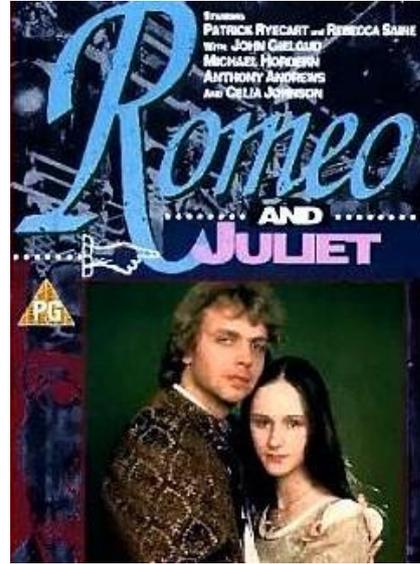


# ODETTE BARROW

## 1929 – 2014



**The costume designer Odette Barrow lived at  
9 Brunner Road from the 1970s until her death in 2014**

Odette was born in Stepney to Hilda and George Barrow. He was an actor and Hilda had once been child actor in Belgium. They moved to Kew when Odette was a child.

Having trained at a London art school she often spoke of how much she had enjoyed her early work in the Opera Houses at Palermo and Covent Garden. She worked on films and stage but is best known for her work at the BBC from the late 1960s to 1990. During that time there was a flowering of period drama on television. The role of the designer increased as the introduction of colour made the use of lavish costumes and sets a way of attracting audiences to historical drama. TV now competed in this with film and theatre.

Odette enjoyed designing carefully researched costumes, rich in embroidery and embellishment which served the dramatic intention of a director, but could also be made within a budget and worn by actors. Her BBC work is still referenced in the history of TV and film drama and her credits include many Shakespeare productions, *The Mikado*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Jude the Obscure*, *The Devil's Disciple* and the *Play of the Month* series. She was also involved in contemporary dramas such as *The Stone Tapes* and *The Birthday Party*.

A well-known figure about Brentham Odette retained her interest in design after her retirement. Her funeral service at St. Barnabas Church was small as many residents were unaware of her death until a few weeks later. She is remembered as immaculately dressed, telling entertaining anecdotes and a good neighbour.