture today is strong. He is adored by fans worldwide and a source of inspiration for contemporary artists. His unique style of opulence and luxury, paired with glitz and glamour gave way to an entire culture of “bling” and overwhelming showmanship. Liberace’s thought on his rare collection was to share it. To that extent, he built a museum. And for 30 years, that museum shared Liberace’s collection with the world and provided over $5.6 million in scholarships to students of the performing and creative arts. Today, your venue has the same opportunity to attract thousands of visitors to see these exotic and revolutionizing items, while continuing Liberace’s Legacy of Giving.

Above: One of Liberace’s crystal-studded microphones used on stage.

Left: The Crystal Suit shown in full-length with the matching White Azure Mink Cape designed by Anna Nateece. The cape is lined with crystal.

Bottom: Detailed image of the Baldwin Crystal Piano (page 2).
The Liberace Foundation for the Performing and Creative Arts employs a team of archivists and curators to care for the collection. Their expertise will be utilized to perform the handling, installation and break-down of any exhibition. Curators are available to remain on site with the exhibition to answer questions, relay additional information and bring context to any intrigued guests. The Liberace Foundation also has security specialists that will evaluate an area being considered for exhibition to ensure the safety and integrity of the artifacts. Any questions you might have for the Liberace Foundation can be directed to the Chairman of the Board of Directors and/or to the Operations Manager.

Above: Liberace's crystal-studded tap-shoes.
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