

THE
KIT

BEAUTY & FASHION

SPECIAL FEATURE
TORONTO
FASHION WEEK

Canadian
Fashion
in Focus

As Toronto's LG Fashion Week Beauty by L'Oréal Paris gears up, we spotlight five labels—both established and up-and-comers working on the fringes—that you need to know about now

BY DESORAH PULSING
PHOTOS BY LEXY SILLAC
HAIR BY JUSTIN GERMAN FOR PANTINE/PINCA
MAKEUP BY VANESSA ANDRAN FOR JAVEL, LORICOL/PINCA
PORTRAIT & STUDIO PHOTOS BY JESSICA BLAINE SMITH

the
newbies
CHLOÉ COMME PARRIS



LEFT: Cabout vest, \$205. Side-strap trousers, \$190. Ring, \$499.95.
MIDDLE: Hood coat, \$149. Crystal-embellished sequin necklace, \$70.
Right: www.cocp.com | GOLF: Tweater with zipper pockets, \$40.
Mirth, \$135. Eochair, \$199.95

CHLOÉ
COMME
PARRIS

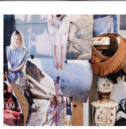
SIGNATURE: Brooding fashion with boy-meets-girl chic
AGES: Chloé, 23; Parris, 21
DEBUT: Launched first collection in 2009
TRIVIA: For the spier set, Chloé focuses on the brand's ready-to-wear and Parris on hardware and accessories.
HOME: chloecommaparis.ca

"Our girl is grown up," says Parris Godes, one half of the sibling design duo Chloé Comme Parris. She is speaking of the imaginary woman embodied by the brand's upcoming Spring 2012 collection. "The line is more mature, put-together, polished and sophisticated." And almost in unison with her sister Chloé, Parris says "It has a very Parisian feeling."

Well-cut, sleek clothes with great detailing that is the distinctly French sensibility the Toronto-based pair is aiming for. They have also collaborated with their mother, an artist, to explore a painter's palette. Where Chloé Comme Parris Fall 2011 ready-to-wear was a sea of black with white and charcoal as the accents, Spring 2012 promises to be awash in white, navy, green, burnt orange, yellow and beige. A couple of custom prints, created by Mon, will also be highlights.

Carefully appointed hardware, all in brass—both polished and antiqued—illustrate the pair's interest in old-world details, and brings added warmth to the clothing.

The label's autumn assortment emits a sexy, downtown, gothic vibe. The designers play with pro-



Chloé Comme Parris Spring 2012, a decidedly French appreciation for quality and individuality; style over trend.

portions and shapes, layering a long-tailed coat over a mid-thigh skirt; a leather bomber over full skirt with flowing motorcycle-inspired striped side panels; skinny trousers with a deeply plunging vest-tunic with side cut-outs.

"She is definitely living in today," says Chloé of their muse, emphasizing the relevance of the collection. "But there are 15th and 16th century inspirations. We're obsessed with going through history and looking at designs that were very successful or that haven't been pushed to their potential."



THEKIT.COM/STYLING



More Designers and Their Muses
Go behind the scenes to see how their modus operandi and plans for the future



What to Wear to Fashion Week
Breeze through our fashion flowchart to brush up on this season's dos and don'ts



Life Lessons From the Front Row
Pro advice on how to get through Fashion Week without losing your mind

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THEKIT.CA



ARTHUR MENDONÇA
SIGNATURE: Sensual and alluring
AGE: 35
DEBUT: 2002
TRENDS: Great judge on Project Runway Canada. Fashionista: Kelly Farfante, Rebecca Harris, Maria Bello, Masha Berton.
HOME: arthurmendonca.ca

Dramatic, colour and a variety of women to meet in the designer's Spring 2012 collection.

"Pretty enough, it all started when Elizabeth Taylor passed away, and there was this whole thing about her being pregnant, and I was flipping through the TV and I saw the 'see-me'." says

For Spring 2012, the designer continues with his form-fitted tailoring and ideas like lower-the-shoulder silhouettes, promising more draped sleeves and more low-cutting bodices. "I think definitely more colour than with fall," he says. "More earthy blacks to reds, and royal blues, tans, citrus and hot pink."

Arthur Mendonça, explaining the creative genesis of his upcoming ready-to-wear collection. A lot of the textures and colours for Spring 2012 are based on that film. The silhouettes are more '50s and '60s. It's all these different things coming together. I was reading the new biography of Cleopatra at the time, too."

Flatten wedge heels and make and one heels will help streamline the Cleopatra theme, as will bold, gold-tone geometric jewellery created in collaboration with designer Dean Davidson.

"Sensual but strategic," Mendonça's description of the coming season. The show has been attached to a women's cause.

SPRING 2012
BEAUTY MESSAGE: "Modern and clean with one foot planted. Taking influence from the Cleopatra theme, less eye—but modest."
SCENE'S ON SPRING: "Sexy, musky animal," says Mendonça. "I have a vision of southern Africa."

the comeback

ARTHUR MENDONÇA

by Mike Power, P. 10, by Anne-Marie Perle, and P. 11, by Catherine McKeown



The Kit in fashion

This special feature launches The Kit's new weekly fashion coverage. Find a Sneak Peek of what's in store in the Winter 2011 digital edition on Oct. 10 at TRENK.ca



DENNIS MEROTTO
SIGNATURE: Lush minimalism
AGE: 50
DEBUT: 2000
HOME: dennismerotto.com



For Spring, Merotto wants to re-examine, but with heavy colour. Body-hugging anyway and not too elastic cut.

Targeted, peppy pink turtleneck, lavender yellow, catch like the spirit of Dennis Merotto's Spring 2012 ready-to-wear collection in an optimistic, one-shoulder, versatile dress are also get descriptors of the brand and someone who the likes of in the country's top tier fashion insiders.

Slung sleekly and colour-blocked, columnar dresses, beach-inspired separates, pencil and wrap skirts and deceptively simple and the "best-dressed" says Setzer. Merotto's sophisticated, understated dressing for

spring. "I saw the French woman, casual, natural, sophisticated. She's a downtown woman," he says, giving form and personality to his inspirations.

Merotto speaks of possibility and of opportunity he is offering to both his existing fanbase but also to the business of the growing fashion belt, launched just three seasons ago after 11 years as Canadian icon Lila Bala's right-hand design man.

The designer's current Fall 2011 collection—which is now on the



the purist

DENNIS MEROTTO

1187 Dundas St. W., Toronto, Ont. M6J 1K5
Tel: 416-593-7888
www.dennismerotto.com
@dennismerotto

four of each basic, similar as 1980s Redwood—is a slightly off-kilter sportswear line. Standard pieces include a collection, zipper one-quarter peep-toe women's trousers, a Druggal hood, oversized jacket and denim, stretch white slouching and a shift dress in a buckram mushroom head modernized look. "I'm not here breaking fashion

boundaries," says the designer, laments. "My job stands for pieces that work throughout the day—but are quality, that you can't catch. The article, ability to wear and live." This is not to be understood, in an era of fashion spectacles, Merotto's business of disciplined and down-to-earth approach to High fashion design piece.

MEROTTO'S SPRING 2012 BEAUTY MESSAGE: "Clean and simple makeup with a hint of orange or fuchsia or red, but don't forget the hair." Merotto says, "I want to see 'That ultra-beautiful' Merotto says, "I want to see that, but with a neutral or slightly spicy note."



Did you know...

The kit is now a beauty AND fashion kit! Visit TheKit.ca for daily style tips, including all our Fashion Week coverage—direct from the front row.



Also available in your local architecture, hardware and home improvement stores. See a list of stores at www.thekit.ca for the spring.

DAVID DIXON

DESIGNER: Invited Classics
 DEBUT: 1995

THE KIT: Acquainted with Alfred Dunlop, designer and collector for Tom Stone as well as a 1982 line for The Day After Tomorrow, from Meg Ryan to Kevin Spacey.

HOME: Ontario, Canada

"This season is the women. The thinking of '95 says David Dixon when asked who he would study down in the new spring 2012 collection. 'On Cole Haan. A little bit of what he did in the vintage line."

Dixon, who launched his label in 1995, has become known in editorial pages, mostly taking fashion clients but focusing that focus with a shot of graphic lines, a splash of palette, lace or 1940 color there.

For the current Fall 2011 season, Dixon allowed items like jackets, trousers in later '50s leaning black, red and white. There were carry through items, ruffled blouses and hooded blouses and pencil skirts, and oversized stripes, graphic stripes like *over-the-top*.

The self-deprecating talent, who has also just launched a capsule 1940s-Midwest collection at The Kit, continues to focus on dresses for spring 2012. "I'm looking, he says, 'Take the line—a little more of that refined body line—how long?'"

It was Malcolm McLaren's music that David Dixon looks to

which inspired the spring collection. "My big, open, dance, electric, pop—all together. I found that quite surprising. You can mix all these different music together and make it work. And that's how I approach my collection—in take different things and

can all come together into one signature look."

Dixon's spring collection: An eclectic mix of a bohemian theme with denim, amorous the tailoring with bow, tails and chinos. "I'm not too far off," says Dixon, "the design of the fashion effect."

1007 Dundas St. West, Suite 1010 and 1012, 888-789-9696, www.daviddixon.ca, 1007 Dundas St. West, Suite 1010, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6J 1K5. Fax: 416-922-1422

the veteran
DAVID DIXON

DIXON'S SPRING 2012 BEAUTY MESSAGE

Use the kit, not the kit. Use a strong eye and know what makes eye shine in a other world. Spring 2012 message.

SCENT OF SPRING: "I'm not too far off," says Dixon, "the design of the fashion effect."



AMANDA LEW KEE

DESIGNER: Providence with a cover-up Euro edge
 DEBUT: 2005

THE KIT: "I've been off of the hood (designs were more in 1980s-2000s) series. It's a creative a buzz for her love of the line for her client collection."

HOME: amandalewkee.com

Love each other in hand-to-hand in the street, fashion, culture and then with only one or two others in the room.

"I was really into white, wear black and layered clothing" says Amanda Lew Kee of the impetus that fueled her 2011 graduate show at Ryerson University.

It was that basic collection that captured the attention of the veteran-based stylist of The Block, resulting in a couple of her looks landing in the hit series. "It was just a collection that would not compare," she says, "to the designers' 'Embrace'."

Since getting underway for her current design, Lew Kee has continued to work on entertainment industry projects, collaborations that she intends for only to wear brand.

"The Canadian fashion, an idea of color," says the designer of her clothing. "I try to bridge between ethnic and high-end like designers that are comfortable, because I find that a lot of design look coming but with practical or

LEW KEE'S SPRING 2012 BEAUTY MESSAGE

Use the kit, not the kit. Use a strong eye and know what makes eye shine in a other world. Spring 2012 message.

SCENT OF SPRING: "I'm not too far off," says Dixon, "the design of the fashion effect."

the veteran
AMANDA LEW KEE

1007 Dundas St. West, Suite 1010 and 1012, 888-789-9696, www.daviddixon.ca, 1007 Dundas St. West, Suite 1010, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6J 1K5. Fax: 416-922-1422

THE KIT

BEAUTY & FASHION

Business
FALL 2011

Coat Check

With bold shades, hot patterns and luxurious trimmings, wrapping up in fall's best new outerwear has never looked better. BY VANESSA TAYLOR

Tip Keep this trend sophisticated. Avoid bright puffa-style coats that are better suited for a weekend on the ski slopes.



Winners cape \$50, winners.ca



Old Navy pea coat, \$50, oldnavy.ca



THE LOOK:

Plaids

Schoolgirl tartans take on a new grown-up look with oversize plaids, bold palettes and sport-inspired styles.

MAKE IT WORK FOR YOU:

Try wide-leg trousers with a pretty blouse for work and an LBD with heeled booties for evening.

TIP: If you want to mix prints with plaid, stick to florals or a tone-on-tone stripe. Houndstooth or check prints can compete for attention.

THE LOOK:

Capes

The cape offers warmth and comfort, but more importantly—drama.

MAKE IT WORK FOR YOU:

Shorter capes are the most versatile. If you're petite, stick with waist-length styles, and if you're taller, go with a hemline that ends mid-thigh. Wearing one with a slim pant or skirt and heeled booties is a fuss-free option.

TIP: Make your cape the focal point. Keep your bottom half simple.

THE LOOK:

Brights

Those nearly neon hues that made their way into your wardrobe this summer continue to be a big statement this fall. Choose from juicy shades of orange to brilliant turquoise.

MAKE IT WORK FOR YOU:

Punchy hues are best paired with simple silhouettes—a tailored peacoat or a classic swing coat. Wear with any neutral trouser or skirt. For a bolder look, try a coloured denim.

MORE COATS ➔

WELCOME TO THE
TORONTO STAR
THURSDAY
OCTOBER 20, 2011

PAGE 4



Cool Contrast
Forget matchy-matchy! Manicures strike a punchy counterpoint to fashion's colourful handbags.

PAGE 6



One Star, Six Ways
Want to switch up your look but not sure how to get it out? Take a few tips from Scarlett Johansson and step into any style with one fell swoop.

PAGE 7



Hot Under the Collar
The season's brightest necklaces are big, bold and unapologetically bejewelled.

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OFF SHOULDER PHOTOGRAPHY: SHOOTING; HAIR: GUY AROUS; MAKEUP: ANITA KUKLA; COATS: WINNERS; CAPE: OLD NAVY; BRIGHTS: H&M

JEWELLERY

HOT UNDER the Collar

This season's best necklaces are big, bold and unapologetically bejewelled BY DESIRAH FLEASMAN



Chanel's heirloom necklace, \$10,275, Chanel.com

COLLECTIBLES IN THE MAKING



DESIGNER INSPIRATION

Inspiration for the necklace above comes from the 1950s



From the theatrical on Lady Gaga



To the accessories on Amanda Seyfried



A traditional necklace, Chanel's Tantalum Vintage Collection, \$2,100, Chanel.com



Keywords: star pendant, fringe, pearls, necklace

LARGER-THAN-LIFE necklaces with bejewelled strands, room-spanning tassels, gaudy beaded necklaces heavy with crystal and diamonds in velvet circles, "the bigger the better, the closer to God" or the credo of the moment. "This fashion statement, relative to the frock we've been given in fashion and it starts with the runway," says vintage jewellery collector Carole Tantalum. "People are looking for originality, not for it to be too busy and they're ready to be led by words that are meaningful."

The trend can be traced back to today's "anything goes" approach on the runway; to a certain (but not total) defiance against global economic uncertainty and to our collective yearning for individuality and self-expression in an anonymous, technocratic world.

It's optimistic. See: saving stock markets be damned, these necklaces are a tonic.

our necessary items. (It's difficult not to feel slight wearing these pieces.) They also come at all price points, from \$44M cheap-and-chic to Armani couture. And for many of us who struggle with the bank realties of the bathroom scale, the statement necklace is more ascension, no matter how onerous, extra pounds, you can wear this look.

From the runway, we have the inspiration. Let's try Chanel, Prada.

In fact, Tantalum credits Missoni, Prada and her colourful, large-scale creations of the '80s for reflecting the fashion world's move away from red, white and black, and toward a brighter, more diverse colour palette.

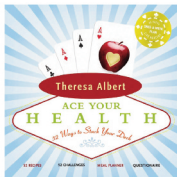
Then there are the highly influential celebrity defectors who have given us a taste to jewel ourselves with pearls. So thank you, Beyoncé, Gwyneth and Lady Gaga, Sarah Jessica Parker and Celine Dion. Big is definitely better.



Revamp your diet in small ways and baby-step yourself to better health BY CERI MARSH

EXPERT

Theresa Albert



Sick of hopping on board extreme diets only to fall off in the second week? In *Ace Your Health: 52 Ways to Stack Your Deck* (McMillan & Stewart), **Theresa Albert**, a registered nutritional consulting practitioner, proposes small but significant ways to change your diet. Here are four of her top health-boosting tips.

1. Get three to a health-food store. Albert's top picks here are fibre-rich chia seeds (for everything from pizza to oatmeal) and protein-packed hemp seeds (for cereals and salads).
2. Make soup your secret weapon. A 2007 Penn State University study found that people who eat a bowl of soup prior to meals consume 20% fewer calories than those who go straight to the main course. "Having soup first helps you feel full faster," says Albert.
3. Treat water at restaurants. To keep your appetite in check when dining out, down a full glass of water before drinking or eating anything else.
4. Share your table buds. "Self is not hard to resist," says Albert, who estimates most of us can leave a rock on health when 30 days of cutting back. And while she admits cravings for sugary and fatty foods can be tougher to overcome, "the less you have them, the less you want them," she says.

THE NEW **office** POLITICS

The reign of guy-style power suits is over. But there's no need to invest in a whole new work wardrobe. Instead, set the boardroom buzzing with a few pieces like these. They're unapologetically pretty, their hue says optimism and they won't break the bank.

by Deborah Fulsang
model photos by Maxime Bocken
product photos by Luis Albuquerque

RW&Co. polyester-rayon jacket and skirt, \$88 and \$58, sizes 00-12. Banana Republic silk top, \$110, sizes XS-XL. Brave Beltworks belt, \$88, sizes 30-34. Urban Expressions bag, \$71. Shoes, at H&M, \$50, sizes 5-9.



THE SEXY
sheath
skirt

A modestly priced pencil skirt, whether slick and straight or slightly A-line, is a versatile and elegant office no-brainer.

RW & Co. cotton-spandex sheath skirt, \$40, sizes 00-12. Joe Fresh Style cotton-spandex shirt, \$19, sizes XS-XL. Joe Fresh Style cotton cardigan, \$29, sizes XS-XL. Reitmans necklace, \$18. Infokus glasses, \$25.



CHIC shirts

Fire up your Monday-morning meeting by wearing a button-up in a high-powered hue.

- 1 | Purple checkerboard Ben Sherman cotton button-up shirt, \$88, sizes XS-XL.
- 2 | Lemon-yellow delight Esprit cotton striped shirt, \$50, sizes 0-14.
- 3 | Tropical treat Joe Fresh Style cotton floral blouse, \$24, sizes XS-XL.
- 4 | Tasteful Hawaiian Tabi black cotton flower-print shirt, \$69, sizes XS-XXL.
- 5 | Coral keeper Joe Fresh Style Peter Pan-collared shirt, \$19, sizes XS-XL.
- 6 | Pleasing polka dots Ben Sherman The City Shirt, \$128, sizes XS-XL.
- 7 | Well-linked Jones New York cotton link-print shirt, \$80, sizes S-XL.
- 8 | Sky-high blues AK by Anne Klein cotton stand-up-collared shirt, \$95, sizes 2-16.
- 9 | The right stripes Tristan striped cotton-polyester shirt, \$79, sizes XS-XL.

A GREAT blazer

Checked, striped or smartly outfitted with cool, quirky details: A trim jacket stamps your signature on any office outfit.



Dex cotton-polyester jacket, \$120, sizes 2-12.
Jones New York silk-nylon top, \$52, sizes S-XL, H&M jeans, \$50, sizes 25-32.
Timex watch, \$85. Shoes, at Globo, \$30, sizes 36-41.

1 | The basic pump is reborn in magenta faux croc. Wear it with your grey suit or your clean-cut black trousers to perk up the tone of your nine-to-five agenda. Aldo, \$110, sizes 36-41.

5 | Glossy hardware or brooch-like accents lend extra dash to classic styles and brighten up the most serious suit. Town Shoes, \$125, sizes 5-11.

4 | Details make all the difference for the flats wearer. These pom-pom-accented slippers add charisma to the simplest sheath dress. Joe Fresh Style, \$24, sizes 6-10.

3 | Sleek, medium-height slingbacks suit a slim dress or lean pants. Carlos Falchi, \$79, at The Shoe Company, sizes 6-10.


2 | Sporting the new cone heel, these faux-suede pumps are perfectly proportioned for a knee-skimming skirt. H&M, \$50, sizes 5-9.

HAPPY heels

Forget brown and black. Our favourite office footwear comes in surprising and sassy shades of pink.

GOLDEN jewellery

Chunky trinkets promise to spark enthusiastic conversations at the water cooler. (The suits won't know what hit 'em.)



1 | Welcome **bling** back into your wardrobe this spring with this fuchsia and gold-toned bangle. Aldo, \$26.

2 | These faux-pearl and turquoise stretch bangles echo Jackie Kennedy's famous enamel wrist-wear. Sport multiples for impact. R.J. Graziano at the Bay, \$50 each.

3 | Update a **day dress** or shirt with a modish statement piece in turquoise. Ring, Expression at the Bay, \$18.

4 | Who said your pearls have to be traditional? This strand spins the classic in a fun, free-flowing direction. Majique at the Bay, \$45.

5 | Your **handshake** will be even more impressive with this knuckle-duster. Expression at the Bay, \$26.



THE DAY
shift

Curvy and confident:
Colourful dresses with
a *Mad Men* twist adapt
nicely to our modern
working world.

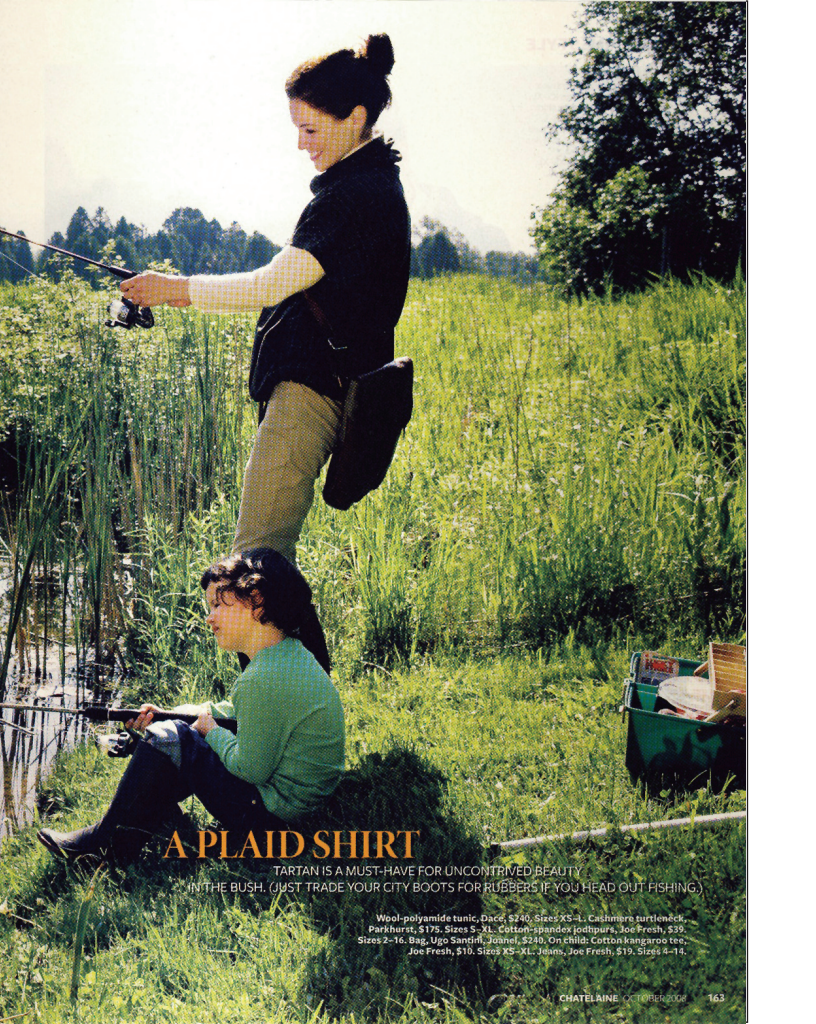
Banana Republic cotton double-knit
dress, \$160, sizes 0-14. Necklace
and bracelet, \$125 and \$50,
by R.J. Graziano at the Bay.
Shoes, at Spring, \$50, sizes 36-41.



Weekend Getaway

IN CELEBRATION OF AUTUMN, JOIN US FOR A WALK IN THE WOODS
IN OUR FAVOURITE CASUAL CLOTHES – FROM CANADIAN DESIGNER JACKETS
AND BOOTS TO DEPARTMENT-STORE JEANS AND TIGHTS.

by Deborah Fulsang | photographs by Geneviève Caron



A PLAID SHIRT

TARTAN IS A MUST-HAVE FOR UNCONTRIVED BEAUTY
IN THE BUSH. (JUST TRADE YOUR CITY BOOTS FOR RUBBERS IF YOU HEAD OUT FISHING.)

Wool-polyamide tunic, Dace, \$240, Sizes XS-L. Cashmere turtleneck, Parkhurst, \$175, Sizes S-XL. Cotton-spandex jodhpurs, Joe Fresh, \$39, Sizes 2-16. Bag, Ugo Santini, Joanel, \$240. On child: Cotton kangaroo tee, Joe Fresh, \$10, Sizes XS-XL. Jeans, Joe Fresh, \$19, Sizes 4-14.

Acrylic-wool cardigan, Parasuco Denim Legend, \$140. Sizes XS-XL. Blue cotton-nylon-spandex shirt, Club Monaco, \$119. Sizes XS-L. Organic wool-cotton-linen striped shirt, Mercy, \$320. Sizes 2-8. Nylon-spandex cream-coloured turtleneck, RK, \$65. Sizes XS-XL. Leggings, Dex, \$39. Sizes S-XL.




LAYERED KNITS

WHETHER YOU'RE IN THE CITY OR THE COUNTRY, YOU'LL GET LOADS OF MILEAGE FROM A HEATHER-GREY CARDIGAN.

A TWEEDY PONCHO

IT'S NOT QUITE COAT WEATHER, BUT THE AIR IS CRISP.
SO FIGHT THE CHILL IN THIS EASY-TO-WEAR ITEM WITH
UNSTRUCTURED, '70S-INSPIRED CHARM.

Acrylic poncho, Le Château, \$80. One size.
Turtleneck, Jones Sport, \$39. Sizes S–XL.
Wool-cotton-polyester plaid pants,
Identify, \$175. Sizes 4–14. On child: Cashmere
sweater, Snapdragon, \$135. Sizes 4–6 years.
Green jeans, Joe Fresh, \$19. Sizes 4–14.



Wool-polyamide jacket, Sola & Kyo, \$260. Sizes XS-XL. Modal-spandex turtleneck, Dex, \$35. Sizes S-XL. Jeans, Buffalo David Bitton, \$108. Sizes 24-34. Swarovski crystal and malachite chain (necklace, worn as a bracelet), Claudia Accessories, \$270. Waterproof boots, La Canadienne, \$495. Sizes 5-13. Hudson Bay Company Signature wool blanket, from \$150.


HAPPY HUES

KEEP WEARING COLOUR EVEN AS THE DAYS
SHORTEN. CHOOSE SUCCULENT SHADES
LIKE OCHRE, BURNT ORANGE AND CRUSHED BERRY.

Wool-polyester jacket, Mackage, \$590, Sizes XS-L Cotton-spandex jeans, Fillety, \$140, Sizes 24-32 Cotton-ruffle-neck blouse, Delicious, \$69, Sizes XS-L Waterproof boots, La Canadienne, \$325, Sizes 5-12

A CAPE/COAT


WUTHERING HEIGHTS MEETS THE EVERGREEN FOREST IN THIS EQUESTRIAN-STYLED LOOK, BUILT AROUND A CAPE-LIKE JACKET, SKINNY GREY JEANS AND TALL BOOTS.

A woman with long brown hair stands in front of a rustic log cabin. She is wearing a cream-colored cable-knit turtleneck sweater, a dark skirt with a light-colored pattern, dark leggings, and blue rubber boots. She is holding a green lantern. The scene is outdoors with grass and trees.

Cashmere cable-knit sweater,
Line, \$500. Sizes XS-L.
Lambswool-nylon patterned
skirt, Dex, \$79. Sizes S-XL.
Cotton-nylon-spandex tights,
McGregor, \$14. Sizes AB-BC.
Acrylic socks, McGregor, \$14.
Sizes 6-10.5.

A FISHERMAN SWEATER

THE ICONIC CABLE-KNIT TURTLENECK IS BOTH RUSTIC AND REFINED.
THROW IT ON OVER LEGGINGS OR A FULL SKIRT - OR WEAR IT
WITH SLOUCHY TROUSERS FOR THE ULTIMATE IN SOFT STYLE.



Wool cardigan, Hudson Bay Company Signature, \$245, Sizes XS-XL. Cashmere sweater, Line, \$129, Sizes XS-L. Cotton-modal Henley top, Delicious, \$49, Sizes XS-L. Cotton-blend jeans, Parasuco, \$105, Sizes 23-33. On child: Polar-fleece hoodie, Snug as a Bug, \$45, Sizes 6 months-8 years. Jeans, Joe Fresh, \$14, Sizes 4-14.

FIND IT AT
[CHATELAINE.COM/
SHOPPINGGUIDE](http://CHATELAINE.COM/SHOPPINGGUIDE)

A COUNTRY CARDIGAN

THE LIVING - AND THE DRESSING - SHOULD BE EASY
IN THE AUTUMN: TOSS ON A VINTAGE OR VINTAGE
LOOK SWEATER AND A PAIR OF YOUR FAVOURITE JEANS.

THE AGE OF ELEGANCE

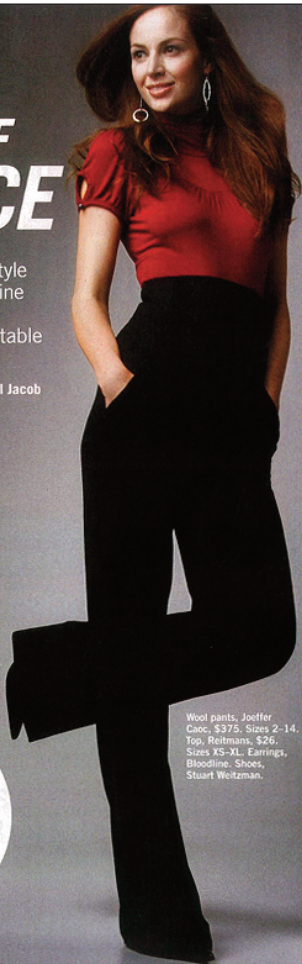
We can learn a thing or two about timeless dressing from style icons like Jackie O and Katharine Hepburn. They turned simple wardrobe pieces into unforgettable classics, and you can, too.

by Deborah Fulsang photographs by Miguel Jacob



THE WIDE PANTS

Katharine Hepburn (above left) flaunted her mojo in perfectly cut, man-style trousers. She would have loved these ones with their '30s-meets-'70s vibe: full legs and a corset-like waist.



Wool pants, Joieff Coec, \$375, Sizes 2-14.
Top, Reitmans, \$26.
Sizes XS-XL. Earrings, Bloodline. Shoes, Stuart Weitzman.

THE WHITE SHIRT

We're inspired by the knock-'em-dead style of women such as fashion designer Carolina Herrera (below), who made a crisp white shirt her signature. Here, it's pure polish with a pencil skirt.



Cotton shirt, Tabi, \$89.
Sizes XS-XXL. Wool/Lycra
skirt, Banana Republic,
\$100. Sizes 0-14.
Necklace, The Bay.
Belt, Banana Republic.
Watch, Swiss Army.

Wool blazer, Smythe, \$525.
Sizes 2-12. Jeans, Joe Fresh
Style, \$29. Sizes 0-12.
Earrings, Myka.

THE BLAZER

A well-tailored jacket in a not-just-for-men fabric like tartan, houndstooth or herringbone is a staple in the closets of stylish women. With jeans or your best jewellery à la Diana (below), it's always handsome.



Dress, ABS, The Bay, \$425.
Sizes 4-12. Earrings, Rita D.
Shopping guide, page 284

THE LITTLE BLACK DRESS

Don't be without a great little black dress (or two). Use Marilyn Monroe (below) as inspiration. She wore her LBDs low-key with pearls and was riveting.



Black bag, Town
Shoes, \$138.
Dress, Moss. Ring,
Holt Renfrew.



THE PURSE

Grace Kelly (left) and her eponymous Hermès handbag may have made us purse-obsessed, but we can live the dream with this shiny number that isn't priced like a small car.

THE CARDIGAN

Fisherman knits never lose their appeal. Take Brigitte Bardot's turn in them (below), for example. You might instinctively associate the actress with a curvy twin-set, but she sure sexed up the boyfriend cardigan.



Cotton cardigan, Gap,
\$55. Sizes XS-XXL.
Wool-blend pants,
Dex. Sizes 0-14, \$95.
Shoes, Joe Fresh Style.

What's Hip Now?

New Jersey

On the eve of her 10th anniversary,

Lida Baday's label is a hot commodity now that jersey and a pared-down aesthetic have returned to vogue. The Toronto-based designer was crafting the slinky knit even before she launched her own label 10 years ago. With the addition of a New York showroom, which since opening in 1994 has become half of her business, Baday's sleek minimalist collection—and her jersey—has gone global. Her spare, clean-lined designs have lugged the curves of Bridget Fonda, Stefanie Powers, Shirley MacLaine, Sigourney Weaver and even the royal Countess Serena Ballfour.

Baday belongs to a long list of jersey aficionados. The legendary Halston epitomized women's new-found freedom and sexuality with sinuous matte jersey, haltered, low V-neck and backless dresses and jumpsuits in the '70s. Fifty years before that, fashion provocateur Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel plucked the knit from the docks of Jersey (an island off the English coast)—where it had, up until then, existed in a heavier incarnation as the utilitarian cloth of choice for the fisherman's work tunic.

Halston reveled in jersey's clingy sex appeal while Chanel respected its uncontrolled, sultry style and masculine roots. For Baday, its appeal is timeless. "This is not a fast trend that's going to blow through," she says of fashion's renewed jersey focus. "I think it's the result of a sensibility of the modern woman and what she's wearing and what she's looking for—ease and comfort and a bit of softness."



Canadian designer Lida Baday celebrates the timelessness of slink.

Originally of wool, jersey evolved to finer cotton and silk forms. Today, with the advent of technology, assortments possess added stretch and memory, thanks to Lycra, or are ultimately fiber-friendly, as is the case with washable, synthetic, viscose and polyester blends. Science also affords lighter weight and exciting new textures, says Baday.

Like Claire McCardell, one of the pioneers of American sportswear, who defined modern dressing in the post-Second World War years with then-unglamorous textiles such as denim, seersucker and wool jersey, Baday prizes the everyday-ness of the fabric. This Hamilton, Ont.-born talent employs jersey for the simplest of mix-and-match day items in this season's resort collection, as well as for her chic evening sheaths. She cuts warm-weather bandeau and square-neck crop tops, short-shorts, capri pants and a fluid, ankle-sweeping cardigan and plunging V-neck jumpsuit in the body-loving knit. Indeed, one third of the designer's upcoming spring '97 lineup relies on jersey's protean nature.

Jersey fits neatly into Baday's design philosophy. It travels well, it's crease-resistant, it wins points for comfort and it stands beautifully on its own without the need for embellishment. "It's about the ease that comes along with it, its wearability," she says. "It goes beyond fit and style lines to how it works on the body, to how a woman feels when she puts it on." And for Baday, this is precisely what fashion is about. —Deborah Fulsang



style



2004



2001

As seen in our Haute Coat story in April 2004



1999



Fashion Advisor: Christen Lacrux by Francois Baudouin

1986



1980

Calvin Klein Jeans

25 years of

2004 THE TWEED JACKET BY CHANEL

There's nothing like a no-brainer fashion staple to ground a fashionista when world politics are topsy-turvy. This year, a cropped tweed jacket, whether Chanel or a reasonable facsimile, is de rigueur with jeans and boots, matching pencil skirt or, another Chanel favourite, sleek jersey and pearls.

2003 THE BLUE JEAN

Given society's idealization of youth, it's little wonder the popularity of the blue jean rages on. Whether they're \$39 ultra-low-risers from Old Navy or designer-priced hipsters from such brands as Paper Denim & Cloth or Miss Sixty, skinny rock-star denim on 14-year-olds and fortysomething career-juggling moms says 2003 like nothing else.

2002 THE JUICY COUTURE SWEAT SUIT

Forget diamonds. The sign

of real celebrity in 2002 was a star's off-time wardrobe basic: the Juicy Couture sweat suit. The item's high-profile fan base—think Madonna, Britney Spears, Gwyneth Paltrow and Gwen Stefani—quickly spurred fashion knockoffs, including J.Lo's copycats and mini-me versions for the bambinos of said celebs.

2001 THE TRENCH COAT

Supermodel Kate Moss helped make the trench coat cool once again and, in so doing, she did wonders for the staid then-145-year-old Burberry brand, whose claim to fame was the original First World War trench. The wail in a skimpy Burberry-plaid string bikini didn't hurt the cause, either. Not since the war years had the classic all-weather coat enjoyed such attention.

2000 THE PASHMINA

It said easy, elite and exotic—that was the

pashmina wrap's winning combination. By the time 2000 rolled around, it was ubiquitous and luxe-loving hedonists had moved on to covet the shaltoooh, a shawl woven from the fur of the endangered chiru, a Tibetan antelope.

1999 THE FUR CHUBBY

When the coat strutted down the Gucci catwalk in lemon, turquoise and black and red, it represented the ultimate style ascent for the puffy jacket. In translating the inner-city basic into a must-have for ghetto-fabulous glamour girls, Tom Ford provided social chroniclers with the ultimate symbol of society's conspicuous consumption.

1998 THE FENDI BAGUETTE

For the yeast-free fashionista, a Fendi baguette handbag was the ultimate indulgence. It could be had in quiet brown-tonic, but the more eccentric the better.



fashion

Deborah Fulsang charts the looks we loved and the items that made history

Trendsetters dropped four-figure sums for fur and sequined versions in eye-popping colour combos and proudly wore their style savvy on their sleeves.

1997 GUCCI'S STEEL-HEELED STILETTOS It's almost as if Gucci designer Tom Ford reinvented sex in the mid-'90s. But even if his velvet hip-huggers and silky silk blouses flattered only the truly suave among us, the designer's metal stilettos said wicked for even those beneath supermodel stature.

1996 THE BESSETTE KENNEDY WEDDING DRESS The ultrasimple gown worn by the late Carolyn Besette Kennedy spawned a thousand copycats. Designed by Narciso Rodríguez, the dress upped the glamour of the popular slipdress with its subtle bias cut. It was also an essential ingredient in a nostalgia,

however fleeting, for a second age of Camelot.

1995 M.A.C. LIPSTICK IN TWIG The pinky-brown lip colour was a favourite in many a makeup artist's kit. Kudos to the brand's founders, Frank Toskan and the late Frank Angelo, who had the foresight to recognize what influence that would mean in the long run. The brand had street cred (one of the reasons Estée Lauder scooped it up in 1994), as did this particular shade of lipstick, which was a natural, literally, for skin tones of all ethnicities and both genders.

1994 THE SAFETY-PIN DRESS BY VERSACE Elizabeth Hurley wore "that" dress to the opening of *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and officially launched her career. With its strategically placed safety pins, the curve-contouring number, and all that it encased, was a

paparazzi-stirring moment that helped keep Gianni smack-dab in the pop-culture limelight.

1993 TATTOOS Marc Jacobs' Grunge collection for Perry Ellis the year before had made antifashion—including flannel shirts, army boots and tattoos—a hot commodity. The poster child of the androgynous tattooed look? Model/actor Jenny Shimizu. Her angular beauty, plus rumoured lesbian liaisons with Angelina Jolie and Madonna, had even erstwhile conservatives heading to the tattoo parlour.

1992 BUMSTERS BY ALEXANDER MCQUEEN When Alexander McQueen, the kid from London, sent his bumster trousers down the runway, he started a revolution. The Savile Row-trained designer's hip-slung pants might have been a cheeky nod to plumber's- >>

style



but dungarees, but they started a low-rise pant craze that has been going strong for 12 years.

1991 THE BIKER JACKET Not since Marlon Brando in *The Wild One* had the motorcycle jacket enjoyed such high-octane exposure. On the catwalk, designers as diverse as Gianni Versace and Donna Karan revisited its innate cool. Then there was Karl Lagerfeld's Chanel collection with its black-leather versions. Sid Vicious would have been proud.

1990 GAP FASHION The '90s ushered in a new casual attitude and, with it, the homogeneous fashion of San Francisco-based Gap. The company's ad campaigns of dressed-down celebs—including Miles Davis and Kim Basinger—in black-and-white portraits shot by such high-profile shutterbugs as Annie Leibovitz, Herb Ritts and Steven Meisel, evoked the more livable, almost antifashion, reality. Ironically, as the masses adopted the

everywoman and everyman uniform of khakis, T-shirts and oxford shirts, the '90s cut of the individual was born.

1989 OPAQUE BLACK TIGHTS At the close of the decade, the miniskirt remained. But the only way many a career woman wanted to wear it was with opaque black tights. Lycra made them even more desirable. There was the comfort factor, yes, but the beauty of the stretch was its forgiving nature; it kept everything looking taut and fit.

1988 THE SHOULDER-PADED JACKET As women flooded the workforce, they appropriated male power dressing. The seriously shouldered, upwardly mobile jacket—remember Melanie Griffith as Tess in *Working Girl*?—provided the padding, both physically and psychologically, for survival in the working world. Shoulder pads were also sold separately so women could augment their stature in sweaters, blouses and even T-shirts.

1987 THE BLACK NYLON KNAPSACK BY PRADA When Muccia Prada took the creative reins of the family firm, she jump-started a renaissance for the tired old brand. After its introduction in '88, her black nylon knapsack became a cult favorite. It can also be considered the precursor to the '90s obsession with fashion/sport hybrids.

1986 THE POUF SKIRT Christian Lacroix's pouf skirt epitomized the era of excess that was the '80s. The skirt was provocative both in its mini-length and its Versailles-like volume. Decadent, too, was the palette of exotic colors that the designer used when launching it on the couture catwalk for the spring season.

1985 THE BODYSUIT BY DONNA KARAN Perhaps like no other designer, Donna Karan embraced the real woman's form. She made a name for herself with her Seven Easy Pieces collection, launched in the fall of '85. ▶▶

style

which centred on a black wool jersey bodysuit as the basis for a sexy mix-and-match approach to dressing. As much as the item's unique styling, it was Karan's focus on black that defined the much-copied New York look of the moment.

1984 THE CORSET Fashion's enfant terrible Jean Paul Gaultier may have sparked the craze the year before with his provocative lace number, but it wasn't until the Material Girl faunted hers on the cover of her *Like a Virgin* album that the corset went mainstream. Madonna's outing of the inner-wear item also jump-started the trend of lingerie-like fashion worn as ready-to-wear by the masses.

1983 LEG WARMERS The item, now reappearing once again in style files across the globe, made official fashion history in the Jane Fonda-workout era when Jennifer Beals kicked up her heels as the moonlighting welder-cum-aspiring dancer

in Adrian Lyne's *Flashdance*. It's only a matter of time before stirrup pants and that Manic song make their comeback.

1982 BIG HAIR The higher the hair, the closer to God was the unwritten mantra of the time. If '70s hipsters idealized long tresses, '80s trendsetters aspired to volume. Epitomizing the year's biggest hair moment was the release of the Flock of Seagulls' tune *I Ran*. The song and the dos were a phenomenal hit for the group, one of the decade's signature New Wave bands.

1981 THE PRINCESS DIANA DO Not only did the wedding dress of the late Princess of Wales (in all its storybook confection) inspire but so did that hair. Even beneath the fit-for-a-princess tiara, that short, flipped coil was a perfect meld of tomboy and modern femininity. The hairstyle, along with the carriage of the seemingly shy, statuesque, long-legged royal,

did wonders for the British monarchy's publicity machine.

1980 CALVIN KLEIN JEANS

When 16-year-old Brooke Shields said "You know what comes between me and my Calvins? Nothing," fashion history was made. With the pubescent beauty, the boy from the Bronx made history. With this controversial campaign, denim was considered sexy—something it had not been until then—and Klein launched a highly successful and provocative advertising career that has continued to push buttons for 25 years.

1979 FLARE MAGAZINE IS BORN

The fashion mag formerly known as *Miss Chatelaine* was officially renamed and hit newsstands as *FLARE* in September 1979. All the looks of the era in fashion and beauty are splashed across the pages, along with articles and advice columns on body image, being your own boss and sex and the working couple. **12**

Photographer Nigel Scott's

Naked Tux

More than 100 years after its introduction, the tuxedo's elemental style
illuminates the modern wardrobe.



In the fall of 1856, Griswold Lorillard sliced the tails off his jacket and made evening wear history. His new dinner coat, dubbed the "tuxedo" after the country club where it made its debut, remains—even 110 years later—the quintessential after-six ensemble.

Yves Saint Laurent introduced *le smoking* for women in 1966, and it still maintains its relevance and position within his collection. This season, it was German-born supermodel Claudia Schiffer who sported a classic, single-button version with wide, satin lapels, and minus the blouse, a plunging décolleté.

As designers revisit the '70s "Me Decade," a period of noted tuxedo popularity, a rethinking of the formal suit naturally occurs. Today's tux evolves from old-style monkey suits—strict, satin-piped menswear attire—but retains its svelte

confidence. Modern interpretations draw on the attitude but rework tradition. Elements of the timeless suit are extracted—a slim tuxedo shirt, a top hat and a touch of shine—and the strong-and-sexy message gets bolder. Even the maxicoat—fashion's current craze—could easily be regarded as a morphing of tuxedo tails to a more versatile dinner jacket.

There's something about a woman in man's clothing, and both Katharine Hepburn and Marlene Dietrich lived it. Even present-day stars Sharon Stone, Glenn Close and Candice Bergen, who have been captured on film in such natty attire, have rediscovered the tuxedo's seductive powers. And with understated and masculine-edged glamour currently in hot demand, the tuxedo appears as relevant in 1996 as it did back at the Tuxedo Club's first autumn ball more than a century ago in Tuxedo Park, N.Y. —Deborah Falsang

Globe Style

Nicole Kidman is flashing them for the paparazzi, they're the hottest accessory for fall and they're being celebrated in a major exhibition at the Royal Ontario Museum. What better time to go shopping for pearls?
DEBORAH FULSANG
reports on page L11



Girls & pearls



Audrey Hepburn as Holly Golightly puts on the ritz with her costume pearls and brooch chosen at Brook's at Tiffany's. The necklace (page 10) top of page 11 is one of Pearl's. Rhinestone Tiffany at the ROM in Toronto. www.rom.on.ca. Also see view a pearl-diamond cuff from the 1930 Chanel Fall Jewellery Collection (top left), and an impressive necklace brooch with cross pearl, diamonds, sapphires and rubies.

FASHION | STYLE • L11



Pearls of wisdom

Kathleen Downey, gemologist and author of the book *Pearls: The Story, from a Shell to a Jewelry Artist*, gives us a pearls primer.

Meaning: The oldest cultured pearl, the Japanese Akoya, is the most lustrous. The pearls have a smooth, round shape. The pearls have a smooth, round shape.

Labels: The pearl is a natural product. The pearls have a smooth, round shape.

Handling: Pearls should be handled with care. The pearls have a smooth, round shape.

Cleaning: Pearls should be cleaned with a soft cloth. The pearls have a smooth, round shape.

Storage: Pearls should be stored in a soft cloth. The pearls have a smooth, round shape.

Buying: Pearls should be bought from a reputable dealer. The pearls have a smooth, round shape.

Wearing: Pearls should be worn with care. The pearls have a smooth, round shape.

Repairing: Pearls should be repaired by a professional. The pearls have a smooth, round shape.

Resizing: Pearls should be resized by a professional. The pearls have a smooth, round shape.

Insurance: Pearls should be insured. The pearls have a smooth, round shape.

Appraisal: Pearls should be appraised by a professional. The pearls have a smooth, round shape.

Gift-giving: Pearls are a popular gift. The pearls have a smooth, round shape.

History: Pearls have a long history. The pearls have a smooth, round shape.

Types: There are many types of pearls. The pearls have a smooth, round shape.

Quality: Pearls vary in quality. The pearls have a smooth, round shape.

Value: Pearls can be valuable. The pearls have a smooth, round shape.

Authenticity: Pearls should be authentic. The pearls have a smooth, round shape.

Identification: Pearls should be identified. The pearls have a smooth, round shape.



According to Biko, creator-director Holly Brooch's return to Toronto is part of the plan. This necklace of 7 1/2-inch Tahitian pearls, with a ring of 18-karat yellow gold, is one of the pieces she designed in 1985.

There are two new pieces. A brooch, which is a necklace of 7 1/2-inch Tahitian pearls, with a ring of 18-karat yellow gold, is one of the pieces she designed in 1985.

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Girls & pearls

BY DEBORAH FULSANG

Cultured pearls have been the most popular jewelry choice for decades. Now, they're back. The pearls are being worn by Nicole Kidman, Angelina Jolie, and other celebrities. The pearls are being worn by Nicole Kidman, Angelina Jolie, and other celebrities.

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