

LOCAL

# Cressie Lewis goes to Comic Con

**Aislinn Park**  
Staff Writer

Benton County's own Cressie Teague Lewis, who now lives in Atlanta, Ga. working as a licensed attorney and also for the Advancement Department at Zoo Atlanta, made her first debut on the comic con runway in San Diego, Calif., for her Lord of the Rings wedding dress masterpiece. For starters, Comic Con is one of the worlds largest pop culture conventions, which started as the Golden State Comic

Book Convention, and has grown into a massive four day event. The Hobbit and the Lord of the Rings, on the other hand, are a series of fantasy books from the early to mid 1900's, by J.R.R. Tolkien, which are now major motion pictures. Her Universe, a clothing company which creates clothing for Hot Topic stores and Think Geek, requested Geek Couture fashion illustrations from professional and novice designers across the U.S. and the top 36 out of over 150 designers got invited

to showcase their design on a runway at San Diego Comic Con.

"When I found out that I had been selected as a finalist (at Comic Con), I immediately started fabricating my design based on the Hobbit," said Lewis. "I picked the Hobbit as my inspiration because I've loved the books since an early age and wanted to highlight several design elements such as a map, cape and sense of adventure and wonder."

Lewis said that she immediately started thinking of making a

1950's-esque wedding dress with a map of the Middle Earth world from the Hobbit/Lord of the Rings.

According to Lewis, the making of her dress would not have been possible with a lot of help. She sewed the entire dress herself, but Jennifer Fox of Camden, helped her with the graphic design of the fabric, which was custom printed. Stephanie Carter of Douglasville, Ga. made her bouquet of book inspired flowers and Dana Bell Wyatt, of Huntingdon, traveled with her to San Diego to do her hair and makeup for the runway. Several other friends and co-workers in Georgia, also helped her dye, cut and burn fabric book pages for the dress.

By working on it after her day job and on the weekends, it took three months to create the 15 pound intricately detailed dress. The front of the dress is made from the actual pages of the Hobbit printed on silk organza, tea dyed and burned with candles to keep the edges from fraying. The "rings" on the dress were inspired by double wedding rings quilts and were applied on the dress. Each ring includes

the rings words from the book/film. The underpinnings of the dress include a custom built rig to lift the front of the dress when "the one ring" is removed from the pocket. This exposes a pair of Hobbit pants, which depicts a scene from the movie.

"I'm the cook and she is the seamstress, and it's always been that way," said her mother Mary Teague, "Cressie said that she felt like a little country girl in the midst of all the big movie and show designers and models. But she was so proud and excited when she was selected."

"I was honored to be chosen and excited to share a runway with 35 amazing designers, including professional models such as Adrienne Curry winner of American's Next Top Model,"

said Lewis. "The highlight was seeing two of the actresses from Game of Thrones backstage at the fashion show! The entire experience was surreal and it was fantastic to share this excitement with my best friend, Dana Bell Wyatt. I really tried to bring a little "Southern belle" to San Diego with my design! Because of the high caliber dresses by many notable designers, many of whom work for TV/Film/Fashion, it was an honor to win Judges Choice Honorable Mention at the show!"

Even though she has never been properly trained, aside from the training she received from her grandmother, Mary Edwards, at 8 years old, sewing has always been her passion and hobby.



ChuckCook PHOTOGRAPHY  
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**THE ONE RING-** Lewis on the runway revealing a secret part to the dress. The dress is actually attached to the 'One ring' on her finger and when pulled reveals the underpinnings of the dress showing the "fires of Mordor" depicted on her Hobbit pants.



**HOBBIT WEDDING DRESS-** Cressie Lewis displays her work of art. It is not only decorated with a map of Middle Earth but is actually adorned with literature from the Hobbit for the Comic Con runway in San Diego, Calif.

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