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Litterær utkledning

Personer som ikke er profesjonelle skuespillere kler seg ut som kjente fiktive skikkelser eller som berømte forfattere. Litterær temafest/-party m.m.

Den spanske forfatteren Miguel de Cervantes publiserte det første av de to bindene av romanen *Don Quijote* i 1605. Samme år dukket Don Quijote og Sancho Panza opp som karnevalsfigurer i Spania (ifølge Anthony J. Close – tidstabell med informasjon før s. 1 i Close 1990).

I 1862 publiserte den franske forfatteren Gustave Flaubert sin historiske roman *Salammbô*. Den russiske adelskvinnen Varvara Rimskij-Korsakov slo seg ned i Frankrike etter å ha rømt fra Russland med sin elsker, og i 1863 opptrådte hun i et ball ved hoffet utkledd som Salammbô. Klærne hennes var så gjennomsluktige at hun ble utvist fra festen (Martin-Fugier 2003 s. 24).

Det adelige og styrtrike franske ekteparet Baba og Jean-Louis de Faucigny-Lucinge holdt den 22. juni 1928 et utkledningsball som de kalte *Motene fra 1880 til 1905*. Deltakerne var delt i grupper, og en av gruppene var kledd ut som personer fra forfatteren Marcel Prousts romaner, blant andre Swann (to personer var utkledd som han: Charles Beistégui og M. Chrissoveloni) og Madame Verdurin (Madame Morand). En person ved navn Valentine Hugo hadde en drakt som skulle illustrere Prousts roman *Sodoma og Gomorra*, en drakt delt i to drakter, henholdsvis en mannlig drakt foran og en kvinnedrakt (med kjolekø) bak (Martin-Fugier 2003 s. 15-16). Den fransk-egyptiske forfatteren Georges Cattaui – “en fanatisk beundrer av *På sporet av den tapte tid*” (Martin-Fugier 2003 s. 16) – ville forestille romanseriens forteller (jeg-personen). En etterkommer av familien som arrangerte ballet, Jean-Louis de Faucigny-Lucinge, ga i 1986 ut boka *Minneverdige fester: Kostymeball 1922-1972*. På hundreårsdagen for Proust fødsel i 1971 holdt Marie-Hélène og Guy de Rothschild et “Proust-ball” (Martin-Fugier 2003 s. 16).

Et brudepar hadde et bryllup der både paret og gjestene var kledd som personer fra *Alice in Wonderland*: “Why did you want an Alice in Wonderland theme? Sam has always loved the books, and has always loved the idea of living in a fantasy world.

This gave her the opportunity to not only get married, but to do so in a way which she had dreamed of for years. [...] We were both ecstatic with the costumes! Not knowing what they were going to be until the day was a bit nerve wracking but we were really pleasantly surprised. James had thought that his look would be very basic and restrained so was happily surprised to see how crazy his suit was. [...] Almost all of our guests were happy to dress up, one or two didn't like the idea of being on TV so chose outfits which hid their faces (Cheshire Cat and Jabberwock). James brother Nick, who was the best man, was dreading having to dress up as the White Rabbit but nonetheless threw himself into the role. [...] James was The Hatter, Sam was Alice, Sam's mum and dad were the King and Queen of Hearts, James' mum and dad were the White King and Queen, Sam's brothers were the Knight and the Jabberwock, James' brother was the White rabbit... We also had Tweedledum and Tweedledee, the Knave, Jesus (a carpenter), the dormouse, card soldiers and many many more! [...] My wedding day was a creative extravaganza and I needed a unique bouquet that could fit in with my Alice in Wonderland theme. What better than an edible bouquet that not only looked amazing but tasted divine too! The edible tag said Marry Me as a play on the Eat Me tags in the book which I thought was a lovely touch!" (<http://www.peoniesandpearls.co.uk/2010/10/real-wedding-alice-in-wonderland-james.html>; lesedato 23.05.13)

"I love themed weddings and I especially love it when couples go that extra mile to make it as close to the actual thing as possible. A perfect example is the Lord of The Rings wedding held in the Philippines two years ago [...] Ring and coin bearers aka Frodo and Sam. [...] The Groomsmen Lorie & Nathan:

The Wedding

One Ring to Show Our Love

One Ring to Bind Us

One Ring to Seal our Love

And Forever to Entwine Us.

It is quite obvious the amount of effort the couple went through to achieve their dream wedding theme from the invites, the outfits of the entourage (and even the wedding planners!) down to the decors and accessories." (<http://www.blisstree.com/2006/02/26/mental-health-well-being/themed-wedding-lord-of-the-rings/>; lesedato 02.05.13)

"Maurice Sendak Tribute: Photos Of Children In 'Where The Wild Things Are' Costumes. When the New York Times reported this morning that Maurice Sendak had died, fans took to social media to pay tribute to the beloved children's author. [...] Together, we mourn the loss of a man who understood the intricacies of childhood, helped legions of youngsters fall in love with reading and introduced us all to the wild rumpus. So, with gratitude, let it begin. Below are photos of children letting their inner Wild Things roar, dressed up as Max and other Sendak

characters.” (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/05/08/where-the-wild-things-are-costumes_n_1500141.html; lesedato 23.05.13)

“Three-year-old Davin Lyons, dressed as Peter Pan, steers his cardboard ship as his mother Lindsay Lyons dressed as Tinkerbell (second from left) puts the ship back together during Davin's Peter Pan themed birthday party at his home in Akron. [...] Christopher Lyons dressed as Captain Hook [...] Lindsay Lyons dressed as Tinkerbell has her shadow drawn at her three-year-old son Davin's Peter Pan themed birthday party [...] Three-year-old Davin Lyons blows out the candle on his treasure chest birthday cake [...] Jessica Plummer dressed as Princess Tiger Lily, heads out the gate” (<http://www.ohio.com/lifestyle/>; lesedato 18.06.13).

“My son and I spent a whole year planning his Harry Potter birthday party, picking up items for goody bags, plates, decorations etc., from clearance bins and dollar stores and making some of our own decorations and treats. [...] This year Harry Potter costumes were Gryffindor cloaks made from black garbage bags, split up one side and almost all the way across the bottom (leaving the corner intact for the hood of the cloak and the cut end for ties). This was great since one size fits all. [...] We printed out Gryffindor patches on sticker paper and placed them on the right side of each Harry Potter cloak. My son handed these to his guests as they arrived.” (<http://www.coolest-kid-birthday-parties.com/harry-potter.html>; lesedato 02.05.13)

“Överrasknings Harry Potter Fest för Alicia som blir 19 år! [...] Här skrev vi ut mallar o pysslade ihop allt detta och la i godis, precis som på filmen. I Dumbledore boxen la vi i en choklad groda och den nedersta la vi i jellyneans. [...] Ida som – Luna Lovegood, Ravenclaw elev. Wilma som – Professor Sibylla Trelawney, spådamns lärare på Hogwards. Emma som – Moaning Myrtle, spök tjejen på toaletten. Johanna som – Professor Dolores Umbridge, bitch kvinnan från Ministry of Magic.” (<http://nouw.com/maiatelen/overrasknings-harry-potter-fest-for-alic-18033182>; lesedato 28.12.17)

“Steampunk Alice Throws a Literary-Themed Mad Tea Party [...] As a child, Alice had her fill of adventures in Wonderland. Now that she's all grown up, she's ready for more excitement, traveling through time and space. For this year's Mad Tea Party, Time-Traveling Steampunk Alice traveled through history to gather her best literary friends and brought them all back to 2016 for a book-themed summer tea party. The friends all sat down to sweet treats, tasty drinks, and some fun reading. I think Alice had a little too much fun when choosing book selections for her friends. Prissy Charlotte Bronte was absolutely scandalized when she read the details of *Jane Austen's Letters!* Jane, never one to worry much about what people think of her, just shrugged it off saying, “Hey, it was the 90s!” Miss Austen did get nostalgic when she noticed her tea cup featured the same Blue Willow pattern that her family used in their home in Steventon when she was growing up. “How thoughtful, dear Alice,” she remarked. [...] *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz's* Dorothy

Gale amused herself at this corner of the table with a copy of *Grimm's Complete Fairy Tales*. [...] After the party, the girls gathered outside for a group photo before Alice took them all home to their proper places in history. What a lovely idea for a tea party, Alice!" (<http://www.belleslibrary.com/2016/07/in-which-steampunk-alice-throws.html>; lesedato 27.12.17)

Mange firmaer tilbyr drakter basert på litterære skikkelser. To eksempler på engelske firmaer og deres drakter til salgs: "Boys Childrens Street Urchin/Oliver Twist Fancy Dress Costume for Kids. Victorian urchin boy with trousers, shirt, waistcoat, neckerchief and cap. Machine washable at 40°C on a delicate cycle. Available in 3 sizes from 3 to 11 years." (<http://www.sofancydress.co.uk/>; lesedato 15.06.13) "Our cute cockney Oliver Twist style Urchin kid is an ideal Victorian role play fancy dress costume. Includes short trousers, shirt, waistcoat and hat. The victorian cap and waistcoat are also sold separately" (<http://www.fancydressbash.co.uk/>; lesedato 15.06.13) Nettsida www.fancydressbash.co.uk reklamerte i 2013 også for bl.a. "Great Gatsby Fancy Dress for the Roaring 20's", "Les Miserables Costumes and Props for Fancy Dress Parties and Plays", "Roald Dahl Book Character Fancy Dress Costumes" og andre "Book Character Fancy Dress Costumes for Children".

"I natt var det ikke søvn som var førsteprioritet for Harry Potter-fansen. Ved midnatt ble den aller siste filmen om magikeren vist på norske kinoer. [...] Og som ved tidligere Potter-premierer ble stemningen komplett ved at mange kledd seg opp som sin favorittfigur fra Galtvort høyere skole for hekseri og trolldom. - Jeg kommer til å gråte voldsomt når det hele er over. Jeg leste den første boka da jeg var 8 år, og har vokst opp med disse figurene, sier Eva [...] (14) fra Drammen, som hadde brukt seks timer på å omforme seg til selveste Voldemort – komplett med hette på hodet, hvitt pudder i ansiktet og en avrevet strømpebukse over nesa. - Det er blandingen av krig, magi og intriger som er det spesielle med Harry Potter-serien. Det, og at du blir så godt kjent med karakterene, sier Eva og venninna Benedicte [...] (14), for anledningen kledd ut som Lulla Lunakjær." (*Dagbladet* 13. juli 2011 s. 42)

"Another Jane Austen "in character" weekend is scheduled for August 2013. Each guest will choose to be a character from any one of Austen's novels. Period dress is optional, but guests will interact in character throughout the weekend. The activities will depend somewhat on the weather and participant interest, but may include a Regency dinner party, an evening of games, letter writing, fencing, English Country dancing, crewel embroidery, tatting, rolled paper decoration, a game of croquet, a very long walk, riding, carriage driving, archery, shooting, and a picnic with or without Colonel Brandon. Rates are the same as regular Jane Austen weekends, but there is an additional charge to participate in some activities. Now's your chance to be Elizabeth Bennet, Anne Elliot or Lady Catherine, but only one of each character may sign up so make haste to confirm your reservation. Bring your own Darcy or maybe meet him on the croquet lawn. Perhaps the door to the

romance of Jane's world isn't in Hammersmith after all. Jane Austen Weekend rates start at \$295 for singles, \$260 per person for doubles, \$235 per person for triples, and include two nights' lodging, Friday evening's talk over dessert and coffee, full breakfast on Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon tea, Saturday dinner and book discussion, early Sunday Continental breakfast, and the Jane Austen quiz with Sunday brunch." (<http://www.onehundredmain.com/events/jane-austen-weekends/>; lesedato 02.08.13)

Ikke alle er klar over hvem de er utkledd som ... "Plutselig var det karneval i barnehagen. Lillemor hadde ikke vært i barnehagen på en uke og hverken mor eller far hadde skrevet ned eller memorert den store dagen. Derfor måtte mor sette seg ned kvelden før og tenke. Butikkene var nemlig stengt. Hun måtte sy. Fort. Og da måtte det jo bli en liten Pippi:) [...] Og Lillemor ble fornøyd hun. Selv om hun ikke helt vet hvem Pippi er mente hun at "meg er kul nå, mamma":) Kjolen er klippet på frihånd uten mønster (hadde ikke tid). Det samme er leggvarmerne så det ble til slutt et helt unikt kostyme" (<http://millamade.blogspot.no/2011/02/karneval.html>; lesedato 06.05.13). "Den svenske ambassaden [...] markerer Astrid Lindgrens hundreårsdag torsdag 24. mai. I et stort opptog vil over 250 skolebarn, utkledd som Lindgren-figurer, gå med norske og svenske flagg" (*Morgenbladet* 18. – 24. mars 2007 s. 30).

Jo Nesbøs barnebokserie om Doktor Proktor (*Doktor Proktors prompepulver*, 2007, m.fl.) har blitt brukt til å lage forskjellige arrangementer. "Arrangørene lokker med parykk, pærebrus og prompepulver, og ber barn kle seg ut som Bulle, Lise eller Raspa. Man skal få hilse på Gregor og Perry, bli med å finne Doktor Proktors hus og man skal visstnok få se på doktorens siste oppfinnelse. Turen går fra Karl Johans gate utenfor Stortinget både i dag og i morgen, innom Raspas urmakerforretning – Langfrakk klokkebutikk, via Syvertsens konditori til saluttkanonene på Akershus festning. [...] "Hvor er Kanonveien? Tør du å bli med til Dauingehullet? Og hvor ble det egentlig av Anna Konda?" spør arrangøren." (*Dagbladets Magasinet* 3. januar 2015 s. 39)

"Cosplay" er en blanding av utkleddningslek og performancekunst, og kostymene viser vanligvis populære figurer fra japanske tegneserier, dataspill osv. Men også vestlige (populær-)kulturelle ikoner kan inngå i cosplay: "Colorado Tolkien Fans Party Like Hobbits at Midnight Movie Premiere! [...] Ringers Get into the Spirit of the Occasion with Brilliant Middle-earth Cosplay" (<http://greyhavensgroup.com/>; lesedato 07.05.13). Noen andre typer rollespill – f.eks. LARP ("live action role-playing game") – innebærer også vanligvis utkleddning.

"Cosplay: En sammenføyning av de engelske ordene for drakt og skuespill. Brukes om det å kle seg ut som og oppføre seg som en karakter fra fiksjonens verden. En cosplayer er en utøver, og cosplayet hans/hennes kan for eksempel være Superman. [...] Con: Forkortelse for *convention*, som er en samling for cosplayerere. [...] Anine Madelene Raudeberg Samsøe (21), studerer japansk ved Universitetet i Oslo. I dag:

Hjerterdronningen fra “Alice i Eventyrland”. Fordi: - Jeg brukte kostymet i en teaterforestilling tidligere i år, stykket het riktignok “Alice i underverdenen”, så det var ikke like uskyldig som originalen. Cosplay-arrangementer er enda en unnskyldning for å kle seg ut, derfor liker jeg dem så godt. Noen av deltakerne her er litt for seriøse, de lever seg så inn i en annen verden at det nesten blir sykt. Men ellers er det bra, folk som kommer hit føler at de kan være seg selv.” (*Dagbladets Magasinet* 26. oktober 2013 s. 44-45)

“Last night was the premier of *Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows* [2011, en film regissert av Guy Ritchie]. Jeremy and I attended in full steampunk fashion. To be clear *Sherlock Holmes* is not a Steampunk genre film; but is a film extremely enjoyable to any steamers. Holmes and Watson even sport goggles in one scene. And there’s a certain gadget again – definitely steampunk. And some of the weaponry... Like I said not steampunk, but leaning just enough to make it fun. I worked on a new costume for the premier – I wanted a more formal one. It’s the luck of the draw, but I recently found a prom skirt at the thrift store for \$6, so I started with that. [...] Jeremy looked super suave with his empty classic *Sherlock Holmes* thrift-store pipe, and cane of my grandpa’s. The movie was well-worth it and so was dressing up. It reminded me of going out for the first *Holmes* movie – that was our very first time going public with our steampunk cosplaying.” (http://www.jeanetics.net/2011_12_01_archive.html; lesedato 18.06.13)

“Cosplay er et globalt fenomen som kan beskrives som et slags rollespill, der en kler seg opp som en karakter fra litteratur, film, spill eller tegneserier. Conventions samler cosplayere fra hele verden, og tiltrekker seg også spill- og produksjonsselskap som er ute etter å leie inn gode cosplayere til for eksempel promotering av nye videospill. [...] Cosplay kan sies å være en forlengelse av leseropplevelsen – en lever seg inn i historiene som formidles, karakterene som skapes og eventyrene som oppleves. Å bringe disse karakterene til live gjennom cosplay er en måte å holde fast ved historien og karakterene, selv etter en for lengst har lest, sett eller spilt ferdig det aktuelle verket. [...] Mange legger ned flerfoldige timer og mye penger på å lage så gode replikaer av kostymene som mulig, og til å forberede seg mentalt til å portrettere karakteren sin. Det som skiller cosplay fra utkledding er nemlig at cosplayere ofte ikke bare ser ut som karakteren sin, de *er* karakteren. Denne dedikasjonen til kostymet innebærer at cosplayeren tar på seg karakterenes personligheter, holdninger, særegenheter og ansiktsuttrykk. [...] Karakterer fra science fiction-, fantasy- og ungdomslitteratur er ofte populære valg for cosplayere, og etterhvert som bokseriene plukkes opp av produksjonsforlag dukker flere og flere opp på conventions i kostymer inspirert fra disse. *The Hunger Games*, *Divergent*, *Harry Potter*, *Narnia*, *Alice i Eventyrland*, *Ringenes Herre* og *Hobbiten* er lett gjenkjennelige romaner og populære filmadapsjoner som samler fans i alle aldre på conventions. I tillegg er disneykarakterer av alle slag populære valg, og undertegnede har selv bevitnet et cosplay av Peter Pans skygge. I cosplay er det med andre ord kun kreativiteten som setter grenser, men for å skille seg ut i mengden må en være gjenkjennelig og gjennomført.” (Julianne Åstrøm i <https://>

rissblogg.wordpress.com/2015/02/13/en-sang-om-is-ild-og-nerdekultur/; lesedato 17.06.16)

Superhelt-roller

Såkalte “Real Life Super Heroes” har oppstått som fenomen i USA særlig etter år 2000, og omfattet i 2011 over 300 personer (<http://communication.revues.org/4926>; lesedato 06.01.16). I New York levde i 2013 blant andre en kvinnelig “superhelt” som kalte seg Nyx. Nyx hadde en kjæreste som inntok rollen som superhelten Zero Phantom. En annen mann som også opptrådte som superhelt i New York, kalte seg Life, og beskyttet særlig byens hjemløse. Alle opptrådte som blandinger av den barmhjertige samaritan og mystiske superhelter med stor (sjelelig) styrke (Éric Maigret i <http://communication.revues.org/4926>; lesedato 12.11.15). Slike superhelt-personer vil motarbeide en allmenn apati gjennom sin individuelle altruisme, og noen av dem hevder at de har reddet liv (Éric Maigret i <http://communication.revues.org/4926>; lesedato 12.11.15).

Kvinnen som ikledte seg rollen som Nyx het Irene Thomas. Hun begynte å spille superhelt etter å ha lest på Internett om en annen slik superhelt, Doctor DiscorD i Indianapolis. “Meet ‘Nyx’: The 21-year-old ‘Superhero’ accountant who dons a black catsuit at night to patrol the streets and help the homeless. Irene Thomas is part of the Real Life Superhero Project organisation. They aim to bring help, compassion and crime prevention to the streets. By day Irene Thomas says she is a ‘boring’ accountant who lives in a cramped New Jersey flat. By night she puts on a black catsuit and mask with a red belt, gloves and boots, gets into her Honda Accord car and comes out the other side of the Lincoln Tunnel in Manhattan as ‘Nyx’. The 21-year-old is just one member of the Real Life Superhero Project, a group of humans who aim to bring a helping hand to people everywhere and thwart crime on city streets. [...] Most superheroes in the project want to cut down citizen apathy by modelling ‘superhero’ virtues and encourage others to do the same, reported People magazine. Nyx, who shares her name with the Greek goddess of night, gives food and clothes to the homeless of New York. She hopes ‘other people notice and are maybe motivated to help too’. She said on the Real Life Superheroes website: ‘Like the night, I cannot be proven or disproven to certain degrees – and also much like the night, when morning comes, there will be no trace of me.’ Production manager Chaim Lazaros, 26, dons a black hat, mask and waistcoat to become ‘Life’ when he patrols the New York streets by night.” (Mark Duell i <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1364664/The-superheroes-patrol-streets-help-needy.html>; lesedato 11.12.15)

Den engelske regissøren Matthew Vaughns film *Kick-Ass* (2010) har vært en inspirasjon for mange av virkelighetens “superhelter”. “Based on a six-issue comic book by Scottish writer Mark Millar, first published in 2008, “Kick-Ass” is a comic-book movie unlike most others: a violent, profane amalgam of ‘Spider-Man’ and ‘Superbad’ that revolves around American high-school student and comic fan

Dave Lizewski [...] who dresses up as a superhero to fight crime, becoming a web phenomenon as a result.” (<http://www.timeout.com/london/film/matthew-vaughn-talks-kick-ass-1>; lesedato 18.11.15)

“A comic book fan who dressed as a masked ninja to emulate his favourite superheroes and fight crime in his neighbourhood ended up being arrested himself by police. He desperately wanted to be like his favourite superheroes but Tanis Baker’s efforts at fighting crime were more comic farce than comic book. Patrolling his neighbourhood as a masked ninja to “strike fear” into local villains, it was he who ended up on the wrong side of the law. The self-styled “eyes and ears” of the right-thinking people was arrested for possession of a wooden sword. The mild-mannered comic book fan told a court he turned to crime-fighting after being mugged by a local gang and bullied at school. Frustrated that his assailants had got away scot free, he made himself a black martial arts costume complete with body armour and mask. In an imitation of the film Kick-Ass, he then armed himself with smoke bombs and a home-made wooden Samurai sword. The 21-year-old, who by day was a barman at a snooker hall, then crouched in the darkness in a nearby park ready to pounce on any troublemakers. Locals, who dubbed him the Ringland Ninja, said his heroic deeds included taking alcohol off under-age drinkers and literally “smoking out” any loitering gangs.” (Richard Alleyne i <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/9742299/Real-life-masked-superhero-ends-up-being-arrested.html>; lesedato 14.12.15)

Den ninja-lignende superhelten Tanis Bakers “crime fighting days were cut short in September when he was spotted by a police officer. Believing he was carrying a real Samurai sword, the officer called for backup and the police helicopter was scrambled and dog handler was called. Baker, of Ringland, Newport, South Wales, fled into nearby Beechwood park and hid in bushes near the children’s play area. He was arrested and led officers further into the park where he had hidden two rucksacks, one containing clothes and the other holding seven smoke grenades. He told police in interview he was a “vigilante in a costume” and that he wanted to help people in trouble. He said he believed he was the “eyes and ears” of the police on the streets and wanted to “strike fear” into criminals. The probation officer who assessed him said Baker was a fan of American comic book superheroes. His probation report said: “He seems to get confused between fantasy and reality and sometimes had trouble distinguishing between what was in comic books and what was real life.” The court heard that in real life Baker is no superhero but works as a barman in a snooker club in Newport, South Wales. [...] He was given a 12-month supervision order and ordered to carry out 60 hours unpaid work. He declined to comment after the case.” (Richard Alleyne i <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/9742299/Real-life-masked-superhero-ends-up-being-arrested.html>; lesedato 14.12.15)

“ ‘Motor Mouth’: The ninja-like San Francisco superhero, who is known only as a 30-year-old teacher and will not reveal his identity, told People magazine: ‘If you

live this kind of life, you can't take yourself entirely seriously'. 'I just feel like I'm walking on air after I've helped 30 people,' he told People magazine. Many homeless and vulnerable people are pleased to receive the superheroes' help, but the reaction is not always positive. One teenage homeless girl in San Francisco smirked when ninja-like 'Motor Mouth' handed her a bag of food, but this did not worry him. '(I don't mind) a million people snickering behind my back as long as there is the possibility to help,' he said. [...] 'If you live this kind of life, you can't take yourself entirely seriously,' he added. Motor Mouth won't reveal his true identity but said he is a 30-year-old teacher. Many of those involved in the project are believed to be comic-book geeks. Other New York superheroes include martial arts instructor Dark Guardian, 22, 34-year-old computer technician Phantom Zero, and Samaritan, who lives and works in the city." (Mark Duell i <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1364664/The-superheroes-patrol-streets-help-needy.html>; lesedato 11.12.15)

“- Vi er en gruppe på 10 folk som går rundt i områder av byen [Seattle i USA] som vi vet er voldelige, og leter etter folk som bryter loven eller skader andre, forteller Phoenix Jones. Hver kveld ikler han seg en svart gummidrakt med gule striper, og flagrer ut i natten som byens vokter. Han bryr seg ikke om folk ler av ham, og har bare opplevd én episode han angrer på. - Jeg hadde kjøpt en pistol som skjøt ut et lite nett, og gledet meg til å kunne bruke den på kriminelle. En natt jaget jeg en fyr som forsøkte å bryte seg inn i en bil, og tok opp nettpistolen og skjøt. Nettet åpnet seg og jeg løp rett inn i det og falt om og ble liggende på fortauet inntuklet i et nett, ikledd superdrakten. Mannen holder selvfølgelig til i Amerika, nærmere bestemt Seattle, og når jeg snakker med ham blir jeg minnet på at amerikanerne ikke kjenner til Janteloven. Mannen nøler ikke med å beskrive seg selv som et heltemodig supermenneske tatt rett ut av en tegneserie, og påberoper seg populariteten til en rockestjerne. Likevel mener han at han egentlig ikke vil være superhelt, men at det er den eneste måten han vet hvor han virkelig klarer å gjøre en forskjell.” (Torgeir Blok i *Cinema avis* nr. 4 i 2013 s. 15)

Phoenix Jones-superhelten fortalte i det samme intervjuet: “Det første vi gjorde i gjengen vår var å anskaffe oss skuddsikre vester. Vi har sjokkplater på beina for å beskytte blodårer, ekstra rustning på armene som kan stoppe kniver og kuler, og hodeplagg som også er noe skuddsikre. Det vil alltid gjøre vondt å bli slått eller skutt, men vi er mer skuddsikre enn politiet, skryter Jones. Og det er absolutt farlig å være superhelt. Phoenix Jones har ingen stuntmann, og fikk en del oppmerksomhet fra media da han ble truet med pistol, sparket i ansiktet og brakk nesen. Likevel ser han på det som en positiv hendelse. - Det var 15 personer der som ble truet av karer med våpen, men alle kom seg unna og jeg var den eneste som ble skadd. [...] Phoenix Jones lar seg uansett ikke affektere av kritikken. Han insisterer på at politiet er svært oppmuntrende til superheltaktivitetene hans, men forklarer at de ikke kan innrømme det offisielt. Politidetektiv Mark Jamieson har derimot en helt annen oppfattelse av den selvoppnevnte superhelten. Han påpeker at selv om det ikke er ulovlig å ta på seg kostyme og løpe rundt i gatene, ser politiet

helst at sivile ikke setter seg selv i farlige situasjoner. Hvis heldådene går galt, kan resultatet nemlig være enda flere ofre. Om politiet egentlig har en annen mening om Jones, er de flinke til å holde masken, og gang på gang har det oppstått konflikter mellom superhelten og de som staten betaler for å bekjempe kriminalitet. Dette toppet seg i oktober 2011, da Phoenix Jones selv ble arrestert for å ha brukt pepperspray til å bryte opp et slagsmål. Da han møtte opp i rettssalen var han også iført fullt kostyme, men adlød da dommeren ba ham ta av masken, og avslørte sådan sin identitet som Ben Fodor, en kampsportutøver i 20-årene.” (Torgeir Blok i *Cinema avis* nr. 4 i 2013 s. 15-16)

“What makes a hero super? First-time filmmaker Michael Barnett found out for himself when he set out to research, conceptualize and ultimately shoot the documentary feature, “Superheroes,” made its world premiere on opening night at Utah’s 2011 Slamdance Film Festival and premieres on HBO August 8th. After reading about the Real Life Superhero movement online in articles that featured such prominent community members as San Diego, California’s Mr. Extreme and Orlando, Florida’s Master Legend, Barnett’s interest was piqued. [...] “When we started I thought ‘Hey there were people running around in costumes fighting crime how great is that?’ But what I found was something much more than a great piece of pop culture, something so much more human – a deeply human story about people who often have very limited resources, but are real and ready to do anything they can to make the world a better place. It’s the direct the opposite of apathy, in fact. I mean, why do these people do this, even if it means becoming victims of ridicule? It’s just so noble.” “You know, it’s kind of hard to look back now at what my original intentions were,” he continues. “What I learned was that the world of Real Life Superheroes isn’t a ‘community’ in any kind of unified sense. They are very much individuals. What I discovered was that every one is motivated by something else – for some it’s therapy, for some a deep need to connect to the world around them, for people to care for one another... but the thing I like is that whatever their reasons may be, here is this mass of people with different approaches, all doing one thing: Working to change the world around them, and hoping to inspire others to do the same.” (<http://reallifesuperheroes.com/2011/07/19/superheroes/>; lesedato 05.01.16)

“But perhaps the biggest revelation for Barnett was more personal than professional. “Making this film has had a deeply profound effect on my life,” he says. “I spent the last year wandering skid rows in the darkest places in America, in every major city, walking through tunnels of homeless people... I get emotional thinking about how it’s affected me. Look, we all know the homeless exist, but you have no idea until you really see it – it’s sickening – and it’s the most important thing these guys do. Crime fighting is good, but I was most affected being in New York City, seeing Superheroes like Life, talking, touching, listening to these men and women – taking the time with someone who’s been stripped of everything, just to bring them some genuine human contact. I realize I still need some time, to get some perspective on how this will manifest in my life, but I am very aware of just

how profound this experience, this year in my life has been.” And how does he expect his own personal revelation to affect those seeing this film, these Real Life Superheroes, in action, up close and personal? “I hope that people take from this film that it doesn’t matter who you are or where you’re at – do something, anything, help anybody in any way you can, and it will make you feel better. It’s like Thanatos says, if everybody in their community did one thing to help another person, it’s like ripples on a pond. It will change the world. These heroes can capture the imagination of the American people and make us more inspired, less apathetic about our lives. Their adopted personae make people listen and suddenly care. I hope that message gets put to good use.” ” (<http://reallifesuperheroes.com/2011/07/19/superheroes/>; lesedato 05.01.16)

Fotografen Pierre-Elie de Pibrac har gitt ut fotoboka *Real Life Super Heroes* (2012). “In 2010, the photographer Pierre-Elie de Pibrac spent four months in the USA seeking out real life super heroes. Numbering around 300, these ordinary citizens carry out voluntary work for the benefit of the most underprivileged while wearing costumes inspired by mythical figures from comic books and Mexican cartoons. By arranging the subjects in a studied pose in the very places where they carry out their missions, Pierre-Elie produced a series of staggered portraits of these guardian angels of everyday life.” (<http://www.pierreeliedepibrac.com/en/real-life-super-heroes-en/portraits/>; lesedato 11.12.15)

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