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Roots of Gold

The Official Cast & Crew Newsletter for THE GOLDEN TREE

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The following is an HTML formatted email, in the event you are reading this and see a bunch of garbled text or code below this line your email application is not capable of displaying HTML based email.

Clothing for Miners, Bandits, boys, and some of the men Levi Jeans were not invented yet

I received an email from Rob Tillitz concerning wardrobe — and more specifically — for trowsers for the miners — but this also included the other males in the cast.

“I did some research on clothing — my (MINER) partner, Bill Bettencourt, said Levi's — but I was uncertain about this cause Levi's were not around in 1849 the year of the Gold Rush (*nor were they in 1848, 1856, and 1859, the dates we portray*). They were not introduced until a few years later (*to be exact, not until 1870 and the company itself says 1873*).

I (Rob Tillitz) have some ideas, but have not attained anything yet. I saw one drawing of a miner where he was wearing a Spanish style canvas men's blouse-type thing, that made him look good, and liked that with Levis and some not-pointed-toe western boots. Also saw a miner, very iconic and the same pic on many sites, that was wearing an old long-john top. Now, with the script, and that I have a date, with a better sense of the character I'll come up with something good, and work along with my scene partner Bill and figure it out. - Rob Tillitz”

Rob is getting into this and making it fun; and he's also correct; however, looking at this site: <http://www.lornet.com/pro prospector/links.htm> and going to this section: <http://www.directcon.net/wander/GR.htm> you will see a paragraph that reads:

The Myth Of Levi's

It has been an accepted fact for many years that Levi's, or blue jeans, were invented in the early 1850's by Levi Strauss. It now appears that this is not the case. **Blue jean, or Serge de Nimes (denim)** had been used for work clothes for many years, but Levi Strauss was a dry goods dealer in Gold Rush San Francisco, who did not begin making pants until the 1870's. ***Blue denim work pants are appropriate, but should not be called Levi's.***

What does this mean? It means that jeans are acceptable; however, we will not be putting the brand name or label on screen, so make sure there are none

visible. I RECOMMEND viewing that page to get an idea of what else you may need AND if you can and choose to be more ⇒ **authentic** (we can make these if anyone is interested), as Rob will be, then by all means, I love close up shots of clothing, the character's eyes, inserts of hands and props, which includes showcasing one's wardrobe, if any of you bring an item worthy of showcasing, such as a really cool hat, boots / shoes, shirt, bandanna, and so forth. (just not going to do the underwear), not for me anyway. If this were a full length picture and we wanted to bring in the ladies to sell tickets, we might put some of you young lads scantily dressed, could be the next Brad Pitt or sexier [tell anyone I said that I make you look bad when I edit the movie] but it's not and we won't do this picture anyway.

– PEACE and God Bless

gerald martin davenport
writer • director • editor
the golden tree
winning selection of Access Sacramento's "A Place Called Sacramento"