

## Behind the seams on screen

### Hollywood shops in Duxbury when it needs movie material

By Rich Fahey  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

**D**UXBURY — Suzanne Boucher's job involves cutting fabrics, but she also knows what it's like to end up on the cutting-room floor.

Experience has told Boucher that even when a movie company buys her fabrics, it doesn't always mean the materials will be used in a movie. Or that when they are used, that they'll even be visible.

Boucher, 47, is the co-owner with her husband, Fred, of Full Swing Textiles, a Duxbury company that specializes in vintage 1940s- and 1950s-style fabrics printed on barkcloth, a popular material at the time. The fabrics are often used by art directors of movies with scenes set in those decades.

Boucher said that in the past 20 years, 25 movies have used her company's fabrics, which are also found in nightclubs, casinos, restaurants, and hotels around the world.

"Somehow all the movie art directors have our samples, and they call us every couple of months," said Boucher, a former photo stylist for decorating magazines and a designer at the Boston Design Center. "They work very quick-

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**AT THE MOVIES** Barkcloth fabrics made by Full Swing Textiles have been used in the following films:



TOM HERDE PHOTO

Suzanne Boucher of Full Swing Textiles.

1991 The Marrying Man  
1992 Mambo Kings  
1992 A River Runs Through It  
1992 Malcolm X  
1993 Wrestling Ernest Hemingway  
1993 What's Love Got To Do With It?  
1994 Quiz Show  
1994 Ed Wood  
1994 Getting Even With Dad  
1994 Trial By Jury  
1995 Indian In The Cupboard  
1996 The Bird Cage

1996 Jack  
1997 L.A. Confidential  
1997 Leave it to Beaver  
1998 The Imposters  
2000 Joe Gould's Secret  
2000 Me, Myself and Irene  
2003 Mona Lisa Smile  
2006 The Good Shepherd  
2006 Hollywoodland  
2007 King of California  
2007 For One More Day  
2010 Shutter Island  
2010 Peacock

SOURCE: Suzanne Boucher, owner of Full Swing Textiles



**SHUTTER ISLAND** A pattern of palm fronds on a cherry background was used.



**THE GOOD SHEPHERD** Art directors bought more than 50 yards of a fabric called Savanna.



**QUIZ SHOW** Needed a 1950s motif, Mid-Century Modern on coral.



**MONA LISA SMILE** Adapted another botanical pattern, Palm Beach on cappuccino.



**HOLLYWOODLAND** Set decorators used a Western theme called Yippee-Ei-O on red.

QUINCY

## Season of political dominoes

### Vacant seats stir major interest

By Robert Preer  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

After nearly two decades in which most officeholders stayed put, Quincy's political scene is bursting with activity as the 2010 election season begins.

US Representative William D. Delahunt's decision not to seek reelection has set Quincy dominoes falling, from the State House to county government to City Council. The gubernatorial bid of Tim Cahill of Quincy also has stirred political activity in the city.

"These things happen very rarely, but when they do, it is very exciting for people who care about politics in the city," said Patrick W. McDermott, Norfolk County register of deeds and a former Quincy city councilor.

Delahunt's impending departure prompted Norfolk District Attorney William R. Keating to move to Quincy and run for Congress. Keating now rents a house on Adeline Road, near Quincy Center. He had been living in Sharon, which is not in the 10th Congressional District.

Democratic state Senator Michael W. Morrissey of Quincy is giving up his seat to run for district attorney, while state Representative A. Stephen Tobin and City Councilor John F. Keenan are vying

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SCITUATE

## Schools likely to feel pinch of tight budget

By Molly A. K. Connors  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Amid statewide cuts to local aid, slower growth in construction, and soaring health insurance costs, Scituate residents can expect a budget at tomorrow's annual Town Meeting that will result in layoffs and reduced services.

"I don't think I've ever seen situations this bad . . . where we know things have to be done, we recognize things have to be done, we just don't have the money to do them," Joe Norton, chairman of the Board of Selectmen, said in a recent interview.

"That's a scary and dangerous situa-

# She's got the stuff for the silver screen

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ly. They know what they want."

Her work is front and center in a key scene in the hit movie "Shutter Island," which was filmed in Massachusetts.

The Oscar-winning husband-and-wife art directors Dante Ferretti and Francesca Lo Schiavo, who have worked with "Shutter Island" director Martin Scorsese on films such as "Gangs of New York" and "The Aviator," selected four of Boucher's barkcloth fabrics for "Shutter Island." Their assistants called Boucher for samples while they were filming in Middleborough last year, and they asked for solid barkcloth in teal, Shephard Hotel (a stripe) in seaglass and cinnabar, and palm in cherry.

All four fabrics are visible in the movie's flashback scene in which actor Leonardo DiCaprio is embracing actress Michelle Williams, playing his deceased wife, from behind as she crumbles into ashes; the stripe is behind them on the sofa and the chair.

Boucher said she didn't see the palm and solid barkcloth when she watched the movie's trailer, but picked them up in the drapes in the same scene when she saw the entire movie later.

"They ordered more than 20 yards of each, and I remember them talking about drapes," she said.

After production designers and art directors have had their way with the Bouchers' material, the couple often has a hard time recognizing it on screen. They said they sent more than 50 yards of a sepia-colored fabric called Savanna to the art directors of the 2006 Matt Damon film "The Good Shepherd," about the creation of the CIA after World War II. But what they saw on film was almost something else.

"It went to a laundromat in Brooklyn to be stone-washed to make it faded and dull before being made into drapes, and we never did recognize it, even with our noses stuck to the screen," said Suzanne Boucher.

It was the same with "The



TOM HERDE FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

**Suzanne Boucher, co-owner of Full Swing Textiles, with fabrics she provided that were used in the movie "Shutter Island."**

Marrying Man," the 1991 movie that starred Alec Baldwin and Kim Basinger.

"They ordered a ton of fabrics, and they covered all these bar stools, but it was in a dark-lit lounge and you couldn't even see them," said Boucher.

Barkcloth was originally made in Hawaii from the soft inner bark of tapa trees. Strips of bark were first soaked and then beaten with a mallet to form large strips of fabric, then block-printed with tropical designs.

During World War II, many movies featured tropical themes, and American textile plants responded to that by making the fabric out of cotton. A heavy, durable fabric, it was popular for upholstered furniture, slipcovers, curtains, bed skirts, and pillows.

Boucher's work is in demand by production designers and art directors not only because of her design skills with barkcloth, but also because she has her own formula, developed with her weaver, for recreating the material just as it was made during the 1940s. She has found other uses for vin-

tage barkcloth, such as using patterns that have appeared in movies to create a movie theme in the display window of Peabody Office Furniture on Congress Street in downtown Boston.

Richard Vaughn, the company's chief executive, said Boucher's patterns "have transformed our display windows into a tranquil tropical space for everyone to experience who walks by our building."

Interior decorator Michelle A. DiPersio of Duxbury, editor of *Dovetails Antiques & Home* magazine and owner of an antiques business of the same name, said Boucher's feel for colors is the key to her success.

"Basically, Suzanne can take that look of 1930s glam or Vegas and tweak the colors to make them more modern and new, but without losing the Hollywood glam aspect of the fabric," said DiPersio.

Boucher said her fabrics are priced at \$15 a yard to \$48 a yard.

Cotton barkcloth was enjoying a revival of sorts when Bou-

cher went to work in 1988 in a Newport, R.I., shop that featured vintage furniture and accessories. Shop owner Michele Mancini, who also collected vintage textiles, scored a coup when she purchased 16,000 yards of barkcloth that was found in a closed West Virginia factory. She and Boucher mailed samples to design centers around the country, and orders poured in — including from the Walt Disney Co., which wanted barkcloth for its flashback scenes set in 1955 for the second installment of the "Back to the Future" trilogy.

By 1990, the material was almost gone, so Mancini and Boucher decided to make their own with vintage designs. They had to find a weaver, who retrofitted a special loom for the heavy, double-twisted yarn.

Boucher left the company a few years later, but stayed in touch with Mancini. She then bought the company from Mancini in 2005, moved it to Duxbury, and took it in a new direction by selling the material directly to consumers instead of middlemen. She also established an online boutique.

Interest in barkcloth fluctuates with fashion trends, but Boucher has added new designs to try to appeal to a broader clientele.

"They have a clean, modern look that should appeal to a younger crowd," she said.

Meanwhile, she said, the fun part of being a small portion of the movie world is that the work is preserved forever.

"We'll be watching a movie, and all of a sudden our fabrics will pop up on the screen," she said. "We'll have forgotten all about that movie."

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