

((SUGGESTED READER))

MISS OKLAHOMA TRIANA BROWNE COMPETES IN THE MISS AMERICA COMPETITION THIS SUNDAY, BUT WAS ABLE TO PUT HER BEST FOOT FORWARD EARLIER TODAY WITH THE HELP OF SOME NATIVE AMERICAN ARTISTS.

((TAKE VO))

IN THE PAGEANT'S SHOW US YOUR SHOES PARADE BROWNE SPORTED A CUSTOM OUTFIT DESIGNED TO HIGHLIGHT HER CHICKASAW CULTURE. MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND TINY GLASS BEADS WERE USED TO CREATE DETAILED IMAGES OF BUTTERFLIES AND THE GREAT SEALS OF THE CHICKASAW NATION AND THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA.

SIX NATIVE AMERICAN ARTISTS WORKED ACROSS THE UNITED STATES TO BRING THE ENSEMBLE TOGETHER, INCLUDING MARGARET ROACH WHEELER.

((SOT

CG: Margaret Roach Wheeler

Chickasaw Artist

0:20

“And, we discussed different dresses, and came up with, for Oklahoma, it should be the traditional Chickasaw dress, the Victorian style Chickasaw dress. And so we worked on that, and they wanted a color combination that we could possibly use for that.”)

IT WAS IMPORTANT TO THE ARTISTS THAT THE VARIOUS PIECES HAD TRADITIONAL ROOTS, LIKE THE FINGER-WOVEN BELT CREATED BY ASHLEY WALLACE.

((SOT

CG: Ashley Wallace

Chickasaw Artist

0:16

“The belts would have been more for a practical purpose. Kind of like today, with your belts and things, it holds up your pants, we would use them as garters, if you were going out to gather plants or anything like that.”)

BUDDY PARHCORN AND HIS DAUGHTER COURTNEY WORKED TOGETHER ON THE ELABORATE BEADING ON BROWNE'S DRESS AND BOOTS.

((SOT

CG: Buddy Parchcorn

Cherokee Artist

0:20

“I would do a certain part of the seal, and I would hand it over to my daughter to do the other part. Because sometimes each sowing technique takes a little more time, a little more effort into it, and she has a lot of talent, and maybe a little bit better eyes than mine!”))

COURTNEY SAID THAT THE PROJECT WAS A LOT OF HARD WORK, BUT WORTH THE HOURS IN THE END.

((SOT
CG: Courtney Parchcorn
Chickasaw Artist
0:15

“To give back and do our bead work and give it to somebody else is actually more gratifying than prize money or somebody paying us for our work.”))

OTHER ARTISTS THAT WORKED ON BROWNE’S OUTFIT WERE KRISTEN DORSEY AND MAYA STEWART.