

Makers of Indiana Jones' Hat



Before London milliner Herbert Johnson joined Swaine Adeney Brigg, it was situated at 13 Old Burlington Street. One rather uneventful afternoon in 1980, two American gentlemen came in and introduced themselves as **Mr. Harrison Ford** and **Mr. Steven Spielberg**. Little did we envision that the following conversation involving hats was going to produce one of the most instantly recognisable iconic pieces of headwear.

Mr. Spielberg announced that he was on the brink of making an adventure film with Mr. Ford as the central figure: ***Raiders of the Lost Ark***. He revealed that a hat would be pivotal to the character and the plot. The salesperson courteously asked if there was a particular period involved.

As the visitors didn't want anything too specific, he suggested employing the oldest shape still being manufactured and carried in open stock. A tall crowned, wide brim fur felt called *The Poet* was chosen. (It had been made continuously since the 1890's and was deemed "ageless"). As Indiana Jones was to wear it in different terrains, a shade of brown called *Sable* was chosen.



To make the hat very distinctive, we shaped the brim into an ovoid to give protection to the eyes and neck - reducing the sides also helped with camera angles.

The brim was pulled down to give an explorer/safari look, the original ribbon being changed from 50mm to 39mm, to make the tall crown appear even taller.

When the hat reappeared from our workroom it had been total transformed and the gentlemen from Hollywood seemed pleased.

We carefully noted what we had been done and made a template, just in case another was ever requested. The following week, we received an order for 45 units of assorted sizes, some for Mr. Ford and the remainder for assorted stunt extras.

Since the huge success of the Indiana Jones films, we have had the pleasure of making dozens of Indy's for fans of both Indiana Jones and Harrison Ford.

Each hat is carefully cut by hand, using the original patterns. Each size is ever so slightly tailored to keep the hat in proportion to the wearer's hat size and each Indy hat is hand-rubbed to give it its unique shape.

If you yearn for film star looks, this could be the hat for you...



You can see Indy's famous hat on our website: www.swaineadeney.co.uk