



"Wilson" volleyball from Cast Away

Date

1999-2000

Primary Maker

Wilson Sporting Goods Company

Medium

Leather; Rubber; Paint

Description

An off-white leather Wilson-brand volleyball used in the film *Cast Away* (2000). "Wilson" features a bloody handprint with eyes, a nose, and mouth inset as negative space. This volleyball has been screen-matched to the scene of *Cast Away*, after Tom Hanks' character Chuck Noland calculates the area of a circle to determine his rescue chances. In the film, Chuck cuts his hand while attempting to start a fire, and picks up the volleyball, leaving a bloody handprint. He later draws a face in the smeared blood and gives the ball its name, "Wilson." Several volleyballs were used throughout filming as Wilson's features changed. *Cast Away* tells the story of Chuck Noland's four years stranded alone on a desert island. After surviving a plane crash, Chuck created his companion Wilson from a volleyball he found in a FedEx package that washed ashore. The idea for Wilson came from screenwriter William Broyles, Jr. While researching for the film, Broyles attended a survival camp in Mexico where he found a volleyball washed on the shore and began speaking to it. Broyles used Wilson as a means to have dialogue throughout the film.

Dimensions

Overall: 8 x 8 in. (20.3 x 20.3 cm)