SLAPSTIK COMEDY: FASHION ISSUE

SLAPSTIK

November 2024

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ASPIRATIONS AND FASHION

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Publisher's Note: A Fusion of Laughter and Style

Welcome to the fashion issue of SlapStik Comedy Magazine! This edition is where comedy meets couture, and I couldn't be more excited to share it with you. Fashion isn't just about looking good; it's about expressing who you are—and who's better at that than comedians? They've always had a knack for turning heads, whether it's on stage or on the runway.

Our cover star, Leyla Ingalls, epitomizes this blend of style and humor. Her fearless approach to fashion mirrors her bold comedy, making her the perfect face for this issue. Inside, you'll find an eclectic mix of articles that explore the intersection of comedy and fashion. From the iconic hairstyles that have defined comedic characters over the decades to the history of fashion in stand-up, our writers have left no stone unturned.

I'm also thrilled to highlight our collaboration with Hosful Collective, a boutique that's as unique as the comedians we feature. Working with Lindsey Drahos, the visionary behind the boutique, has been an absolute pleasure. Together, we've created a fashion-forward issue that reflects the creativity, quirkiness, and authenticity that both SlapStik and Hosful Collective stand for.

So, whether you're here to get a good laugh or some style inspiration (or both!), I hope you enjoy this issue as much as we enjoyed putting it together. Here's to finding your funny—and looking fabulous while you do it!



"Stay stylish and keep laughing"



Mecha Swain
Founder & CEO,
Mecha Media
SlapStik Comedy Entertainment

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STIK

comedyslaps.com

STEVE HARVEY

TAMEEAH BROWNE

THE IMAGE



The name Steve Harvey is synonymous with so many notable areas of entertainment:

Comedy
Daytime Television
Game Shows
Sitcoms
Movies

and...Fashion

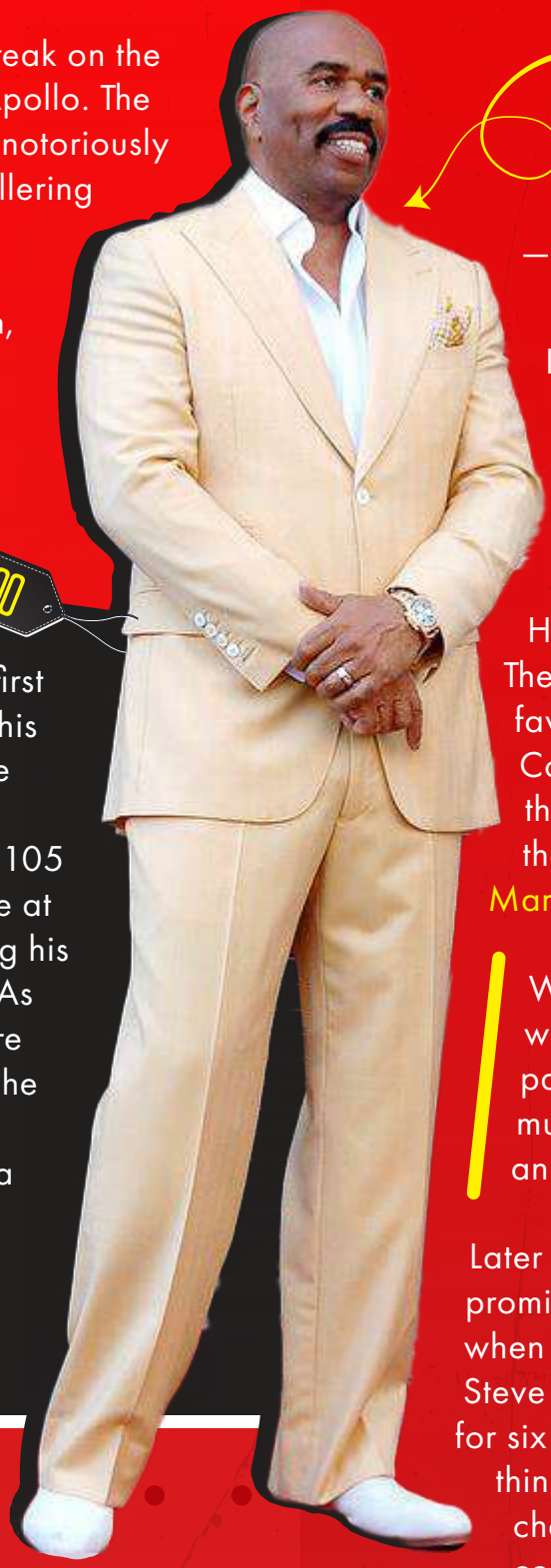


Mr. Harvey is a talented man, but his talent isn't confined to his performance skills. It also lies in the way he has been able to brand his appearance.

1950 1960 1970 1990 2000

Steve Harvey began his comedy career in the late 1980s. After winning an amateur night at a comedy club, he quit his job the next day and decided to dive into the world of professional comedy. Although Steve was passionate, the road wasn't easy. The up-and-coming comedian faced many financial troubles while traveling to gain more opportunities.

Eventually, he got his big break on the series It's Showtime at the Apollo. The Apollo audience—a crowd notoriously hard to please—was left hollering with laughter. The future superstar was asked to perform at the Apollo again, and then he was asked to host. Harvey hosted It's Showtime at the Apollo from 1993 to 2000.



His style has been tied to his career since his very first televised performance. On his talk show, Steve Harvey, the accomplished entertainer explained how he wore a $105 shirt for his first performance at the Apollo—a splurge during his time as a struggling comic. As Steve did more hosting, more stand-up, and more acting, he became notorious for what would soon be considered a "Steve Harvey suit." His haircut, along with his "stache," would gain their own fame too.

Bright Colors
Eclectic Designs
Loose yet well-tailored

—that was a Steve Harvey fit.

In the '90s and early 2000s, any outfit that Steve Harvey wore was sure to catch your attention, whether it was formal or casual. But even a "dressed-down" Steve Harvey was far from casual. The comedic genius was a fan favorite on the series Def Comedy Jam. He appeared on the show several times, sharing the stage with other legends like Martin Lawrence and Bernie Mac.

Where most comedians would wear a big T-shirt and baggy pants, Steve stood out in suits, multi-colored vests, dress pants, and dress shoes.

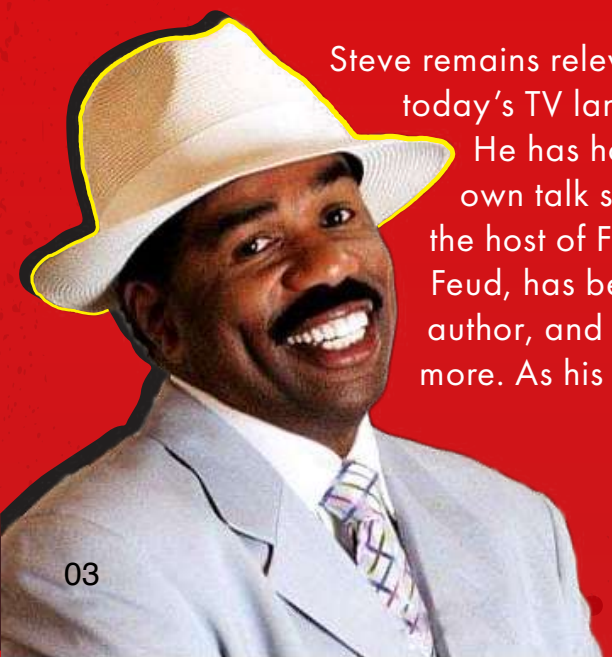
Later in the '90s, Harvey's prominence grew even more visible when he got his own sitcom, The Steve Harvey Show. The show ran for six seasons, and his suits took things to another level. Plaid, checkered, striped, or plain colored with a polka dot or



confetti tie—Steve's character, Mr. Hightower, a musician turned high school teacher, had the perfect flair.

The same extravagance was evident in his comedy specials and red carpet moments during this time. Fans could always count on Steve to have his hair cut into a perfect square and a carefully groomed mustache that framed his top lip and toothy smile. Steve Harvey not only became a star but also a very specific image.

In a funny interview with James Corden, Steve explained that his new, more chic look is thanks to his wife hiring a stylist for him.



Steve remains relevant in today's TV landscape. He has hosted his own talk show, is the host of Family Feud, has become an author, and so much more. As his career continues to skyrocket, it's only fitting that his fashion choices get an upgrade too. Harvey's ensembles still consist of a wide array of colors and patterns, but now almost everything he wears is custom-fit and includes pieces from high fashion brands. Steve's complex fashion has become such a pop culture phenomenon that people are likely to compliment Harvey and roast him in the same breath when discussing his fashion choices over the years. He also gets his fair share of comments about being bald, but luckily, he has not lost his signature mustache, and fans have begged him never to shave it. Of course, Steve is always ready to handle all the jokes that come his way, and he welcomes the attention.

In the end, there's no denying that everyone can take a page out of Steve Harvey's book when it comes to the importance of having a unique appearance that matches your personality and your journey.



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WHO'S



NEXT?

A REBIRTH OF STAND UP

In a recent announcement, comedian and business mogul Kevin Hart revealed that he has partnered with BET for a revival of the stand-up comedy hit Comic View. Hart, who hosted the show for a time and performed in several episodes, aims to create a space for upcoming comedians, as well as those who are somewhat known but still working to expand their audiences. The Comic View stage has seen the likes of Katt Williams, D.L. Hughley, Rickey Smiley, Sommore, Mo'Nique, and plenty of other comedy greats. Currently, the revival is not a full-blown series, but it could go much further depending on fans' reactions.

While the news has sparked excitement among long-time fans, comedian Roy Wood Jr. brought up an important topic regarding the focus on new talent. Wood took to social media to express his thoughts on the reboot and how it could once again serve as a catapult for emerging careers. He called it a win for stand-up, stating, "Comic View was at its best when it gave us new names to learn & not just solely affirming already established stars." This is a valid point, as comedians with the most popularity and experience are usually not struggling to be recognized. However, it is not uncommon for them to get first dibs on opportunities that would be much more beneficial to someone just starting out.



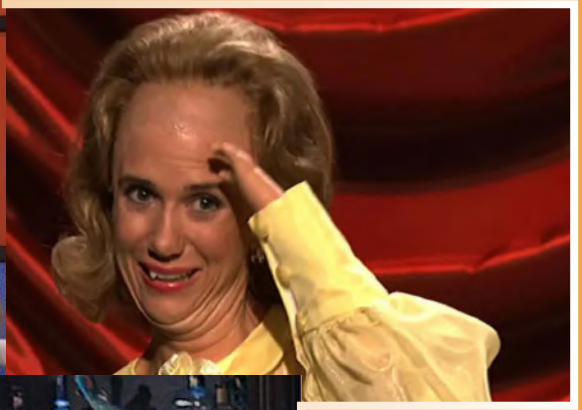
A rebirth of Comic View provides much-needed recognition and support for new comedians and paves the way for similar platforms. Wood also mentioned a key factor in the potential success of new stand-up shows: the ongoing writer/actor strike, which has stemmed from unfair employment practices by entertainment companies. While these companies should be more willing to meet their employees' demands, that may not happen as soon as it should. In the meantime, as Wood suggests, those looking to create productions that are less costly than films and popular series can turn to stand-up showcases. The idea itself sounds amazing, but the execution can be tricky. Networks often rely on big stars to promote new content, but too much reliance on superstars leaves less room for newcomers in the industry, as Wood explained in his Instagram caption.

The creation of platforms for rising comedians, especially in the form of stand-up, is crucial to the evolution of the comedy world. In recent years, many new comedians have gained visibility, but not always the opportunity to shine. With the advent of social media, it's easier for people to showcase their talents or go viral. However, this can be a double-edged sword, as it supports the negative connotation of the saying "Anybody can become famous." Even if someone is very talented, the industry may view them as someone who is only good enough for social media—not for television, movies, or live performances.

When a comedian has the ability to stand on stage and make people laugh until they cry, it's a rite of passage. The variety of stand-up comedy needs to make a comeback. There was a time when comedians could go up on stage back-to-back and sculpt their legacy with hilarious jokes. Viewers saw examples of this in episodes of Def Comedy Jam and concert films like The Original Kings of Comedy. Nowadays, specials on streaming services, TV series, and hosting gigs often highlight one major comedian. The world loves comedy legends, but there has to be a wider path for a new era of legends as well.

TAMEEAH BROWNE







SKETCH STYLE: THE IMPACT OF FASHION IN COMEDY

BY DELANEY MARTIN

Comedy performances—the light and joy of many lives—never fail to impress us with their writing, performances, and sometimes straight-up idiocy. But a greatly overlooked and undervalued facet of comedy is fashion. Of course, a good joke is highly dependent on what you say and how you say it, but it's rare to find someone who stops to consider how humor can be enhanced with just a look. When discussing fashion in comedy, there are two key categories to consider: costuming and character.

When thinking of iconic style moments in comedy, your mind likely goes to a famous costume. Although humor and detail in costuming can be seen in all forms of comedy, it is most prevalent in sketches, particularly in shows like Saturday Night Live (SNL). As you think of your favorite iconic comedy style moments, I can confidently predict that at the forefront of everyone's mind is at least one famous SNL moment. Your first thought may be of Kristen Wiig's seminal sketch The Lawrence Welk Show: Introducing the Maharelle Sisters. Or perhaps your mind goes to a more recent sketch, like Pete Davidson and Timothée Chalamet's Rap Roundtable, where the boys are costumed in what can only be described as "SoundCloud personified." Either way, it's undeniable that the comedy in these sketches is not only due to fantastic writing and hilarious performances but also to the costuming—drawing the viewer's eye and coaxing out every laugh. Take The Lawrence WelkShow: Introducing the Maharelle

Sisters—a seemingly normal sketch about a classic traveling musical act of beautiful sisters. While the concept itself might not seem belly-laugh-worthy, the moment Wiig's character appears on stage, you can't help but cackle. This is all thanks to the wonderful costuming done on Wiig, complete with an anything-but-elegant hairline and a snaggletooth that draws attention. The fun doesn't stop there. Later in the sketch, the true genius of the costuming comes into play as Wiig reveals her strangely sized baby hands. While on paper this may not seem hilarious, the contrast between her elegant evening gown and her teeny-tiny hands really brings out the most natural of laughs, demonstrating how some jokes are all in the visual. Without these details of Wiig's character, this sketch would be nothing! But through the wonderful tool of costuming, the sketch has become a favorite for SNL fans. Great comedy can not only be achieved through costuming but can also be found in some of our favorite characters' personal styles. In television, it's not uncommon to see a character's personal style used as a vessel for comedy.

The most well-known example of this comedic technique can be found in How I Met Your Mother's Barney Stinson. While Barney is hilarious and beloved as a stand-alone character, the writers of How I Met Your Mother went one step further in creating comedy by incorporating his personal style into the humor. Those who have seen the show certainly know what I'm referring to when discussing Barney's style, as it is one of the most used platforms for jokes within the show. Barney, the pseudo-suave womanizer, refuses to be seen in anything but a suit. This trait—his personal style—becomes a staple joke of the series, even giving him his own catchphrase (much to the dimay of other characters): "Suit up." How I Met Your Mother uses costuming uniquely to create an everlasting joke that never gets old. After establishing Barney's great affinity for suits, it didn't matter if a joke was spoken— seeing Barney in a suit was always hilarious. Additionally, this characteristic allowed for a plethora of suit-related jokes throughout the series, only enhancing the costume's legendary legacy.

As if there isn't enough to worry about when writing a good joke, comedians should also be looking toward style as a way to enhance their jokes and characters. Whether you're centering your joke around an absurd costume creation or simply using wardrobe to enhance an already hilarious character, costuming can be one of the sharpest weapons in a writer's arsenal. Clearly, this is not an unnecessary detail to overlook, as even the smallest use of costuming and style can add a myriad of depth and humor to a joke.



"COSTUMING CAN BE ONE OF THE SHARPEST WEAPONS IN A WRITER'S ARSENAL."

"IT'S NOT UNCOMMON TO SEE A CHARACTER'S PERSONAL STYLE USED AS A VESSEL FOR COMEDY."

ALEX'S TOP 10 STEVE HARVEY SUITS

ALEXANDRA WEBB

Now, you're probably wondering, "Alex, do you have a degree in fashion?" or "Alex, do you yourself have good taste in style?"

To which I promptly say,

"Not at all."

Unfortunately for you, dear reader, I can barely dress myself in the morning without looking severely dehydrated and disheveled. But fret not!

Although I have no credentials, no style, and frankly, am severely dehydrated while writing this...I actually don't remember where I was going with this. So let's jump in and talk about Steve Harvey!

10 The Mermaid-Colored Suit

Kicking off the list at number 10, we have a mermaid-colored suit paired with a light grey-blue shirt and matching tie. This suit looks as if it was made from a form of silk or satin, glowing beautifully under the stage lights. It's number 10 because it accurately depicts what I'd imagine Steve's aura would look like.



Although this suit is undeniably dashing, it sits at tenth because the next nine suits are simply impeccable.

9 The Dazzling Dark Blazer

At number 9 is a dazzling dark blazer with a matching bedazzled bowtie. This



sparkling suit screams classic black-tie event with a dash of edge.

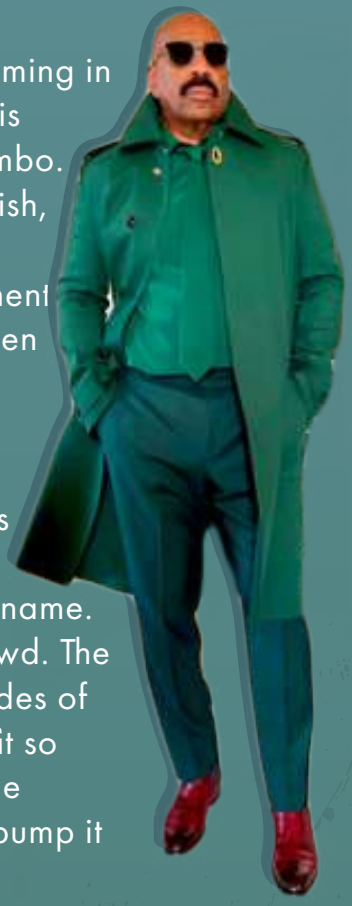
It takes a traditional suit and adds a bit of spice with the sparkles. But at the end of the day, it's still not as impressive as the suits that follow.

8

The Monotone Green Combo

Good ole' number eight. The eighth month of the year is August, and the number eight was always the number I could never spell growing up because I could never remember that "e" came before "i".

With that, the suit coming in at number eight is this monotone green combo. This suit screams stylish, and the red ombré shoes make a statement that says, "I don't even have to introduce myself!"



Get it... because he's Steve Harvey, and everyone knows his name. Anyways, tough crowd. The slightly different shades of green make this outfit so unique that with some persuasion, I could bump it up to number one.

7

The Burgundy Velvet Suit



Coming in at number seven is this burgundy velvet suit. Although it's not as flashy or, quite frankly, as green as the other suits, it screams poise. The subtle yet attention-grabbing detail in the left breast pocket truly brings the whole suit together.

6

The Intricate Gold-Pleated Blazer

Number six in the line of Steve Harvey's suits is an incredibly intricate gold-pleated green blazer. This suit gets more interesting the longer you look at it.



Unfortunately, it ranks at number six and not number one because the pants and bowtie don't stand out as much. I believe that a pair of slacks matching the blazer exactly would have made a great statement.

But as usual, these suits are still nicer than

anything I own, so really, who am I to give advice? Still, the matching tie makes the entire outfit pop.

From the fabric to the pattern, this suit tells a story of its own. The color scheme is so unique that it needs to make a comeback in Steve Harvey's wardrobe.

5 The Striped Power Suit

Now for number five! This suit holds so much power from the stripes to the black silk-lined pockets. The blazer alone is intricate and makes a statement, but the matching tie elevates the entire outfit even more. Everything from the fabric to the pattern tells a story, and the color scheme is so unique that it definitely deserves a return to Steve Harvey's wardrobe.



4 The Glossy Purple Suit

Coming in at number four, this glossy purple suit is definitely a head-turner!

I love this suit, I really do, but for some reason, the pattern on the blazer looks familiar. I can't recall if I've seen this pattern on a teacup I had or somewhere else.

If the pattern were a little different, I'd love this suit a hundred times more. Still, the rose gold shade of this suit is impeccable!

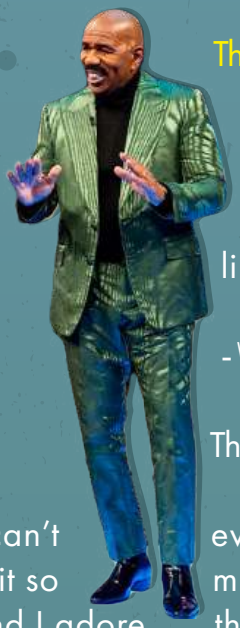


3 The Pepto-Bismol Pink Suit

Wow! This has gone by quickly! We're now in the final three. This Pepto-Bismol pink suit is what I wish I could wear to the Barbie/Oppenheimer premiere. What makes this suit stand out to me is the black tie and black shirt combination. It's a very sleek yet flashy and professional suit that could really be worn for any occasion. This suit is just a sleek look that I truly appreciate.



2



The Shiny Green Suit

Now we're at number two! I remember when we were at number three like it was yesterday.

-Wipes tears from eyes-

They grow up so fast.

I can't even explain why I love this suit so much, but it's very shiny, and I adore this shade of green. Everything from the shoes to the color to the fabric is stunning! This suit is definitely a conversation starter.



Mr. Harvey? Can I call you Steve? If you're reading this, please tell me where you got this suit. Thanks!

1

The Orange Suit

And finally, the long-awaited number one: this orange suit is something I am incredibly jealous of.

If I had this suit, I would make it everyone's problem. I'd show up to weddings, the grocery store, the eye doctor—whatever the occasion.

You can tell from the silk, perhaps satin, fabric that this suit is most likely incredibly comfortable to wear. The difference in the shades of orange along with the change in fabrics makes this suit unbelievably unique and flashy in a way we haven't seen before.

The Joker

by Conner Seidel



With the recent release of DC's The Flash and Michael Keaton reprising his role as Batman, a wave of nostalgia has come crashing back for many. Keaton's return to the DC Universe brings with it memories of one of the most well-dressed and arguably most hilarious supervillains in comic book history: Jack Nicholson's Joker, seen only in Tim Burton's 1989 Batman film. This version of the Joker is by far the most cartoonish and the most dapper big-screen interpretation of the Clown Prince of Crime.

Starting out as a plain but ambitious hitman with an appreciation for style, Jack Napier wanted more out of life and his position. When given a seemingly life-changing opportunity by his boss, Carl Grissom, he took it. Destroying the Ace Chemical Plant was supposed to be the job that would bring him to the top. However, after being set up by Grissom and a police informant, Napier found himself in his first face-to-face encounter with Batman. During their fight, Napier was hit by a splash of chemicals, causing him to tumble and eventually fall into a massive vat of the same acidic liquid. After narrowly escaping and receiving reconstructive surgery to his face, he snapped and became the Joker we all know and love.

With every act that followed, the Joker found a way to make it a joke. His first act—one that would fill any other man with rage—was taking his boss's place. Joker appeared with his newly invented look and title and shot down Carl Grissom. Brutal, one would think. However, he turned it into a game, doing trick shots, laughing, and joking with his newly reformed personality. It was the first step toward his clear ambitions and his career as a comedian crime boss. His next few acts included using a deadly joy buzzer to melt off an executive's face, making puns the entire time; defacing priceless art to the tune of hip-hop and pop music, turning it into another funny game as he danced and smashed every statue in sight; and, of course, making a commercial for his new brand of beauty products, Smylex, while using corporate humor—dead supermodels as props included. The character met his end after treating Batman and his love interest to various gags and slapstick humor, fighting the Dark Knight atop a cathedral. He eventually fell to his demise, but not without having a recording of his laugh go off, making sure he always had the last one.

This character is dastardly and murderous, but no one can deny his commitment to the act of comedy. With that commitment, every joke he tells and every performance he puts on requires attire to match. As we all know, clothes make the man, and the Joker's array of outfits makes him quite the colorful character—literally. While dancing and defacing art, he wears an appropriate painter's beret. While parading through the streets of Gotham, he dons a politician's suit and hat. And while melting an executive's face off with a joy buzzer, he sports his original mob attire with makeup to cover his bleached skin. Like many clowns, he's never without a variety of props to match. These include a long-barreled revolver to shoot down planes, an acid-spraying flower to impress our female protagonist Vicki Vale, and, of course, the face-melting joy buzzer.

With more recent, grittier iterations of the character dominating screens, one can't help but long for the days when the clown was equal parts criminal and comedian. A Joker who could still act as the opposite of the Caped Crusader while offering jokes and plenty of entertainment to the audience. Heath Ledger's chaotic commitment offered a compelling, nonchalant villain with his own flair for dress-up, but his portrayal was enveloped by the serious nature of Christian Bale's performance as Batman. Jared Leto's panned performance brought too much to the table in the form of a modern, over-the-top, and over-stylized interpretation that was neither liked nor funny. Joaquin Phoenix's disturbing yet artful display delivered depression, anxiety, and no laughs at all. So with all the rehashing and remaking occurring in the DCEU, who knows? Perhaps Nicholson's version of the Joker will once again have the last laugh, overcoming his more recent versions and making another mark—not just on the pavement, but in our hearts.

There's an underground comedy bar right next to my apartment that I used to visit every Thursday. One of my close friends was a regular performer there, so I'd gather my crew and head over to see what "Jokey-Okie" (a mix of comedy and karaoke) was all about.

Each act wore what I, an amateur comedy enthusiast, considered the staple of comedic fashion: jeans and a leather jacket over some kind of graphic tee. After a few acts, I found it hard to tell each performer apart since they all seemed to sport variations of the same outfit. By the time we left, I could barely remember my friend's set. Each comedian touched on the Dive Bar Big Three (sex, weed, and 9/11) in their own quirky way, but when it came time to vote, I couldn't choose. I needed something more to distinguish them.

This got me thinking: What makes the more popular, mainstream comedians stand out in the eyes of their fans? I did what most girls in their early 20s do in times of uncertainty—I called my dad.

Growing up, my dad and I would watch comedy specials on Netflix. I could never remember the comedians' names, but I always recalled what they wore during their sets. The first comedian I mentioned to my dad was "the guy who takes his shirt off," and he immediately knew who I was talking about.



THE QUIRKY SIDE OF FASHION

Bert Kreischer, star of This is Not Happening, is well known for his stories about his kids and his wild adventure with the Russian mafia. But one of the main reasons he stands out is his unique fashion statement—or lack thereof. As soon as he hits the stage, Kreischer removes his shirt and performs the entire set shirtless.

I'm all for comedians with unique bits that set them apart, but I had never seen anything like this before. Kreischer's consistency in doing his sets shirtless helps him stand out from other comedians and creates a lasting impression. Instead of just remembering him as "the Russian Mafia guy, The Machine," I confidently know him as "Bert Kreischer: The Guy Who Takes His Shirt Off."



There could be many interpretations of his shirtlessness. My initial thought was that it was just something different to set him apart from the other stand-up acts. However, Kreischer explained in an interview with Showbiz that his lack of shirts is a way to remind himself that comedy is fun and that he "should be having a good time."

Diving further into comedians with standout fashion choices, Eddie Murphy's red leather suit during his stand-up days is iconic. By the time he performed his Delirious television special in 1983, Murphy had already appeared in a few films and was a rising star in the comedy world. For new comedy fans, Delirious is a great place to start, thanks to Murphy's memorable look.

Whether it's the bright red color or the fact that he's fully clad in leather, Murphy's outfit sticks in the mind like leather on skin. After Delirious, Murphy went on to star in major films like Beverly Hills Cop, Harlem Nights, and, of course, Norbit. I consider Delirious to be his big break into comedy—though the act was hilarious, his outfit undoubtedly played a role in helping him stand out.



According to the Chicago Tribune, "the leather suit was revolutionary" for stand-up comedians. Back in the '80s, most stand-up acts "looked unassuming and dressed down." The leather suit brought a new level of attention to the comedy industry and set Murphy apart from his peers.

Of course, I can't talk about comedians with signature fashion choices without mentioning Gabriel Iglesias, or "Fluffy." In every one of his acts—and you can even Google his name to confirm this—he can be seen wearing a Hawaiian shirt, a black flat cap, and jorts.

Despite his fame, Iglesias remains consistent with his outfits, making his acts uniquely his. The first stand-up show of his that I watched was The Fluffy Movie with my dad when I was a kid. I still can't quite pinpoint why I remember it so well—maybe it was a core memory between me and my dad, or maybe it was the Hawaiian shirt/jorts combo.

There are many other comedians known for iconic costumes during their sets, like Andrew Dice Clay's bedazzled leather jacket and Steve Martin's King Tut costume. But Iglesias, Kreischer, and Murphy are the ones who got me hooked on comedy. Whether it's the memories with my dad, the hilarious sets, or the bold fashion choices, these comedians stand out to me and continue to set themselves apart in the industry.





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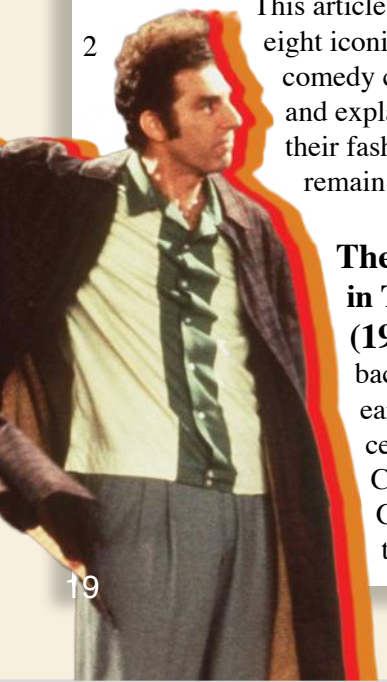
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DRESSING THE PART

THE ROLE OF FASHION IN COMEDY CHARACTERS

BY HOLLAND LOGHING

American fashion designer Rachel Zoe once said, "Style is a way to say who you are without having to speak." For decades, fashion and costume design have played a crucial role in shaping the famous comedy characters we all know and love. A character's clothing can visually communicate their personality, interests, and background to the audience. Fashion choices often contribute directly to the comedy and help make the characters recognizable. Whether in film or television, a character's outfits can influence our perception of them. This article highlights eight iconic comedy characters and explains why their fashion choices remain memorable.



2

The Tramp in The Tramp (1915) Way back in the early 20th century, Charlie Chaplin (1) took the silent film industry by storm with the slapstick comedy The Tramp (1915). In this short film, Chaplin's character causes chaos after escaping from prison. Even if you've never seen the film, Chaplin's name surely evokes an image of his iconic costume: the bowler hat, cane, mustache, over-sized shoes, and ill-fitting suit. His wardrobe perfectly complements his exaggerated misfit persona. The worn-out yet professional clothing tells the audience that he's a down-on-his-luck underdog, still trying his best. For example, despite wearing a suit and trying to look nice, the ill-fitting size makes him appear awkward and clumsy. His attire displays what he aspires to be, while the audience sees the reality. Viewers can't help but empathize with him and laugh at his resourcefulness along the way.

Cosmo Kramer in Seinfeld (1989–1998) Throughout the '90s, Seinfeld introduced us to Kramer (2), played by Michael Richards. In the series, stand-up comedian Jerry Seinfeld, George Costanza, Elaine Benes, and Cosmo Kramer navigate the frustrations of day-to-day life in New York City. Kramer is known for frantically bursting into Jerry's apartment, often sporting a vintage shirt, high-waisted pants, and a wacky hairstyle. His outfits visually set him apart from the other characters. While the rest of the cast wears solid-colored sweaters and slacks, Kramer often dons mismatched items and vibrant prints. This fashion choice mirrors his personality within the friend group. While they all have quirks, Kramer is far more eccentric and unpredictable than Jerry, Elaine, and George. His clothing perfectly suits the role of the quirky and unconventional neighbor, amplifying his physical comedy and crazy antics throughout the series.

Fran Fine in The Nanny (1993–1999) Fran Drescher played the lovable protagonist in this sitcom. In the series, Fran (3) arrives at Maxwell Sheffield's home hoping to sell cosmetics but instead lands a job as the nanny for his three children. Fran is essentially a fish out of water, but she doesn't let that diminish her confidence. She always wears bold, flamboyant, and flashy outfits that embody the '90s and her Queens roots. In one episode, she wears an



3

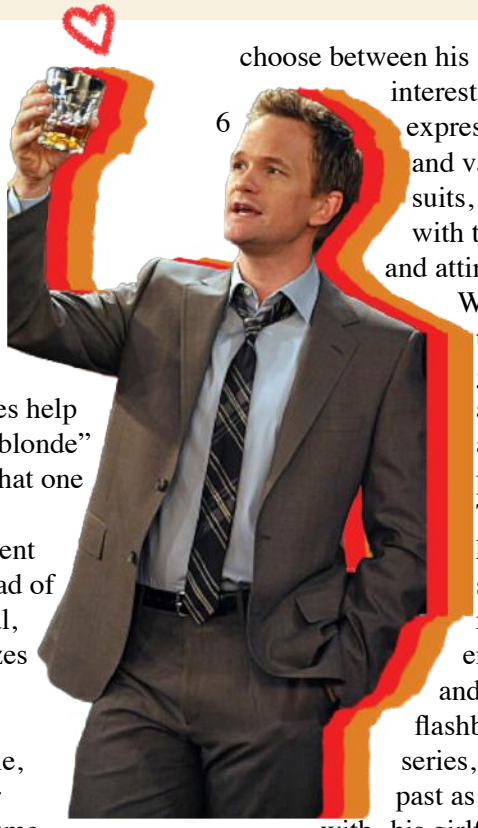
extravagant white faux-fur coat with a cropped turtleneck and sunglasses. In contrast, the Sheffield family is dressed more formally in collared shirts, ties, sweater vests, and simple jumpers. This visually distinguishes her from the upscale and conservative Sheffield household. Fran's working-class background and unapologetic sense of fashion communicate her charm and authenticity flawlessly.

Austin Powers in Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery (1997) Mike Myers got groovy in his titular role in the Austin Powers film series, channeling the 1960s with bright patterns, colors, and frilly shirts that paired with his vintage velvet suits. In the film, Powers (4) emerges from a cryogenic state after 30 years, which explains his exaggerated retro style. However, he soon realizes that much of his personality is outdated, from his vocabulary to his flirting and, of course, his fashion. With the help of a modern woman, Powers tries to adjust to the 1990s. The film is an entertaining parody of 1960s spy films, and the costumes add to the humor. Powers' wardrobe contrasts sharply with the more casual style of the '90s and 2000s, making the film inherently entertaining for viewers. Although his outfits showcase his oblivious self-confidence, others don't perceive him the way he sees himself.



4

Elle Woods in Legally Blonde (2001) Reese Witherspoon shocked everyone at Harvard Law School in her role as Elle Woods in Legally Blonde (2001). Elle (5) initially hopes for a marriage proposal from her boyfriend, but he dismisses her as "too blonde." Determined to prove herself, Elle works to get into Harvard and shows that she's more than just her good looks. Elle is known for her iconic pink outfits—feminine and glamorous. Initially, her looks lead others to underestimate her, but her fashion choices help challenge the "dumb blonde" stereotype, showing that one can be fashionable, feminine, and intelligent simultaneously. Instead of making her superficial, her clothing symbolizes her individuality and adds depth to her character. For example, when Elle hands over her pink, scented resume to Professor Callahan, the document itself may be girly, but it proves she shouldn't be discredited. Elle remains stylish while excelling in law school, representing her growth in self-confidence throughout the film.



6

Barney Stinson in How I Met Your Mother (2005-2014) Neil Patrick Harris played the charming and shallow playboy Barney Stinson (6) in the long-running sitcom How I Met Your Mother, where the main character, Ted Moseby, recounts his years in New York with his best friends. In every episode, Barney wears suits of varying styles, which became his signature look and a core aspect of his identity. "Suit up!" even became his catchphrase and a running gag throughout the nine seasons. His suits also serve as plot points, such as in the Girls vs. Suits episode, where he must choose between his suits or a romantic interest. Barney expresses his confidence and vanity through his suits, which contrast with the casual settings and attire of his friends. While it may appear to be just a visual gag, his clothing also explores aspects of his personality. The audience sees how important his suits are to him, reflecting his emotional journey and growth. In a flashback early in the series, we see Barney's past as a hippie working with his girlfriend in a coffee shop. After she cheats on him with a wealthy businessman, Barney decides to reinvent himself, adopting a sophisticated playboy appearance shown by the suits. He uses his suits as a way to protect himself from vulnerability and avoid dealing with his past issues.

Jessica Day in New Girl (2011–2018) Audiences first meet Jessica Day (7) while she is going through a rough breakup and searching for a place to live. She finds a spot but has to move in with three single guys: Nick, Schmidt, and Winston. Zooey Deschanel's portrayal of Jess in New Girl features quirky, vintage-inspired outfits with bright colors and patterns. Jess is a bubbly, optimistic teacher, and her clothes reflect that. Many people define her style as "twee," characterized by dainty outfits with fun prints and retro influences. A typical outfit for Jess includes a cute top with a collar, paired with a polka-dot skirt and tights. Her wardrobe is a direct mirror of her personality, making her relatable to the audience. She is never super glamorous, especially compared to her

supermodel best friend CeCe, which makes her more down-to-earth and dorkier. Jess' distinct style throughout the show showcases her confidence, never-back-down attitude, and consistency as a character.

Moira Rose in Schitt's Creek (2015–2020) In Schitt's Creek, the wealthy Rose family must move to a rundown town after losing all their money. Catherine O'Hara portrayed the former soap opera star Moira (8) as her family settled down in Schitt's Creek. Moira is another visually distinct character who comically juxtaposes the setting she's in. She wears couture outfits, bold jewelry, and dramatic wigs. Her wardrobe serves as a plot point because it reflects her wealthy and glamorous past. Although Schitt's Creek is far from glamorous, Moira refuses to give up her style. It's a small town where citizens dress casually in flannels, jeans, T- shirts, and work boots. They don't care about trends and are more focused on practicality. This contrast highlights Moira's struggle to adapt to a more modest life and her resistance to her new circumstances. Through her clothing, Moira maintains her identity and expresses herself through the changes.

The list could go on and on. These examples alone show how a character's wardrobe can communicate their personality, status, and background. Consistency in fashion helps viewers identify with the characters and see them grow throughout the series or film. Even on a surface level, fashion can serve as a visual gag and enhance physical comedy, as it does for Charlie Chaplin. It can provide a contrast with the environment and heighten a character's eccentricity, as it does for Kramer and Fran Fine. Costumes can also parody and satirize stereotypes, as they do for Austin Powers. Fashion makes characters instantly recognizable and reflects important aspectsof their personalities, as it does for Jessica Day and Elle Woods. Outfits can even become emotional armor, as they do for Moira and Barney. Fashion is a vital tool in the comedy world for a multitude of reasons. It's not something that should be overlooked.



5

8

7


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Fashion Trends in The FRESH PRINCE of Bel-Air

By Sydney Zwicker

The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air has left a lasting impact not only on the comedy genre but also on fashion trends within comedy. The sitcom, which began in 1990 and lasted six seasons until 1996, starred Will Smith and is widely considered the launchpad for his path to fame. Smith's character, with his street-smart antics, is thrust into the upper-class world by his mother, leading to a mix of laughs and a variety of fashion statements.

Fashion may not be the first thing that comes to mind when you think of comedy, but The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air brilliantly showcases how fashion and comedy intersect. The show's costume design has influenced viewers since its original run and continues to do so today.

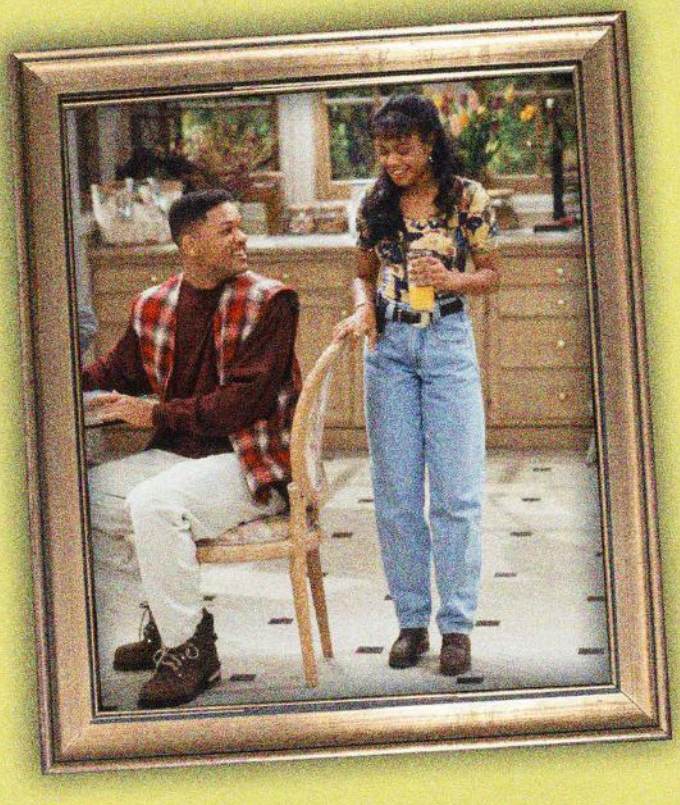
One of the most notable fashion staples in the show is the characters' choice to wear bright colors—the brighter, the better. In the very first episode, Will Smith's character dons a striped neon shirt, setting the tone for his vibrant wardrobe throughout the series. You'll rarely see characters wearing all-black outfits or even a gray sweatsuit; instead, colors are constantly incorporated into their looks. Patterns, when used, are bold and vivid, like Will's shirt in the opening episode. The upbeat humor of the show is perfectly complemented by the bright, lively colors that the characters wear.
Will's character is especially known for his bright wardrobe, reflecting his upbeat demeanor and background. As a street-smart teenager thrust into an upper-class lifestyle, his clothing choices highlight the contrast between his carefree attitude and the seriousness of his new environment. His fun-loving, free-spirited nature makes his bright outfit choices a natural extension of his personality, helping to distinguish him as the show's main character.

Baggy clothes, a popular trend in the '90s, are also prevalent throughout the show. Will Smith's character often sports baggy tops or pants, sometimes combining both. Female characters, like Ashley Banks (played by Tatyana Ali), also embrace this trend, blending street and preppy styles. Ashley's style reflects her admiration for Will; though she grew up in an upper-class family, she looks up to her cousin and incorporates elements of his fashion into her own wardrobe. Her style, like her character, is multifaceted—ranging from sarcastic and dry to silly and lighthearted.

This type of fashion is making a big comeback today, with many people drawing on the '90s for fashion inspiration. Baggy clothes, in particular, have become popular again. Comedians like Adam Sandler—known for his laid-back, baggy style—continue to influence this trend. Many people associate wearing baggy clothes with a chill, goofy demeanor, something that characters in The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air and comedians like Sandler share. The desire to appear laidback and carefree is a big part of the appeal of this style.

When it comes to preppy clothes, the women of The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air are the stars. Ashley and Hilary Banks (played by Karyn Parsons) both showcase a very preppy style throughout





the series, reflecting their upper-class upbringing. As their styles evolve, they continue to incorporate preppy pieces like sweaters and skirts into their outfits. Hilary, in particular, starts out more uptight and snobby, with her high-end fashion sense often leading to her being ridiculed for her out-of-touch comments. As her character matures, so does her fashion sense, though she maintains her sophisticated style.

Carlton Banks (played by Alfonso Ribeiro) is the main male character who rocks the preppy style. His sweater vests and slacks reflect his upbringing and strong adherence to the values he was raised with, often putting him at odds with Will. Despite his preppy attitude and style, Carlton's goofy humor and signature dance moves make him one of the show's most beloved characters. His style and character traits create a humorous contrast, adding depth to his role in the show.

Each character's style is a reflection of their personality and the type of comedy they bring to the show. Whether it's street style or preppy attire, the characters of The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air continue to inspire fashion trends today. The '90s fashion featured in the show is making a comeback, and comedians are still drawing inspiration from these trends. Adam Sandler, for example, continues to wear baggy '90s-style clothing reminiscent of Will Smith's wardrobe in the show. Other comedians, like Jo Koy and Bobby Lee, may not embrace the baggy trend as much but still favor a more relaxed fashion sense. On the other hand, some comedians prefer a more polished, professional look, similar to the characters on the show—Jimmy Fallon and John Mulaney are good examples of this.

The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air has done an outstanding job of influencing fashion and comedy over the years, and it's safe to say that its impact will continue for years to come.






Creamy Matte Lipstick
Lipliner
D.Nicole BEAUTY
Blending Sponge
Premium Nylon & Teakwood 15pc Brush Collection
Shine Everyday Lipgloss
Dewy Finish Setting Spray

By Madyson Brousseau

H·O·T·or·N·O·T

Fashion Trends

We've witnessed many fashion forward seasons, but we've definitely seen some major flops too.To save you from a fashion fiasco, we're reviewing six of the latest trends and telling you if they're hot or not.



What's Hot

The Mermaid Look

Do you ever reminisce about playing mermaids with your friends in the pool on a warm summer afternoon? I sure do. If you're someone who doesn't go to the beach to tan but instead to frolic in the waves, this look is for you. Not to mention, if you were inspired by the recent remake of The Little Mermaid and want to sing about "where the people are," look no further than your nearest dress shop. Everyone wants to be a mermaid this summer! A dress that hugs your hips and flares out at the lower leg will give you that mermaid look. Mix and match with different colors and patterns to create your own unique style and impress your childhood self.

Vintage Sneakers

From dads in the Midwest to international supermodels, vintage sneakers have to be the most versatile look of the summer. We've seen these shoes paired with flowy dresses and tactile pants–there's no limit to the outfits you can create with a pair of fashionable tennies. The chunkier, the better. I'm



Pink

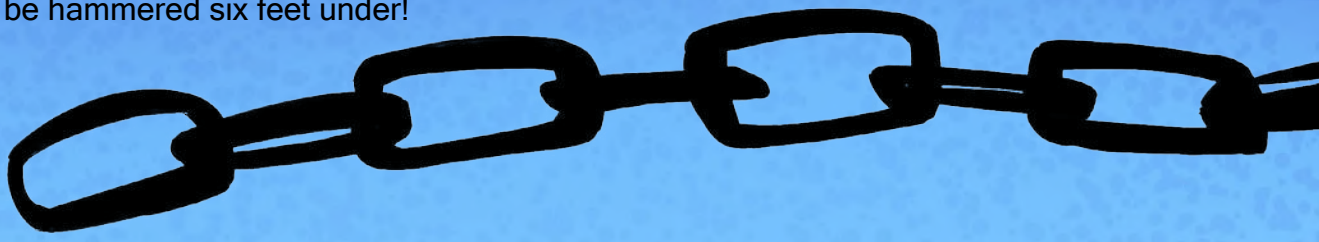
If you haven't yet graced yourself with a viewing of Barbie, you've either been in a coma or living under a rock because it seems like the whole world is in a pink, dreamy, feminist haze. Regardless of your thoughts on the film, you can't deny the revolution that is: Pink. From Barbie-themed toothbrushes to Barbie-themed rollerblades, pink is making a hot comeback! So indulge and release your inner Barbie–because Barbie can be any hing. And for the men out there, you're certainly not excluded. You can be (K)enough by supporting your fellow Barbie or sporting a fashionably rosy look.

WHAT'S NOT

UTILITY

Where do I even begin with utility wear? If you're not actively working on a construction site
where you have to carry tools and machinery, or a Home Depot employee, I do not want to see anyone in utility attire! Why must your clothing items have seven pockets each? What are you carrying all day that you can't fit into a fashionable purse or tote? Your pockets are empty! No one needs to be that resourceful in everyday life where your clothes double as a suitcase. Change into some normal jeans with two small pockets and a vest that only has a zipper. Utility fashion is out and is about to be hammered six feet under!







LEATHER

I've never heard of a worse idea than leather in the summertime. Either fashion executives have officially lost it, or some intern at a fashion company is about to be fired for accidentally making leather and black trendy this summer. Are you seriously telling me that when it's pushing 100 degrees outside and the UV index is at nine, I should consider wearing dark-colored leather pants? Do you know what happens when you combine sweat with leather? The leather becomes super-glued to your body and impossible to take off. If you wear leather pants one day this summer, it seems like they'll be sticking to you all season until they inevitably melt off in the sun.

SHEER

I totally understand wearing sheer clothes that make it easier for a cool summer breeze to touch your skin on a blazing afternoon. However, wearing sheer clothing is not the way to do it. You're telling me I have to pay full price for a shirt that could probably get me arrested for public nudity? Let me suggest flowy linen pants or a summer dress instead clothes that won't have a 100 percent chance of a nip slip. If freeing the nip is your thing, don't pay for it! May I suggest a topless beach instead?



Of course, these are all my personal opinions, and it might be possible to rock some of these
outfits—just be wary. You can have fun in the sun with any of these looks,





ARTSY & CREATIVE COMEDIANS

Written By:
Timothy J. Gray Jr.



In the world of comedy, there are countless personalities who have graced the stage or penned scripts for hilarious shows. Among them are those who stand out for their artsy side, blending creativity with humor in ways that deviate from the norm. Here are a few comedians who are artistic, creative, quirky, and wonderfully weird in their own unique ways.

English comedian, novelist, and actress Jenny Éclair exemplifies this in her show Drawers Off, which uses—wait for it—nude art. In the first season of the show, amateur artists compete by taking turns painting one another in interesting poses. The model then chooses which painting they think is the best, earning the artist a point. Jenny Éclair lends her comical talents as the host, commenting on the eccentric pieces without going full Gordon Ramsay. She delivers witty remarks that perfectly complement the artists' work, blending humor with creativity. Jenny Éclair has managed to merge her artistic inclinations with comedy, creating something delightfully close to weird.

Reggie Watts, on the other hand, hits the bull's-eye on the dartboard of weird. His improvised musical sets rely solely on him, a looping machine, and a keyboard. As a comedian, Watts seeks to disorient his audience by combining music with comedy. Just listen to his hit song *"Fuck Shit Stack."* Lyrical punchlines keep the audience thinking while entertaining them as well—it's what keeps the dopamine flowing, as Watts might say. He purposely creates in opposition to the norm, making his performances both innovative and delightfully strange.

While Annie McGrath doesn't exactly oppose the norm, her creative deadpan style is both quirky and original. Deadpan is a form of dry humor that typically isn't for everyone, requiring a mastery of wit delivered with almost no emotion. The irony, relatable situations, and exaggerated awkward moments are what make Annie's style stand out in the comedy scene.

On social media, who stands out more than Bo Burnham? While he does traditional stand-up comedy, Burnham has become famous for his dramatic, often musical, stand-up routines. His artistic take, while not new, has significantly resonated with audiences, particularly with his comedy special *Inside*. Filmed in Burnham's home without an audience, the special tackles several social topics using music. Though Bo Burnham's artistic style is notable, it's more introspective than quirky or weird.

Is it weird to confidently be yourself? For Nicole Byer, it seems to be a superpower. In her comedy special *Nicole Byer: BBW (Big Beautiful Weirdo)*, she showcases her brazen, raunchy, and sometimes goofy talent, fearlessly embracing her quirks. Byer first came to prominence as the host of the comedy bake-off show *Nailed It!*, where her unique, quirky personality shines through in her delivery, making it impossible to resist her charm.

These comedians are each unique in their own ways and have built up audiences that love their work. In the comedy world, it's possible for anyone to bring their own flair to the stage—they just need to make people laugh.



MORE THAN A PUNCHLINE

Leyla Ingalls on Comedy, Fashion, and Embracing Her Inner (and Outer) Rebel

In the world of comedy, there are comedians who make you laugh and comedians who make you think. Then there's Leyla Ingalls, a unique force who manages to do both—while looking like she might have just emerged from a 1970s thrift store by way of a pop art exhibit. For Leyla, fashion isn't just something to wear; it's a statement, a conversation, and occasionally, a punchline. She's bold, unapologetic, and just a bit eccentric—a combination that comes through in both her comedy and her personal style. Meeting her at the SlapStik Comedy Studio, it's clear that her sense of humor and her sense of style are woven together in a way that makes it nearly impossible to separate the two.

"I love clothes. Honestly, if I had more money, I'd probably just live in a giant closet," she laughs, gesturing to her vintage cardigan and flare pants. "But I'm a thrift store girl at heart. My wardrobe is mostly made up of things other people gave up on, but I love that because it's unique—it feels like me." Leyla's fashion sense is an eclectic blend of '70s-inspired silhouettes, mismatched patterns, and colors that occasionally clash in the best possible way. She wears what she loves, not what's trending, and that commitment to authenticity has become a part of her brand, both on and off the stage.



Growing up, Leyla didn't always have this confident grasp on her style. In fact, she describes her younger self as a "total fashion misfit." Raised in Beavercreek, Ohio, she recalls her wardrobe as a mishmash of awkward items: oversized ponchos, jorts that fell somewhere around her knees, and a rotation of T-shirts featuring Hanna Montana. "I looked crazy. Like, people would make jokes about me. I had no idea what I was doing," she says, grinning. Her hair was often cut short, and she didn't think much about clothes until middle school, when she noticed that other girls were wearing branded T-shirts and styled their hair just so. For a while, Leyla tried to fit in, adopting Hollister tees and perfectly straightened hair with a part on the side, but it wasn't long before she felt the tug to dress, well, a little weirder.

It wasn't until college, though, that Leyla truly began to explore fashion as a form of self-expression. She met a friend named Diego, who was a fellow comedian and free spirit. "He was the first person who told me I didn't have to dress normal. He was like, 'Wear what you want! You don't have to blend in.' That was all the encouragement I needed," she says. From that point on, her wardrobe became a reflection of her personality: colorful, unexpected, and occasionally scandalous. Now, Leyla gravitates toward contrasting patterns and bold pieces—tie-dye paired with cheetah print, red and pink worn together unapologetically, and an aversion to anything that feels "too safe." "I think a little bit of chaos makes an outfit fun. It keeps people guessing," she says, and that same philosophy guides her approach to comedy.

For Leyla, the parallels between fashion and comedy run deep. Both are about subverting expectations, pushing boundaries, and, occasionally, shocking people. "When I'm onstage, I like to be colorful, but not in the typical way. I like people to think, 'That's cute, but it's also kind of weird,'" she explains. This sense of duality—cute but weird, sweet but scandalous—is something she intentionally cultivates. Part of this rebellious streak shows up in her wardrobe choices; she often goes without a bra, finding it more comfortable and a bit more provocative. "It's freeing, honestly. I'm

Leyla's fashion sense draws from a variety of sources, but she's particularly inspired by bold, eclectic aesthetics. "I'm very '70s-inspired," she says, a nod to her love of flare pants, shags, and her signature color, orange. On social media, she admires style influencers like Wuzg00d, who is known for her edgy, unconventional looks. "Wuzg00d is so cool and a total style icon for me. She's fearless in what she wears, and I love that." Leyla's inspiration also comes from within the comedy world; she's a fan of Sara Weinshenk, a comedian who embraces her own unique, mismatched fashion sense. "Sara's outfits are so eclectic and unapologetic. She's not afraid to combine patterns, colors, whatever—kind of like me," Leyla explains. These role models resonate with her own philosophy of fashion as a tool for self-expression, not just an afterthought.



For Leyla, these influences encourage her to push boundaries with her own style, whether that's pairing clashing colors or embracing an oversized thrift-store find. Yet, she's careful to ensure that her choices still feel authentically her. "I don't do 'in-between.' It's either oversized or super small. It has to be a statement." By blending inspiration from figures like Wuzg00d and Sara Weinshenk with her own quirky tastes, Leyla has cultivated a wardrobe that is as vibrant and unexpected as her comedy.

It's this sweet-meets-salty charm that has helped Leyla carve out a niche in the comedy world, where appearances often belie the humor. Dressed in an outfit that's "cute but weird," she can throw audiences off guard with jokes that are darker or more risqué than expected. "I have this one outfit with cherries all over it—cherry pants, cherry top, even cherry earrings. I go onstage looking like a walking fruit basket, and then I'm up there talking about the most messed-up stuff. It's this great contrast. The more innocent I look, the harder the jokes hit."

Leyla's wardrobe isn't just an expression of her comedic style; it's also a source of comfort on stage. In her early days of performing, she experimented with mini-dresses and heels, but it didn't take long for her to switch gears. "I felt like a piece of meat," she says. "I don't know if they were even listening to my jokes. Now, I only wear sneakers on stage. It's something about feeling a little more boyish that makes me feel more confident up there. I can be weirder, and I think they actually listen to what I'm saying." These days, her performance "uniform" is typically oversized or baggy clothes, an intentional choice to let her humor shine without distractions. "If I'm not doing a show, though, you'll probably catch me in a dress. I have stage clothes and then I have everyday clothes."

One of the more surprising aspects of Leyla's style journey is how it's occasionally intersected with comedic performance itself. Take, for example, the time she dressed like a politician for a set—wig, khakis, and all. She wanted to see if she could get laughs before even opening her mouth, and the experiment worked. "People tell me I don't look funny, so I tried dressing funny. It was a hit. I ended up winning that night's competition." She reflects on the experience, noting that while comedy is largely about the material, fashion can enhance the delivery. "Sometimes the outfit is like a little warm-up joke before I even start talking."

Despite her love for self-expression through fashion, Leyla is aware of the traditional "rules" in comedy about keeping it simple on stage. "A lot of male comics dress so plain, like jeans and a hoodie. It's the classic 'don't distract from the material' look," she says. And while she respects that approach, Leyla's style philosophy diverges. "For me, clothes are an extension of my personality. They're part of the act, in a way. But I get it—if you wear something too loud, it might distract people." That balance between expression and professionalism is something she's constantly navigating, but at the end of the day, she's unwilling to tone down her style for the sake of tradition.

Her fashion journey hasn't been without its challenges. She recounts a moment when she was roasted by fellow comedians for wearing sneakers decorated with colorful beads. "Someone told me they looked like they belonged to a special needs kid," she laughs, though there's a twinge of regret. "I loved those shoes. They were fun, but I stopped wearing them. Now I just wear them when I mow the lawn." It's a rare example of Leyla conforming to others' opinions, and even then, it doesn't sit quite right with her.

On the flip side, some of her wardrobe pieces have become sentimental symbols in her life and career. She mentions a T-shirt from comedian Mark Normand, a hero of hers, with "Queef" written boldly across the front. "It was the beginning for me," she says, smiling. "I was new to comedy, and Mark gave me this shirt. I'll never get rid of it." She also treasures a pair of bowling pin socks, a nostalgic link to bowling trips with her grandfather, and an oversized cardigan that once belonged to her dad. "I feel comfortable in that cardigan. It's like a piece of home, a little bit of safety."

Looking to the future, Leyla is curious about how fashion in the comedy world will evolve. "I think we're going to see more comedians working with designers, maybe even getting sponsored. Why not? Comedy doesn't pay well unless you're a national headliner, so having a partnership with a brand could be a game-changer." She envisions a world where comedians might even experiment with costumes or exaggerated fashion statements to heighten their personas, much like Lady Gaga's iconic meat dress. "It's weird, but I could see it happening. People want entertainers to be larger-than-life now."

When asked if she has advice for up-and-coming comedians who want to use fashion as part of their brand, her answer is straightforward: "Wear what makes you feel like you. If you're uncomfortable in what you're wearing, it's going to mess with your confidence on stage." She pauses, then adds, "Especially for female comedians, appearance gets scrutinized way more. You have to do you. I learned that the hard way with the whole bra thing. I got so many comments about it, but at the end of the day, I don't care anymore."

Leyla Ingalls may be an anomaly in her field—a comedian who's just as likely to be remembered for her tie-dye cheetah print combos as for her punchlines—but that's precisely what makes her stand out. For her, fashion and comedy aren't just separate aspects of her identity; they're woven together, each amplifying the other. As she continues to push boundaries and challenge expectations, Leyla proves that you don't have to choose between making people laugh and making them look twice. Sometimes, you can do both.

FUN FACTS ABOUT LEYLA

1. What color is your toothbrush?
a. Pink.

2. If you could travel to any planet, what planet would you travel to?
a. I would want to go through a worm hole and find a really far away distant planet that has not been discovered yet.

3. What is your go to karaoke song?
a. Hurry by Teyanna Taylor featuring Kanye West

4. What color are you feeling today?
a. Red

5. If colors had flavors, which would be your favorite?
a. Orange and Yellow because I love Mangos.

By Mecha Swain

Vacation in L.A

& The Drinks to Get There

By: Louis Ponesse Jr.



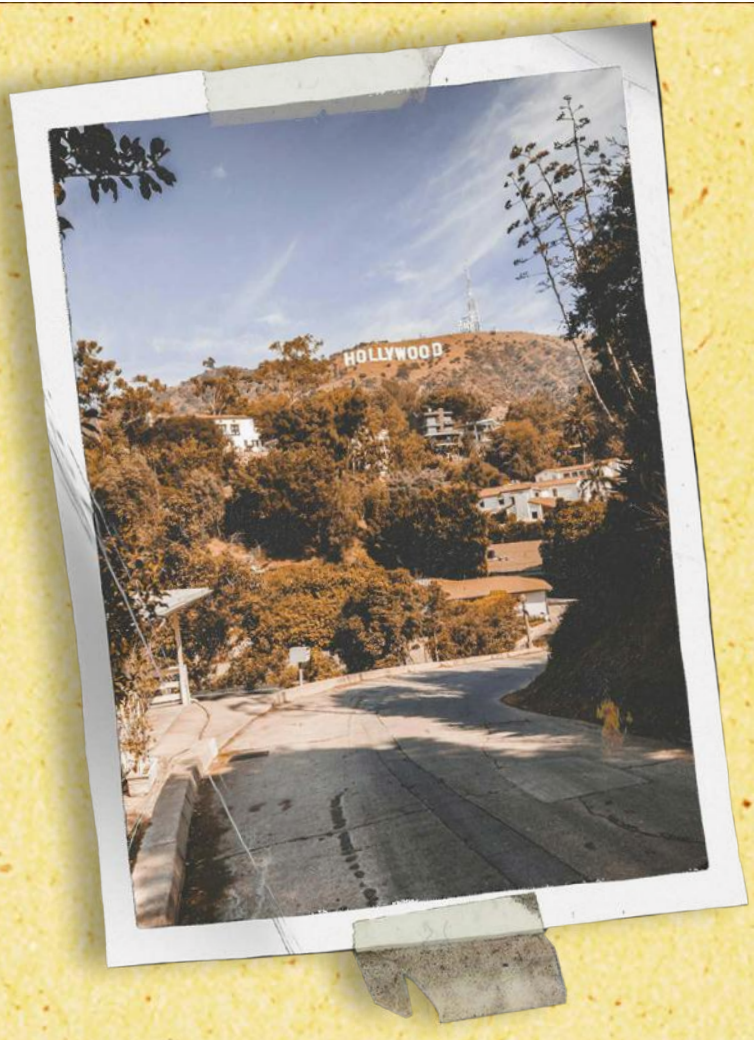




Humans have had universal wants and needs since the beginning of time: the desire to live forever, the need to find comfort in the arms of someone we love, and the need to not live a life of regret. One of these relatable human experiences is the need for a tasty, stiff drink after traveling. In this article, I'll tell you about cocktails and drinks you should check out on your next vacation to a place that's very well-known for its chronic substance abuse: sunny Los Angeles, California.

Countless bars are populated by puffy-lipped women in sparkling dresses and older men who constantly have to blot their bloody noses. In short, nothing but class is going on in Hollywood's nightlife. One wonderful place where you can experience this, along with the beautiful feeling of a French Riviera-styled rooftop, is the well-known spot called Bar Lis. They offer cocktails and drinks like The Bardot Soleil and La Limonade. Despite these French delights, the real highlight is a cocktail from their Mediterranean cousins...the Italians. The Negroni is a must-have order. This simple drink comprises one part Campari, one part gin, and one part vermouth, garnished with a fancy twisted orange peel and served in an Old-Fashioned glass. You can get a Negroni anywhere, but here, it's to die for. Sipping this honey-colored elixir will transport you right into the European scene. You'll almost feel like you're on the deck of a French boat... as you stumble onto the dance floor to have the time of your life. It even smells like France! Strong body odor, stale cigarettes, and perfume that could help bodybuilders with their deadlifts. True signs of elegance and romance. This place also occasionally holds events. One night, when I came to party it up, they were holding a burlesque show. A lot of the acts were fun, but the last one was definitely the best. Essentially, I got to watch a 1950s pin-up dance around the bar and leap into a giant martini glass—all while holding a great drink in my hand. So if you want good drinks and the off chance of seeing that, I highly recommend going to this place.

However, you may not be interested in rooftop spots where you must scream over music to talk to someone—even when you're literally outside. Perhaps you're one of those special quirky folks who enjoy their drinks in secret crevices of already-existing places—AKA speakeasies. Well, look no further. Make a reservation and head to Burbank to check out a fantastic place called The Green Room. When you arrive, you'll find yourself at Castaway Restaurant and Events. After having someone valet your car, you can go to the front desk and state that you have a reservation for the fantastic Green Room. From there, they'll take you to a small line outside a black closet. A server will then come out and let you in. A fountain awaits you at the entryway, where your server will hand you complimentary drinks as she guides you through the lounge and into your very comfortable seats.



From there, you can enjoy the pleasant, classy ambiance and explore their creative cocktails inspired by many films. My personal favorite is a drink inspired by the movie Aladdin. It's called Three Wishes. Two cups hold Monkey 47 gin, jasmine honey, and lemon, served to you on a flying carpet tray with mist flowing out of the beauti-



fully decorated teapot. This drink is worth every penny, and you also get to step out onto the porch for one of the best views in all of Los Angeles. There's no better way to convince yourself that you're a celebrity than by drinking colorful poison while standing in a really tall place looking at lights.

I remember the first time I went there; I actually brought a date without even knowing what the place had to offer. I saw that it was a fancy lounge and took a leap of faith. When we got our complimentary drinks and I ordered some of their delicious caviar fries, I felt like one of those Sigma alpha bros constantly saying things like, "Don't get your funny up, get your money up." In short, I felt like I needed a suit that was too tight and loafers with no socks—the true look of success. Even though nothing ever came out of that first date, it was still fun to delude myself, at least.

However, money is also a factor in your enjoyment of these places. It costs a lot to Uber; it costs a lot to travel in general. Well, if you're strapped for cash like everyone else in California, I have an excellent spot for you. Right by Warner Brothers Studio in Burbank, pull into the Vons shopping plaza. Next to the fantastic Ma's Italian Restaurant is a little hole-in-the-wall called The Roguelike Tavern. This nice, intimate, and quirky place is home to some of the most exciting guests and people imaginable. Everyone is super friendly—from the staff to the people who get sloshed there. Something is going on every week, from Dungeons and Dragons-related events to trivia and their fantastic signature karaoke. You have never experienced a super-intimate and fun karaoke night until you've sung "Piano Man" in this building. What also makes this place unique is its Five Dollar Mystery Shots. Every night they offer very affordable shots, but they never tell you what's in the drink. I do know this, though: If you want to have a fun time fast and have ten to twenty dollars to spare, this is your place.

Los Angeles has recently been getting a horrible rap as a dying city. But there is still fun to be had here. Go, get some good booze, and enjoy it—at least until the San Andreas Fault finally gives in and puts this place into the ocean.




hosful
COLLECTIVE BOUTIQUE

ACCESSORIZE WITH A SMILE



COMEDIC ACCESSORIES THAT MADE HISTORY

By: Maddie Godsey

Recently, I finished watching Baby Reindeer on Netflix, and as a comedy fan, I was intrigued by the scenes where Donny, played by Richard Gadd, performs his stand-up set. His desire to become a well-known comedian is central to the series (and for the sake of comedy, we'll focus on that aspect). However, most of his jokes don't land well with the audience.

The most identifiable part of his act is his use of props and accessories. Donny carries a suitcase filled with costumes and props that are central to his jokes, and he consistently uses them throughout his sets in the show. While the lack of audience reaction represents how he feels on stage, it got me thinking about how different props in real-life comedy have impacted fans worldwide. When we think of props in comedy, Jeff Dunham and his ventriloquism often come to mind first. Dunham's collection of puppets—like Little Peanut, Bubba J, and Walter—are instantly recognizable and integral to his act. These puppets serve as hecklers, conversation starters, and even punchlines. In my opinion, just looking at the puppets adds an extra layer of humor to the show.

"These puppets serve as hecklers, conversation starters, and even punchlines."



Ventriloquism has long been a popular medium in stand-up comedy, but Dunham stands out because of his wide range of characters and impressions. Each puppet has its own quirks, accents, and mannerisms that contribute to the overall performance, making it possible for fans to recognize and enjoy them by name. Dunham's vast array of characters ensures there's something for everyone at his shows. Watching Dunham's acts, it's easy to forget that you're watching a ventriloquist. The interactions between him and his puppets feel so natural that it's like witnessing two people having a conversation rather than a man speaking through a puppet. That's saying something, especially for someone like me who's terrified of puppets and dolls—thanks to Dead Silence for that.



Now, let's take a trip down memory lane. Groucho Marx was rarely seen without his iconic cigar. While not a typical accessory and certainly not the healthiest, it became a signature part of his image. Along with the cigar, Marx's thick greasepaint mustache, which later turned out to be real, became his trademark in every cameo he made.

Marx's gimmicks took the world by storm in the 1940s. According to the New York Times article "Embalmed in Plastic: The Nuances of Groucho Glasses," the bushy eyebrows, bulbous nose, and classic black-boxy glasses became synonymous with his style. These accessories are still sold in toy stores today, making people laugh long after Marx's time. I remember back in 2013—when mustaches, bacon, and Tumblr were trending topics at my elementary school—one of my friends bought me a poster with various unusual mustache types, each labeled by name. The first time I heard about Marx was from this poster through a mustache labeled "The Groucho." Imagine how impressive it felt to be a ten-year-old knowing about comedians from the '30s when my peers couldn't even remember what they had for breakfast. But I digress.

With his mustache, eyebrows, and cigar as constant features in his shows and films, Marx quickly made a name for himself and is still well-known nearly a century later. Having an identifiable factor makes it easier for comedians and actors to stick in viewers' minds. In Marx's case, it was the greasepaint and tobacco that set him apart from his peers. Since this magazine isn't promoting D.A.R.E. but rather comedy (though smoking is still bad), Ron White is another example of a comedian whose prop of choice is a cigar—along with a double scotch on the rocks.
Actually, make it a triple. Is that legal?



While I can't say for certain that White's choice of drink and cigar is to calm stage fright, it certainly qualifies as a memorable aspect of his act. It's always easier for me to recall comedy acts when there's something distinctive beyond just the jokes themselves—in White's case, it's what he's holding. I also admire this choice of prop, as it makes him seem more personable and relatable to the audience, which can lead to a better experience for everyone. Fans have become more involved in Ron White's acts not only because of the comedy but also due to the mystery surrounding what he's drinking. Is it scotch? Whiskey? Bourbon? They all look the same. But fans were truly surprised when White announced that he was actually drinking Number Juan tequila. In an interview with the Northwest Arkansas Democrat Gazette, he said, "A lot of people think I drink scotch, but I don't; I only drink Number Juan tequila, my brand."

Props and accessories like these help keep fans engaged. For Jeff Dunham, it's through impressions. For Groucho Marx, it's matching accessories and facial hair. For Ron White, it's the speculation about his drink. For me, these props give my short attention span something to latch onto and remember. As comedy continues to reach massive audiences, these accessories and props might be just what sets comedians apart from the rest of the industry.



Dissecting the Fashion from Oscar-Winning Film

"Poor Things"

By Morgan Shay

Spoilers Ahead

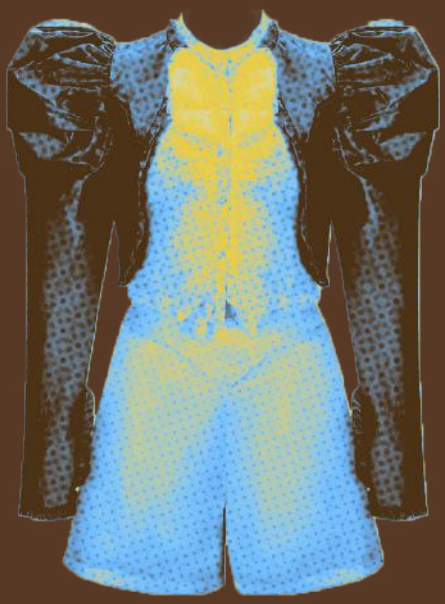
Intriguing set design and Victorian-era costumes define the aesthetic of the Oscar-winning film Poor Things, directed by Yorgos Lanthimos. The fantasy-comedy film, set in the 1800s, is a Frankenstein-esque tale filled with eccentric characters and unique fashion choices. It stars Emma Stone as Bella Baxter, a 25-year-old woman with a child's brain, and Mark Ruffalo as her complicated love interest, Duncan Wedderburn.

Throughout the film, Bella Baxter wears bold colors, baggy pants, and puffy sleeves—all meticulously selected by Holly Waddington, a British costume designer. The film showcases a variety of fashion elements popular during the Victorian era, such as bustles. According to the article "Corsets, Crinolines, and Bustles: Fashionable Victorian Underwear" from V&A Magazine, bustles, also known as a "dress-improver" or by their French name "tournure," provided a foundation for new skirt arrangements with sculpted pleats and ruffles.

However, certain elements, like Bella wearing her long hair down for most of the film, contrast with the typical Victorian aesthetics and emphasize her uniqueness. The color of Bella's clothes also carries symbolism, and her wardrobe adds to the comedic sequences in the film. For example, her oversized, puffy clothing in her early years reflects her naïve behavior, while the fancy, oversized yellow dress she wears during dinner with Duncan's friends contrasts sharply with her childish actions.

We first meet Bella Baxter when the film is in black and white. Bella is the result of a successful scientific experiment by Dr. Godwin Baxter (Willem Dafoe), who placed the brain of a fetus into the body of an adult woman. During Bella's early years, while her body develops rapidly, her mind remains that of a child. While the men around her wear tailored suits, Bella sports childlike clothing: puffy pants, oversized shirts, knickers—a popular Victorian undergarment—and a puffy bustle resembling a lobster tail.

The oversized, childlike outfit enhances the comedy in one scene where medical student Max McCandles, hired to track Bella's development, and Dr. Godwin Baxter are talking to Bella. In this scene, Bella, wearing knickers and a puffy blouse, repeatedly says "wee" and then pees on the floor.



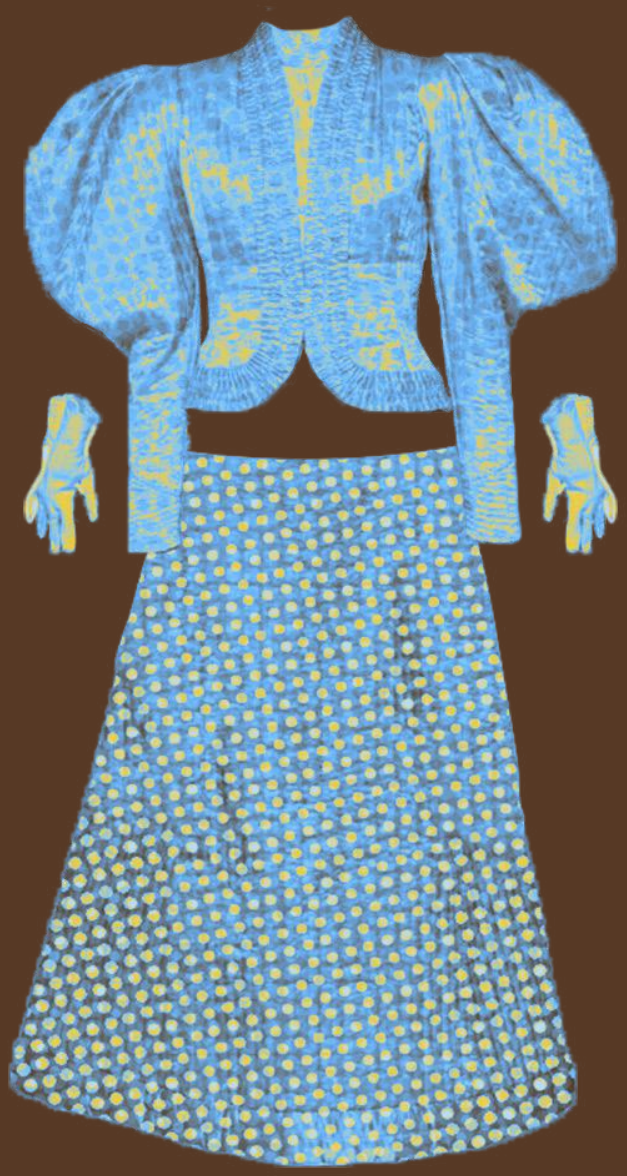
In the second half of the film, everything shifts to color, and the set and wardrobe become vibrant and lively. We are transported to Paris, France, and Lisbon, Portugal. In Lisbon, Duncan wears a bright green tailored suit, while Bella sports a rather eccentric outfit: neon yellow bloomers. In an interview with Elle Magazine titled "Creature-Like Sleeves, a 'Condom Cape,' and No Corsets: How the Poor Things Wardrobe Came to Life," Waddington describes the bloomers as "basically 30s French knickers." Bella also wears a white ruffled shirt with oversized puffy sleeves and white, open-toe, mid-calf boots, reflecting her growing confidence. Throughout the different scenes in Lisbon, we also see Bella rocking a pair of tinted sunglasses inspired by railway spectacles commonly worn in the Victorian era.

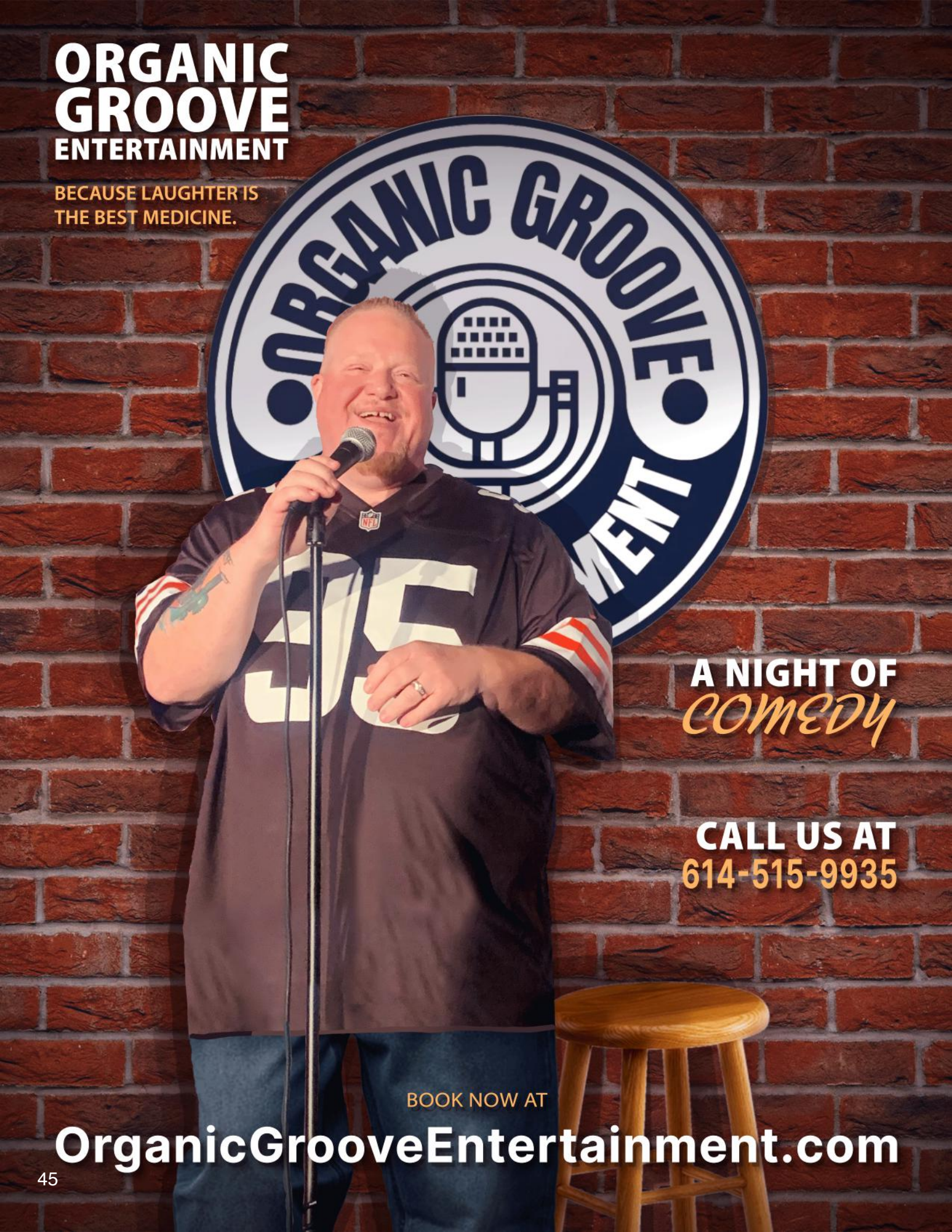
There's also a scene in Lisbon where Bella dines with Duncan and his fancy friends. Everyone is dressed in formal attire, including Bella, who wears an extravagant yellow gown with a big bow on the back. Despite the formal dress and setting, Bella's behavior remains childlike; she spits out her food and then mentions wanting to punch the baby who was crying at a nearby table.

Throughout the film, Bella's outfits symbolize different aspects of her personality and her journey of growing up. In an interview titled "Poor Things' Victorian-Style Fashion Shows a Beautiful Side to the Frankenstein Tale" in Refinery 29, Waddington explains how Bella's desire to escape was heavily portrayed through her clothing choices. "To symbolize the heaviness and entrapment that the character felt, Waddington borrowed looks from 19th-century fashion photography: a bold blue gown with a traditional coat and an armor-style copper dress with gold detailing. 'What I was looking for was a stark contrast [to the looks she wears post-experiment],' Waddington says. 'They're heavy, they're beautiful, they're serious, and they're loaded.'"

In the latter half of the film, we see Bella wearing a lined coat with puffy sleeves while attending medical school, a more serious look compared to her earlier outfits. By the film's end, Bella dons a simple white turtleneck and long brown skirt—an outfit more reminiscent of modern-day clothing. Bella's clean-cut look in this scene demonstrates her maturity and the drastic change in her demeanor since we first met her post-experiment.

Though Waddington draws inspiration from the Victorian era, she puts her own special spin on the fashion displayed throughout the film. Bella's fashion choices reflect her behavior, whether it's her childlike antics at dinner with Duncan and his friends or her poised demeanor as she prepares to attend medical school. The costumes also elevate the comedy in certain scenes, making the fashion in Poor Things not just a backdrop but an integral part of the story.




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CHRIS FLEMING

Comedian, Youtuber, Fashion Icon

By **Margo Craven**

The landscape of comedy is ever-evolving and impossible to predict, as new talents emerge and established players reinvent themselves. Our perception of comedy and what it means to be a comedian is rapidly and constantly shifting in the digital age. Yet amidst the chaos of modern comedy, few figures are as striking as 37-year-old Chris Fleming. A self-described "enigma" who effortlessly emanates comedy, Fleming is truly one of a kind in both comedic and personal style. The Massachusetts-born YouTuber, comedian, and style icon is a master of absurdist comedy, captivating audiences on both screen and stage. Since breaking into the stand-up scene in 2007, Fleming has carved out a niche that is uniquely and unapologetically his own, blending absurd humor with his distinctive, deeply personalized flair. His eccentric personality and unconventional approach to comedy have earned him a devoted following and a reputation as one of the most original voices in contemporary comedy.

A Digital Comedy Pioneer

In 2012, Fleming burst onto the digital scene with his hugely successful YouTube series Gayle, in which he plays the titular character Gayle Waters-Waters, a not-quite-sane suburban mom slowly coming apart at the seams. Fleming's hilarious performance and fearless approach to character work earned him millions of views, quickly turning the series into a cult hit that resonated with audiences who, like Fleming, appreciated wacky, offbeat humor. The character of Gayle exemplifies Fleming's comedic performance, showcasing his ability to inhabit outrageous personas, his effortless knack for physical comedy, and his sharp social commentary.

The success of Gayle wasn't just due to its humor, but also to its visual style. Fleming's outfits as Gayle were a cacophony of clashing patterns, bold colors, and exaggerated silhouettes. These costumes weren't just for laughs; they were integral to the character and the world he was building. As a young man playing a woman well into her fifties, Fleming had to look the part to bring Gayle to life convincingly. He effortlessly channeled the caricature of a middle-aged, over-the-top, frazzled suburban mother with chunky necklaces, ridiculously thick headbands, and hideous blouses in truly unfortunate shades of green and yellow. Fleming's attention to detail in crafting Gayle's look helped the series stand out in the crowded world of online content.

Beyond Gayle: Expanding His Repertoire

While Gayle remains a cornerstone of Fleming's career, he hasn't stopped there. He has expanded his comedic repertoire through a series of stand-up specials, live performances, and other online content. In 2018, Fleming's debut special Showpig was released on YouTube, quickly racking up nearly a million views and earning an overwhelmingly positive response from both long-time followers and newer fans. Five years later, Fleming released his second special, Hell, on the streaming service Peacock in 2023. The special earned an 80% rating on Rotten Tomatoes and was a hit with critics. According to Kathryn VanArendonk of New York Magazine, "Fleming makes Hell an endearing place to visit."

In both specials, Fleming didn't shy away from showing off his unique style on stage. In Showpig, he wore a purple monochromatic outfit consisting of light purple slacks and a hot pink and purple cheetah print blouse. For the taping of Hell, he sported a bright orange embroidered suit decorated with yellow flowers and "Fleming" in large cursive letters on the back of the jacket.

His stand-up work retains the same off-kilter sensibility that made Gayle a hit, with Fleming delivering surreal, stream-of-consciousness monologues that touch on everything from personal anecdotes to absurd observations about modern life. One of the hallmarks of Fleming's comedy is his willingness to embrace the weird and the unexpected. His jokes often take surprising turns, leading audiences down rabbit holes of absurdity before delivering a punchline that is both unexpected and deeply funny. This approach has endeared him to fans who appreciate comedy that challenges conventions and pushes boundaries.

Fashion as a Form of Expression

Fleming's unique fashion sense is an integral part of his public persona. Whether he's on stage, in a video, or attending an event, he can always be counted on to wear something that stands out. His outfits are often a mix of vintage finds, eclectic accessories, and bold statement pieces. This fearless approach to fashion reflects his broader approach to comedy and life: unapologetically original and unafraid to take risks.

In many ways, Fleming's fashion choices are an extension of his comedic sensibility. Just as he plays with the conventions of comedy in his performances, Fleming plays with the conventions of fashion in his wardrobe. He often blends elements of high fashion with kitsch, creating looks that are both striking and humorous. This playful approach to fashion has earned him a reputation as a style icon, particularly among fans who appreciate his willingness to push the envelope.

In May 2024, Fleming appeared as a guest on fellow comedy legend Mike Birbiglia's podcast Working It Out. During the 52-minute episode, Birbiglia and Fleming talked all things comedy and fashion, taking a deep dive into the origins of Fleming's unique style. Birbiglia asked Fleming to break down his outfit during the interview, taking particular interest in Fleming's choice of footwear, which were notably women's wrestling shoes.

When asked "Why women's wrestling shoes?" Fleming simply replied, "Well, men's style is very barbaric, brutalist, mostly grays and whites, so I've always been more drawn to women's wardrobes." Fleming went on to say he arrived at his current style "slowly," building his unique aesthetic "piece by piece," and noting that his small-town Massachusetts community was "not thrilled about it."



Fleming began experimenting with his style during his high school years, noting, “It started with women’s jeans.” In college, he began to dress more flamboyantly, especially while on stage. He continued, “Everyone was wearing hoodies and plaid shirts, and I was looking more to what was happening in the UK. They were more glam, and I was really into Mick Jagger and that scene. I thought, ‘What if I kind of try to do that, but in a botched way—that can be kind of funny.’”

When Birbiglia asked if he prefers women’s clothing over men’s, Fleming explained, “I was much skinnier growing up… I would feel powerless in these boxy shirts, and I think [wearing women’s clothing] was a way to set myself apart and to feel… a little pep in my step. It felt dangerous in Massachusetts—it truly is… and I liked that.” He went on to say, “One-on-one, guys would get drunk and be like, ‘Oh, I wish I could wear the stuff you wear.’… It was great. I loved it.”

Fleming credited his high school theater days for his equally unforgettable and effortless stage presence and distinctive style, recalling the rush he felt when he first performed on stage for his peers. As evidenced by his expressive wardrobe, Fleming never shies away from bold colors, often rocking hot pink, deep purple, and bright orange on stage. His 70s-style shag haircut and signature thick wireframe glasses are iconic to his eccentric look and quirky persona.



Breaking Down the Wardrobe

Fleming's wardrobe is a tapestry of eclecticism. He has a keen eye for vintage clothing, often incorporating pieces from various decades to create outfits that are both nostalgic and forward-thinking. His use of bold patterns and vibrant colors is reminiscent of fashion icons like David Bowie and Prince, artists who also used their wardrobes as an extension of their creative personas.

Accessories play a significant role in Fleming's ensembles. He frequently adorns himself with quirky hats, oversized glasses, and statement jewelry, each piece adding a layer of complexity and whimsy to his look. These accessories are not mere embellishments; they are carefully chosen elements that contribute to Fleming's distinct comedic style of unapologetic absurdity. Though he has often discussed struggling with anxiety both on and off stage, Fleming is not afraid to be laughed at for his fashion choices and embraces wackiness with full force. Without having to say a word, Fleming's persona is immediately communicated to an audience upon catching a glimpse of his attire.

Fleming's use of fashion as a storytelling tool is particularly evident in his live performances. On stage, his outfits often serve to enhance the comedic experience, providing visual humor that complements his verbal wit. There's something inherently hilarious about a grown man in a sparkly suit doing a musical number about his hatred for luxury movie theaters, as Fleming did at a recent show in Boston. This interplay between fashion and comedy is a testament to Fleming's understanding of the power of visual storytelling.

Comedy That Stands Alone: The Future of Chris Fleming

While Fleming's fashion choices certainly add to his appeal, his comedy holds up on its own merits. His ability to craft jokes that are both deeply funny and thought-provoking is a testament to his skill as a comedian.

Lindsey Drahos on Building a Creative Community in Columbus with Hosful Collective and He(ART)s Aligned

In 2020, as the world shut down due to the pandemic, Lindsey Drahos took a bold step that would help shape the future of the creative community in Columbus, Ohio. With her vision to uplift local artists, entrepreneurs, and creatives, she launched Hosful Collective, a fashion boutique designed to offer these talents a space to grow without the burden of overhead costs. Her work also includes the nonprofit He(ART)s Aligned, which supports and mentors Ohio's creatives through a scholarship program. SlapStik sat down with Lindsey Drahos to discuss her journey, the challenges of opening a boutique during a pandemic, and her mission to empower local artists.



A PANDEMIC PIVOT: FROM MEDI-SPA TO CREATIVE HUB

Q: What inspired you to embark on this creative journey, and how did you get to where you are today?

LD: "In 2020, when COVID came around, I was already in a lease for what was gonna be a medi-spa boutique where we would still have fashion and then offer services. But with COVID, offices were closed—you couldn't provide any customer services like facials or anything that required you to be in the office and physically touching another human," Drahos explained. "Since I have a fashion background—at the time, I was working at Saks Fifth Avenue—I always knew I wanted to have my own boutique. I wanted to create something for the people in my community." The medi-spa idea was set aside, and in its place, Hosful Collective was born as a space to support local creatives, artists, and entrepreneurs.

OPENING A BUSINESS IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

Q: You opened your boutique in August 2020, during the pandemic—a notoriously challenging time to start a business. What was that journey like, and what challenges did you face?

LD: Drahos acknowledged that "opening when the world was shut down, there were a lot of regulations that the state and the city were putting on businesses," which made it challenging. However, she added, "the best part about it was I had solid people around me. I always say, when I talk about the boutique, 'We've been here since 2020' or 'We did this event,' because the vendors in my boutique—we truly are a team."

FROM HIGH-END RETAIL TO LOCAL FASHION ADVOCATE

Q: How has your background in high-end fashion and retail influenced your journey as a business owner? Was there anything surprising about transitioning from retail to owning your own store?

LD: "Having a background in fashion has created a lot of connections for me in the fashion world, with customers from all different levels and walks of life, but fashion to me is art," Drahos shared. Her experience allowed her to appreciate different levels of fashion and understand that "it doesn't have to have a $5,000 price tag to be wearable and look cute."


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NURTURING LOCAL TALENT AT HOSFUL COLLECTIVE

Q: How do you select the local creatives featured at Hosful, and what qualities do you look for in them?

LD: Drahos emphasized her inclusive approach, stating, "I believe that everybody's ideas and dreams are valid. If you have an item that you want to promote or put in the store, I'm willing to give anybody a try." She looks for dedication, noting, "If you have a brand and you're creative but you're not willing to promote your brand, then Hosful is probably not the place for you."

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN CREATIVITY AND BUSINESS

Q: How did your hands-on experience at Hosful lead to the foundation of He(ART)s Aligned, and what challenges did you see creative entrepreneurs face?

LD: "He(ART)s Aligned was created because, when I started Hosful in 2020, I realized that there are a lot of creative people with a lot of talent... but many didn't have access to business knowledge," Drahos explained. The goal of He(ART)s Aligned is to guide these creatives from having an idea to creating a structured business, including writing business plans and filing for LLCs.

CREATING PATHWAYS TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Q: Can you tell us more about the He(ART)s Aligned scholarship program, "PAVE THE WAY: Path to Entrepreneurship," and its impact so far?

LD: Drahos shared that three people have already gone through the program, transforming their ideas into fully functioning businesses. "All three of those people didn't have an LLC, a website, or a business plan, but now they have all of the above, and they've documented sales," she said, illustrating the program's impact.

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES IN BUILDING A CREATIVE SPACE

Q: What was the biggest obstacle in establishing a space like Hosful for local creatives to build their brands, and how did you overcome it?

LD: "Funding and finding grants—I feel like it's not just for Hosful, but women and minorities do struggle with finding funding and support," Drahos said. Marketing was also a challenge due to limited resources, but her determination to support those committed to building their brands helped overcome these obstacles.



WORDS OF WISDOM FOR ASPIRING ENTREPRENEURS

Q: What advice would you give to aspiring creative entrepreneurs taking the first steps in building their brand?

LD: "They need to believe in themselves and not give up on their dreams. Don't let anyone talk you out of what you know in your heart you desire," Drahos advised. She emphasized the importance of mentorship, noting, "It's okay that you don't know everything—there's always going to be somebody who came before you, and they can help you grow."

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF COLUMBUS' CREATIVE COMMUNITY

Q: How do you envision the future of Columbus, Ohio's creative community, and what role do you hope Hosful Collective and He(ART)s Aligned will play in that vision?

LD: "I see a lot of growth. I see that consumers want to support small businesses and local creatives because they want to keep the money in their community," Drahos said. She hopes that Hosful and He(ART)s Aligned will become known as essential stepping stones for local talent, and as a safe space where everyone is supported in their creative journey.

Lindsey Drahos is not just building a business; she's nurturing a community. Through Hosful Collective and He(ART)s Aligned, Drahos is creating a legacy of support, mentorship, and opportunity for Ohio's creative entrepreneurs. Her mission is clear: to see Columbus become a thriving hub for artists and entrepreneurs of all backgrounds, with Hosful Collective and He(ART)s Aligned at the heart of its creative growth.



You can check out Hosful Collective at 64 Parsons Ave in Columbus, Ohio, or online at hosful.com. You can also follow them @Hosful on all social media platforms. For more information about He(ART)s Aligned, visit heartsaligned614.com.

MARGO CRAAVEN

ASPIRATIONS WITH KENNY MOCK

BRIDGET BOTELHO



Fashion has long been a way for people to express themselves, and for stand-up comedian Kenny Mock, it's just as much a part of his act as his punchlines.

Based in the Midwest, Kenny views the stage like a job interview, where first impressions make all the difference.

"My high school football coach, Coach Mayfield, always told us, 'You look good, you play good,'" Mock shares, and he takes that to heart.

His sharp appearance enhances his stage presence, setting the tone for corporate gigs and comedy clubs alike.

Kenny's love for comedy was sparked during a creative writing class in college, when his professor, who moonlighted as a comedian, encouraged him to channel his humorous storytelling into stand-up.

One of his early pieces involved a hilarious fictional tale where he almost ended up dating his own sister—awkward, but comedy gold.

In it, Mock recalls the moment when, after heading to a girl's house with some friends, he saw a familiar face in a photo on the mantle:

I asked her, 'Who is that?'

She said, 'That's my dad,'

and I said, 'Well, we have something in common because that's my dad too.'

Then we just kind of unlocked hands.

Kenny laughs.

While his first attempt at the Funny Bone comedy contest didn't go as planned, it ignited a fire in him. For the past 15 years, Kenny has been honing his craft. His hard work paid off in 2023 when he won the *World Series of Comedy* in Las Vegas, a huge milestone after conquering satellite competitions in Minnesota, Arizona, Boston, and Detroit.

He also snagged the title of *Best Clean Comic* at the Columbus Comedy Festival, and in 2024, became a finalist at the *Big Sky Comedy Festival* in Montana. Reflecting on that experience, Kenny says, "It was just fun meeting all the comedians and connecting with everyone. Winning was great, but I was really just looking for more stage time."



Aside from his comedic achievements, Kenny is known for his attention to fashion.

Whether performing at a local comedy club or bringing laughs to a room full of incarcerated men, Kenny is always dressed to impress.

"A lot of comedians don't think about what they're wearing on stage," he says. "But people will always remember your appearance. In other words, your jokes should match your look." Mock explains, "Your dress should match your jokes. For example, Larry the Cable Guy from the *Blue Collar Comedy Tour* wore a cutoff flannel and blue jeans, and his jokes and stage presence perfectly matched what he was conveying to his audience."

Growing up with 11 siblings, fashion wasn't always a priority for Kenny. His wardrobe was more about what was available than what was trendy. "All your clothes were recyclable growing up," Kenny recalls, especially T-shirts. "Mom had a drawer full of iron-ons of superheroes and cartoon characters. If your emblem faded, she would iron another emblem over the old one. I remember being in elementary school, and my mom ironed Spider-Man over an old T-shirt that had a faded baseball player on it. Then I got confronted by classmates at recess like,

'Kenny, when did Spider-Man start wearing a baseball glove?' I quickly responded, 'It's a new shirt that just came out,' and walked away, leaving them all puzzled. In other words, I grew up wearing old new shirts, if that makes sense."

As he got older, he began to take inspiration from magazines and media, developing a style that reflects who he is today. "Sometimes I'll check out the latest trends and see if something fits my lifestyle," he explains. "But I wouldn't say I have a set style."



In fact, Kenny's fashion sense has become a running joke in his act. After riffing on a shirt that kept popping up in his social media ads and even on a drive-by billboard, Kenny felt like the shirt was stalking him...

So he bought it in two colors.

Audiences laugh when Kenny explains why he purchased the shirt during his act with the punchline: "This Is the Shirt!"

The joke became so memorable that Kenny sells merch, including air fresheners shaped like the assorted colors of the shirts he wears on stage. The shirt joke is so popular that the company behind it started sending him a steady supply—for free.



"It followed me around online for weeks," Kenny jokes. "Now I've got like 20 different colors of the same shirt, and they're all great."

No matter where Kenny is performing—comedy clubs, correctional facilities, or even cruise ships—the collarless shirt always comes on a clothes hanger, pressed and wrinkle-free, and only goes on 15 minutes before he walks on stage.

The hardest decision?
What color the shirt will be!

Looking ahead, Kenny has big dreams for both his comedy and his style. He hopes to move to Los Angeles to immerse himself in the comedy scene and take his career to the next level. "I know it sounds cliché, but I'd love to see if I'm cut out for L.A.," he admits. "I think to really make it, you have to be fully engaged in the culture and ready to embrace all the opportunities."

Kenny Mock isn't just about the laughs—he's about the look, too. As his

career continues to grow, there's no doubt that both his comedy and his fashion will be front and center.

Kenny feels truly blessed to be able to do something he loves—so much so that he would perform comedy for free if it came down to it.

"So many people are in occupations where they make a lot of money, but they're unhappy," he says. "Starting out, you don't make much in comedy, but most people stick to it because they love it."

For Kenny, the reward goes beyond financial gain. "If what I say on stage can bring joy, peace, and laughter to someone's life, then I feel like I've done my job."

That connection with the audience is what keeps him coming back to the mic, driven by the love of the craft.

Q&A WITH KENNY MOCK

What color is your toothbrush?
Red and White

What would you do with $25,000 right now?
I would go buy a dump truck to try to make passive income.

Who has a comedy career that you admire?
Gabriel Iglesias

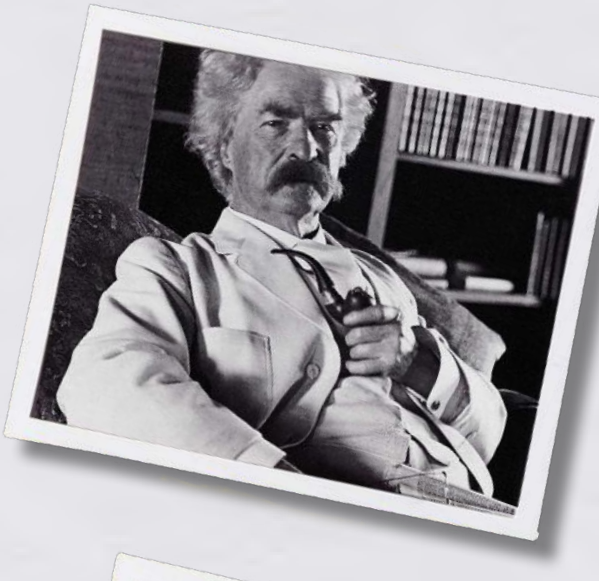
What is your favorite childhood cartoon?
Scooby Doo

Are you a geek?
HAHAHAAHAHAHAAAA... Yes.
I like astrology, information about space, and I love research.

I like the human body, anatomy, sports, and science. I really just like to know how things work.

THE HISTORY OF FASHION IN STAND-UP

By: Justin Colebrooke



Fashion is one of the versatile ways in which we express ourselves. Our outfits are extensions of ourselves whether we acknowledge it or not. This is why I hid in the grocery store when I saw people from my high school the other day. I refused to let them catch me in my mother's slippers while I was getting milk. However, on the stage, stand-up comedians have no such luxury. Audiences are processing everything that goes into the performance, including the outfit worn. Before they speak, the comedian sets a tone with their outfit for the audience. With eyeballs and ears honed in on their every action, they must coordinate their outfits with their material for their routine to go as smoothly as possible. A graphic T-shirt could indicate the comedian's interest in evoking a feeling of comfort in their audience. A goofy outfit may make an audience laugh more during a set. A man taking his shirt off mid-routine will cause intrigue and have the audience asking, "Why did that man take his shirt off?" Fashion on the stand-up stage has an interesting history because, like the performers themselves, it combines creative expression, societal trends, and humor. Here is a look at the history of fashion in stand-up comedy and the exciting future it holds.



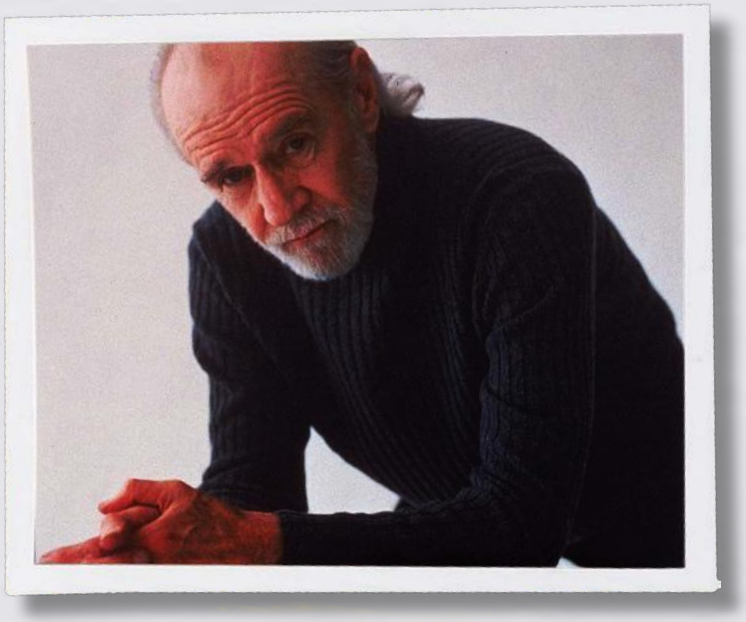
There are stand-up comedians all over the world, but for this article, I will be discussing the history of fashion with American stand-up comics. Fashion is a constantly changing industry, influenced by pop culture, politics, current events, and other factors—many of the same factors that determine the landscape of stand-up comedy. Fashion has influenced stand-up, and stand-up has influenced fashion trends. An example of

this comes with stand-up comedy's inception.

According to an article by Richard Zoglin on the history of stand-up comedy, stand-up began in the late 19th century with writers like Mark Twain giving comic lectures across the United States. Twain often wore a white suit—a look you might find in the owner's section of a slave museum today. He liked the white suit so much that he had 14 of them, ensuring he would never have a dirty suit. As stand-up grew in popularity, more comedians emerged through traveling variety shows known as vaudeville. Although comic lectures like Twain's still existed, comedians in vaudeville shows found humor in caricatures of Black people through minstrel shows, often featuring blackface and attire that fit the stereotypes of the time. Vaudeville faded out of popularity in the 1930s, as did costume-heavy performances for comedians. Alumni from vaudeville, such as Bob Hope, would go on to perform for military members, usually donning a respectful suit.

In the 1950s, stand-up comedy hit a boom, becoming a popular form of American entertainment with comics across the country filling venues to perform. The style of the 50s—suits and ties—was the common choice among comedians. Examples of this trend include Sid Caesar and Joan Rivers. As performances and venues varied, fashion began to become personalized with each comic. In the 1960s, Mort Sahl, a comedian known for his social satire, performed in front of audiences wearing a sweater, while Dick Gregory, a civil rights activist and comedian, addressed audiences in a nice jacket. Although not a huge change in formality, the trend toward more casual dressing saw comedians coming into their own.





Comedian George Carlin once said, "I think it's the duty of the comedian to find out where the line is drawn and cross it deliberately." In the 1970s, famous comedians began to break through and change the mold of stage-appropriate behavior in both comedy and fashion. Redd Foxx wore eccentric suits and his signature chain during his stand-up. Richard Pryor branched out from the typical suits, opting for colorful, bougie blazers. George Carlin's style was a breakthrough because he wore casual clothes on stage. Considered a hippie in his time, Carlin infused his routine with criticism of modern-day America while dressing like an average American. This casual culture he launched can still be seen today among comedians.

The 80s and 90s of American pop culture and fashion continue to have a major influence on the present. The odds are high that a new TV show coming out is a reboot from the 80s, or that this year's "new summer look" was featured in a Kohl's catalog from 1992. The comedy scene saw a wave of comedians who unknowingly created fashion statements that live on years later. Some stayed in traditional suits and ties, like Jerry Seinfeld and Rodney Dangerfield. Others, like Eddie Murphy, created iconic looks, such as his famous red leather jacket in Delirious. These looks are now synonymous with those comedians' specials. In the 90s, comedians such as Chris Rock and Jim Carrey saw

their popularity go from the stage to the screen. As comedians hit movie stardom, their style became trendier. Leather jackets, mom jeans, and casual sweaters took over as the styles of the decade made their way onto the stage. Comedians like Adam Sandler and David Cross wore whatever was in style and continued the casual approach as more comedy clubs became popular. This laid-back trend continued into the 2000s (though the styles of that time were an eyesore, and that whole fashion era should be erased from people's minds).
Comedians who style themselves however they want have become more prominent as stand-up has evolved. Today, many comedians seem to follow the 90s trend of wearing what's in style—which, ironically, are recycled styles from previous generations. Some comedians have signature looks that help them stand out. One prime example is John Mulaney, who always wears a suit to his performances. Mulaney explained his style choice in a 2018 interview with The Ringer: "I did a show at the Laughing Skull in Atlanta, and I was dressed the same as everyone in the audience. And I was like 24. I was like, well, there's no reason I should have a microphone versus everyone else. So after that, I started wearing a suit just because it was funny." Comedy specials continue to be a platform where comedians can establish a signature look. Ali Wong's breakout comedy special Baby Cobra features her in an $8 H&M dress—an outfit she says she randomly chose due to budget constraints, as mentioned in an interview with Yahoo. The look garnered so much attention and support that the Smithsonian asked to have it. Since Dave Chappelle put his specials on Netflix, he has usually appeared in a jumpsuit with his nostalgic "C" embroidered on it. As comedy moves toward a more brand-focused approach, we can expect to see more comedians develop signature looks.

Fashion is one of the most important things for comedians, second only to the words coming out of their mouths. It adds to the expression of the comedian, giving the audience a deeper connection with them. The future of fashion on the stage is an exciting one. Creators have begun to combine the worlds of fashion and comedy with unique presentations. Colm Dillane, a fashion designer and owner of the fashion company KidSuper, has started hosting fashion comedy shows to showcase new styles and pieces. These shows feature comedians as the runway models as they perform their acts. As more creative collaborations like this happen, we can only imagine what the future will look like.





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DREW THOMAS-


JOSH BLUE
CHRIS ANDERSON SHIT NAKED
SHOWTIME
CATCH THESE JOKES
MARC FAZON
BETTER GET UP OUTTA MY FACE
SHIT NAKED
CATCH THESE JOKES
BETTER GET UP OUTTAMY FACE

SISTA LU



KEITH BENDER
LIFE IS BETTER



WHEN YOU'RE LAUGING
AARON KOZBIAL



"KOZ" OO



TAVIN DILLARD

SHARE IT, THEN WEAR IT



LIVE UNAPOLOGETIC
CHAUNTE' WAYANS
LIVE BETTER



FREDDIE SIMONE



I DON'T LIKE YOUR FUCKING ATTITUDE



ADAM RAY

KENNY MOCK

THIS CONVERSATION IS BEING RECORDED



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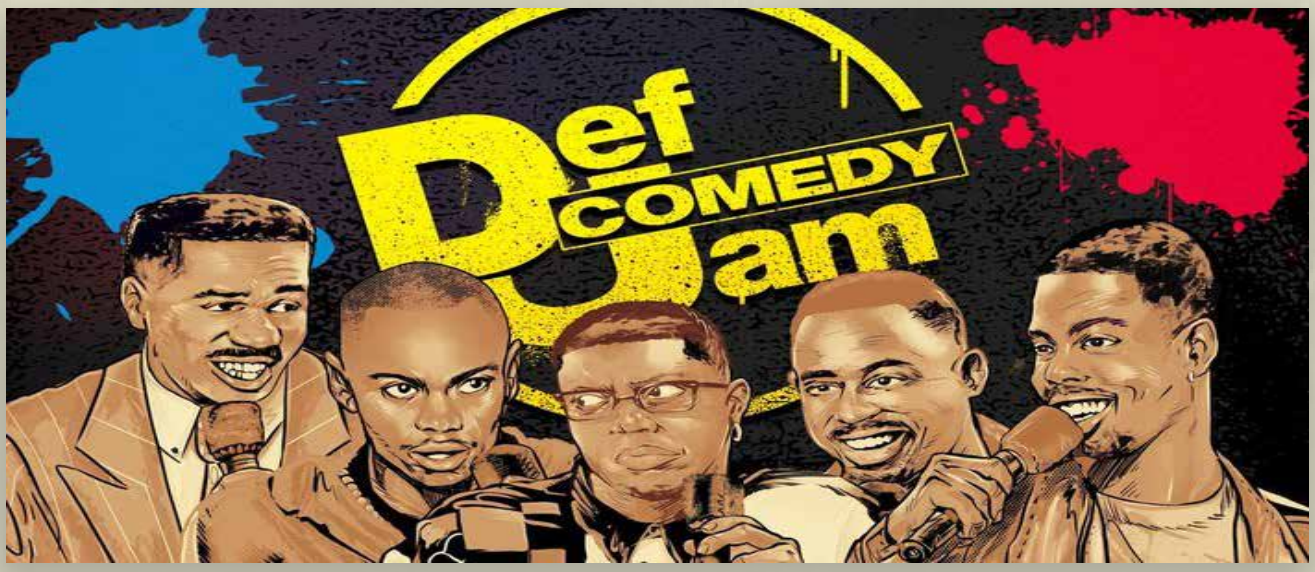
All Comedy Roads Lead Back to Def Comedy Jam



By Rosa M.S

In 1992, Def Jam Recordings' co-head Russell Simmons, along with film/TV producer and director Stan Lathan and TV producer and talent scout Bob Sumner, created HBO's Def Comedy Jam series, filmed at the legendary Apollo Theatre in Harlem, NY. Much like its parent record label, the show highlighted many under-utilized Black talents who would eventually dominate the era and beyond. It served as the bridge between Black comedians and the mainstream, creating a space where stand-up could thrive without losing its unique voice and principles, even amidst censorship and culturally approved American television norms.

According to Stan Lathan, "There were a lot of young Black men and women going up onstage and doing comedy. After the show aired for the first year, the number of people who were stepping out there multiplied. After the first season, which was a short season, the number of people available to us became overwhelming. So we were able to keep doing it on a fairly high level."
While Def Comedy Jam rattled the industry and gained audiences beyond its core demographic, it was never about spiting other major comedy clubs. Instead, it was about ethnic representation and providing a platform for voices that had been excluded from the bigger comedy stages.



In the early ’90s, major comedy clubs weren’t welcoming to Black perspectives and styles, leading to their exclusion. This was a time of intense racial tension, especially after the courts released four LAPD officers responsible for the brutal beating of Rodney King. Just weeks later, the murder of 15-year-old Latasha Harlins by a Korean store owner, who received only probation, further fueled unrest.



The ensuing riots, looting, and arson left southern Los Angeles in turmoil. In the aftermath, a need arose for outlets where raw emotions and expressions could be voiced. Def Comedy Jam created such a space, offering a platform for uneasy and unresolved conversations. It also inspired other Black-led comedy events, like the star-filled Phat Tuesdays at The Comedy Store in L.A.

As Def Comedy Jam gained momentum, it became a conveyor belt of success for many comedians, helping them transition from smaller audiences to national prominence.

Racial Disparities Encourage the Reformation of Mainstream Comedy

As more Black-centric comedy clubs opened in major cities, the spotlight began to shift to lesser-known comedians. Def Comedy Jam facilitated the rise of icons like the late Robin Harris, Martin Lawrence, D.L. Hughley, Steve Harvey, Dave Chappelle, Chris Rock, Adele Givens, and Laura Hayes, among others. Martin Lawrence, one of Def Comedy Jam’s successful hosts, went on to solidify his status with the hit television show Martin, also released in 1992. Lawrence was a crucial figure in Black entertainment from the late ’80s and continues to influence franchises like Bad Boys and House Party.

This iconic line, belted out by the late King of Comedy Bernie Mac, became legendary after a previous comic was booed off the Harlem stage. In his first appearance on the show, Bernie’s fandom grew rapidly. Known for his comedic poise, rawness, and piercing disposition, Bernie Mac outperformed for a notoriously tough audience. “Y’all don’t understand, I ain't scared of y’all,” he reiterated, captivating the crowd. Bernie not only starred in the Spike Lee-directed The Original Kings of Comedy in 2000 but also appeared in hit films like Friday and established his own The Bernie Mac Show in 2001. This dynamic continued with Dave Chappelle, Chris Rock, and Steve Harvey, who not only achieved immense success but also made history with their shows and films.

Well-Known Comedians Get Their Start on Def Comedy Jam

The influence of Def Comedy Jam wasn't limited to the men. Female comedians also made their mark. Sommore, one of the "Queens of Comedy" and known as "the diva of contemporary comedy," became a mainstay in the industry. Sheryl Underwood, another standout comedian, began her rise on Def Comedy Jam. She's now a co-host on CBS's The Talk and continues to be a significant figure in comedy. With television rosters filled with sketch comedies like NBC's SNL and Keenan Ivory Wayans' In Living Color, Def Comedy Jam still managed to triumph over entertainment aired on Friday nights.



"Black comics have a real forum on Def Jam, not these other places. No matter what anyone says, it's an honest expression of our culture. There is no emphasis on being dirty. The emphasis is on being honest," Russell Simmons responded to criticism of the show's boisterous and "smutty" material and style. In 1994, two years after the show's debut, a New York Times critic gave the series a short-sighted review, highlighting the vulgarity while missing the implicit and cultural references between the lines. Despite the criticism, Def Comedy Jam managed to remain true to its mission.

At the time, stand-up in general was considered low-brow and treated as less important than daytime soaps. Although Dave Chappelle hailed the project, he also recognized the racial ramifications of Def Comedy Jam's style. Chappelle felt that the popularity of the show boxed Black comedians into a particular style of raw, frank comedy. The tumultuously respected comedian Bill Cosby, whose 1984 sitcom The Cosby Show presented a different tone for Black family dynamics and comedy, expressed disdain for the show's material. Cosby even suggested that if D.W. Griffith, the director of the deplorably racist silent film The Birth of a Nation, had witnessed Def Comedy Jam, he would have said, "See, I told you—I was right." Chris Rock, an alum of the show, later ridiculed Def Comedy Jam on his 1997 HBO talk show The Chris Rock Show, but remarked that even through murky hypocrisy and struggles for acceptance, "...There's something about Def Comedy Jam. That grimy and New Yorkish," said Chris Rock. Despite these challenges, Def Comedy Jam managed to do what it set out to do and more.

After completing eight seasons in 2008, Def Comedy Jam ended its run, but not without leaving a lasting impact on the culture of comedy and expanding worldviews. The show's comedians transcended other forms of entertainment, strained the threshold of what was acceptable, and pushed beyond the brick wall of stand-up. In 2017, Def Comedy Jam celebrated its 25th anniversary with a special featuring Steve Harvey, Sheryl Underwood, Cedric the Entertainer, and Dave Chappelle. The show memorialized its history in a conversational production, with Dave Chappelle beaming, "Def Comedy Jam was the shit. It was Black funny, and it made a lot of people famous."

"All comedy roads lead back to Def Comedy Jam."
-Dave Chappelle

VIBE

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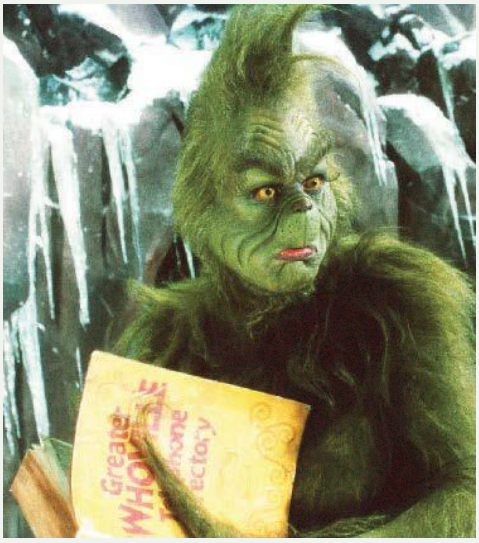
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PROSTHETICS

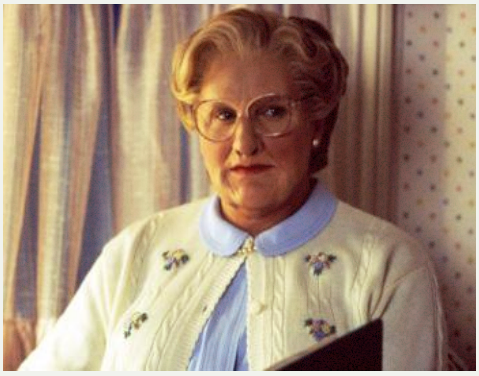
Actors take on many different roles in a variety of films, but sometimes their transformation goes beyond just acting—it can extend to completely changing their appearance. One way this is achieved is through the use of prosthetics. Some of our favorite comedians and actors have used prosthetics in their most memorable films, creating characters that are truly unforgettable.

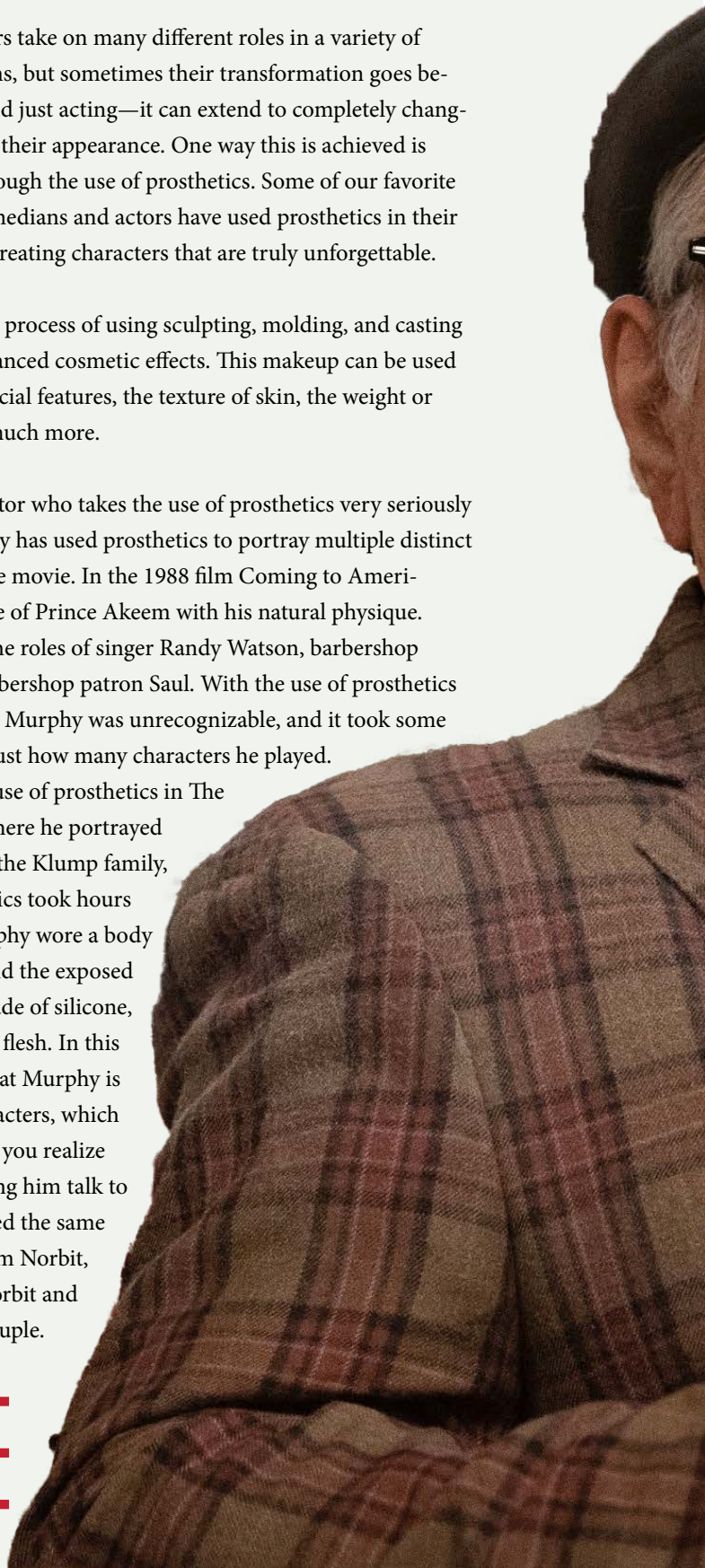


Prosthetic makeup is the process of using sculpting, molding, and casting techniques to create advanced cosmetic effects. This makeup can be used to change the shape of facial features, the texture of skin, the weight or size of a character, and much more.



A great example of an actor who takes the use of prosthetics very seriously is Eddie Murphy. Murphy has used prosthetics to portray multiple distinct characters within a single movie. In the 1988 film Coming to America, Murphy plays the role of Prince Akeem with his natural physique. However, he also plays the roles of singer Randy Watson, barbershop owner Clarence, and barbershop patron Saul. With the use of prosthetics and changes to his voice, Murphy was unrecognizable, and it took some viewers years to realize just how many characters he played. He also made extensive use of prosthetics in The Nutty Professor films, where he portrayed nearly every member of the Klump family, except one. The prosthetics took hours to create and apply. Murphy wore a body suit under his clothes, and the exposed areas of his skin were made of silicone, sculpted to look like real flesh. In this film, it's more obvious that Murphy is playing most of the characters, which heightens the comedy as you realize you're essentially watching him talk to himself. He also employed the same technique in the 2007 film Norbit, where he played both Norbit and Rasputia, the married couple.





TAMEEAH BROWNE

AND COMEDY



The use of prosthetics is also common in "undercover nanny" films, where comedians are transformed into older women. Robin Williams became an elderly, gray-haired woman with wrinkles in Mrs. Doubtfire. In the Big Momma's House films, Martin Lawrence transformed into a plump, older woman with chubby cheeks and no neck. Both films add an interesting comedic element through the use of prosthetics, as we, the viewers, get to see the transformation unfold on screen. In certain scenes, we even see the characters attempting to return to their normal selves, peeling off the skin and ripping off the fat suits.

In other cases, prosthetic makeup is used for more extreme transformations, altering physical features to create entirely different beings. For example, in How the Grinch Stole Christmas, Jim Carrey had to endure a grueling schedule so the makeup artists could perfect the Grinch's signature look. The process was so intense that Carrey almost quit the movie. The producer had to hire a CIA operative to teach Carrey techniques for enduring torture. Fortunately, Carrey pushed through, and his magnificent work as the Grinch continues to be celebrated—even now, in 2022, memes featuring Jim Carrey's portrayal of the Grinch are still circulating.

Comedians and actors put a tremendous amount of hard work and dedication into becoming completely different people for their roles, especially when prosthetic makeup is involved. Some have done it for years, despite the challenges it presents. So, let's give a round of applause to all the comedians who use prosthetic makeup and to the talented prosthetic makeup teams who create these incredible looks.

FALL OUTFITS

E. ALEXANDER PHILLIPS-HEDGE



There's one outfit I always enjoy bringing out when it gets nippy outside—a pink trench coat. As tacky as it may sound, it somehow goes with almost everything I try it with. It's a complete head-turner, I know, but for me, it's my Eddie Murphy red leather suit, my John Mulaney suit—you know, that one outfit people always associate with a certain person. That's what it is for me. I get the feeling that this pink trench coat is intrinsically tied to my image. I get compliments as I walk down the street, when I enter a room, or when I go into a store.

It's just an eye-catching thing to wear that I genuinely enjoy. It also surprisingly goes great with anything. Pair it with a band T-shirt, and it gives off punk vibes; add a collared shirt and possibly a tie, and it becomes formal wear. Even a plain shirt and sweatpants make it fashionable loungewear.

I was honestly surprised to discover just how versatile it ended up being for something I bought on a whim during Black Friday two years ago. I thought it would at least be tacky and gaudy but warm, since it's made of wool. This trench coat taught me a lesson I didn't expect: the difference between tacky and fashionable is confidence.

Think about it—if you saw someone walking down the road in a Michael Jackson Thriller outfit, two things are going to come to mind: either "Oh my god, that is so ugly" or "Oh my god, they are rocking it!" And it all has to do with confidence. If you saw anyone wearing something from the Met Gala on the street, you'd probably think it was tacky—unless they had the confidence to make it work. Of course, confidence isn't everything; you also need to push the envelope. When I'm not wearing my pink trench coat, I typically wear button-up collared shirts, band T-shirts, gradient T-shirts, flannels, and more often than not, jeans.



None of this gets the same attention as the pink trench coat, despite the confidence I have when I wear them. And why? Because they don't push the envelope like the pink trench coat does. Fashion is what you make of it, but I think it comes down to a simple formula:

TACKY
+
CONFIDENCE
=
FASHIONABLE









I've always heard that fashion is about pushing boundaries and innovation, so I think this formula makes sense when considering the idiom "there's a fine line between genius and insanity." I would have argued that it was insane for a pink trench coat to be fashionable, but clearly, what do I know with the number of people who love it as a metric to judge by?

Given how disparaging I've been toward this trench coat, you may wonder how I can be so confident when I wear it. Honestly, I don't know. Maybe it was that first compliment I got when I wore it, or perhaps it was the moment I took it out of the package and knew just how iconic it would look. I really don't know—I just know now that I love it, and it's my favorite thing to wear, to the point that the only time I'm not wearing it is summertime.

Lessons to learn from this: the most fashionable thing you can do is to be confident in yourself and be innovative with it. Be cool, be chill, and rock it, because as long as you have confidence, even the ugliest of Christmas sweaters can become sexy. Confidence is sexy, and sexy is fashionable.

SUMMER FASHION FAILS, AND HOW TO AVOID THEM: THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF HOT WEATHER STYLE

Oh, summer. It's finally that magical season we anticipate all year long. The sun is shining, the birds are singing, and we can finally emerge from our long winter hibernation ready for three precious months of lazy summer days—cold beers by the lake, sunburnt afternoons at the beach, firing up the grill for a family barbecue, and "exercising" by chasing the ice cream truck down the street (even if you're too old for it to be socially acceptable). And if you're extra lucky, seasonal allergies are in full swing (who wouldn't want to spend their summer battling a runny nose, itchy eyes, and constant sneezing?) while sweat runs down your back like you've just run a marathon in a sauna.

As spellbinding as the summer season may be, every year, fashionistas from Michigan to the Maldives face the age-old dilemma: how do you tackle the treacherous terrain of summer fashion while staying cool and stylish? This task can seem daunting, even impossible, at first. But fear not, fashionista friends! We're here to guide you through the do's and (most importantly) don'ts of summer style. This foolproof guide will have you more than ready to tackle hot weather in style and save you from embarrassing fashion fails so you can relax and soak up the summer sun 100% worry-free. So grab your sunscreen, crack open a cold one, and let's dive into the do's and don'ts of hot weather style.



DO: Rock the Sunglasses!



DON'T: Try to Pull off Pit Vipers (It's not going to work)

Sunglasses are the easiest, most essential, versatile, and timeless summer accessory. They can complete a look and tie the whole outfit together. Oh, and they protect our eyes from UV rays or something. But back to the important stuff. Sunglasses are like regular glasses but more fun. You can collect different styles and colors (tiny ones are in!) or hunt down the perfect staple pair that you can rock on any occasion. Whatever you do with your eyewear, be bold! Don't be afraid to opt for something unique and wear it with confidence. However, not all sunglasses are created equal… If you're lucky enough not to know what Pit Vipers are, I'm very sorry to tell you that your luck has just run out. But if you're anything like me and have had the displeasure of meeting one too many fraternity brothers and high school lacrosse players, you know exactly what I'm talking about. Though these hideous goggles apparently offer excellent sun protection, they hold no other redeeming qualities that could possibly justify their over $100 price tag. I've made an executive decision: these chunky chromatic sunglasses are monstrosities—unacceptable anywhere other than a ski resort lodge. Let's move on.

DO:

Embrace the Light Fabrics—Swap Your Leather for Linen!



Embrace the opportunity to wear next-to-nothing with a sweet and stylish babydoll dress paired with simple ballet flats to complete the look. Having light fabrics in your wardrobe is a must when it comes to summer style, and that's why linen is all the rage this year. A good pair of white linen pants will be a staple in your closet, and you can dress them up or down for any summer activity, whether it's dinner, a beach day, or the Sunday farmer's market. But messy eaters beware! As stylish, practical, and versatile as linen is, it stains! So be extra careful with the hot dogs this summer unless you think you can pull off ketchup and mustard as accessories.

I know, I know, it seems so obvious. Or at least it should be. But it happens every year, no matter how scorching it gets. Sure, weather can be unpredictable in the early weeks of summer, and it can be hard to know exactly when to retire the leather jacket and swap out the combat boots for sandals. So don't forget to check the weather app and make sure you have the right attire to look effortlessly stylish while beating the heat! If your wardrobe is lacking, maybe it's time to add a few more hot-weather-friendly pieces to your rotation. Even if your winter wardrobe somehow wasn't an impractical choice for the summer sun, come on—you've been wearing that sweater and those jeans since January! It's time to switch things up.



DON'T: Wear (OUT) Your Winter Wardrobe



DO: Try Wearing "Jorts"!

Listen, we all know the '90s are back, and I'm all for embracing them. Sure, the '90s were a weird time (or so I'm told), but they were also iconic and inspired many of today's hottest fashion trends, whether you like it or not. Let's take a closer look at one of the most popular '90s trends today: jorts. Unless you've been living as a hermit for the past three years, it's safe to assume you're aware of the jorts phenomenon. But just in case, jorts are exactly what they sound like: a combination of the words "jeans" and "shorts." Jorts have been going strong among teen fashionistas, influencers, and celebrities alike for the past several summers and show no signs of being on their way out of the trend cycle anytime soon. This (sort of) timeless summer essential simplifies summer style: throw on your jorts with a tee or tank in any color you like (the beauty of denim is that it goes with everything!), add some high-top Converse or Adidas Sambas, and you're ready to go!

DO: Be You!



DON'T: Channel Adam Sandler

But let's be real. Trust me, I'm all for the baggy look, so if you find the perfect pair of jorts at the thrift store only to realize they're two sizes too big, grab a cute belt and wear them anyway! However, there's a thin line between "cute and baggy" and "straight-up Adam Sandler cosplay." To avoid a fashion fail, err on the side of caution when it comes to baggy shorts and avoid basketball shorts at all costs! Look, Adam Sandler is many things. Iconic comedian? Of course. But fashion icon? Well, that depends on who you ask. If you really want to rock the dad look this summer, more power to you! But don't say we didn't warn you…

Well, fashionable friends, I hope this guide will have you feeling ready to navigate the trials of summer style—and look good doing it! If you follow these do's and don'ts, you'll be sure to have a successful summer filled with unforgettable memories and impeccable style. But remember, nothing is more attractive than confidence, so whatever you wear this summer, wear it with pride! Following the hottest (no pun intended) trends is an easy way to stay stylish and chic, but don't be afraid to stand out and discover your personal style. Embrace the season with boldness and creativity, and you'll shine brightly no matter where you go. Happy summer styling!

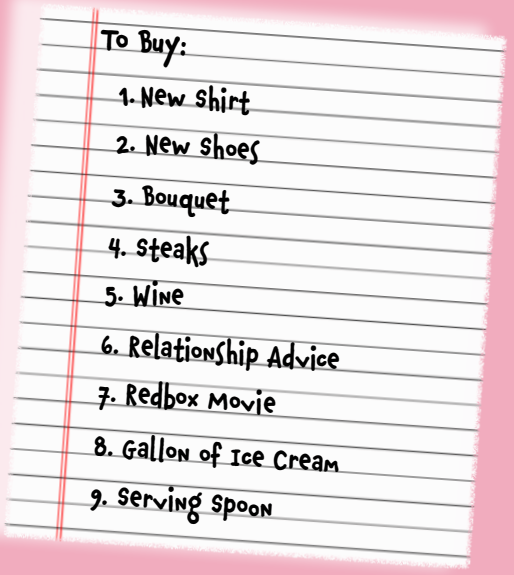
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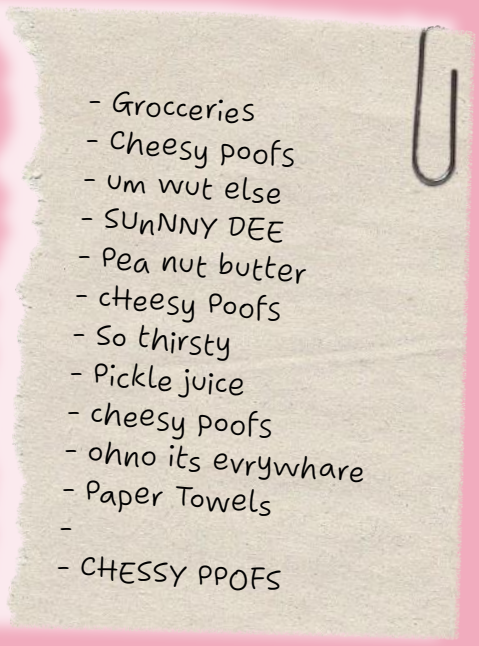
WHAT DOES YOUR SHOPPING LIST LOOK LIKE?

Here at *SlapStik*, we know how hard it can be to stay both beautiful and fashionable without breaking the bank. “What should I buy? What should I wear? Am I really about to max out another credit card for this?” We've all been there. That's why we sent our team on a covert mission to dig around in the trash cans and dumpsters outside every store and mall in the area, fishing out any crumpled, discarded shopping lists they could find!

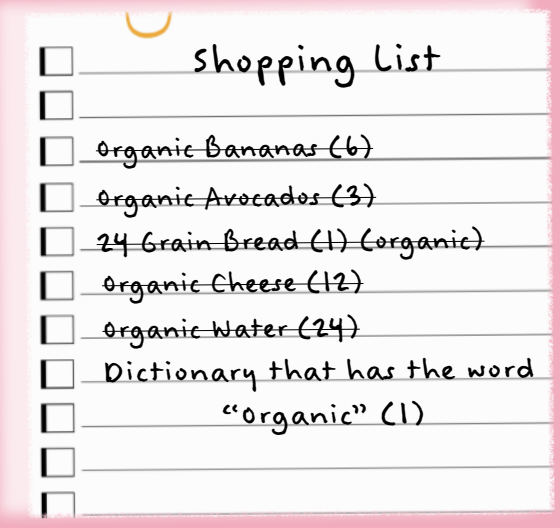
Now, you too can see what the average shopper is putting into their carts and taking home to better fulfill their lives. Honestly, we didn’t think people still made physical shopping lists—let alone used pen and paper. But hey, we just wanted an excuse to have the studio to ourselves and nurse a massive hangover. And here we are anyway.

So, without further ado, here are some of the shopping lists we managed to scrounge together that are appropriate for the public eye. And if you want to see our uncensored collection of thrown-out shopping lists, follow us on our Patreon!





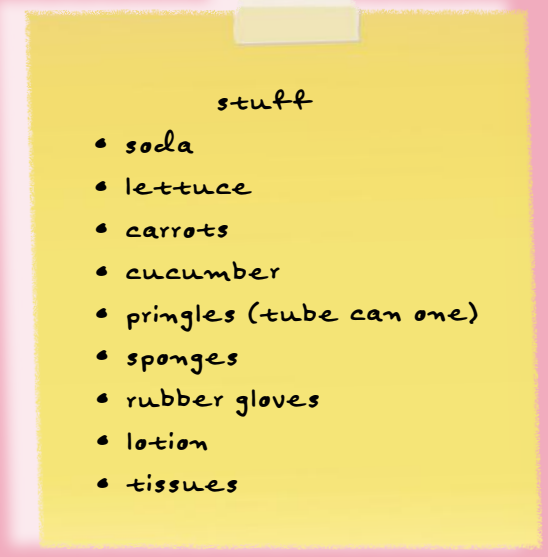




THE ANSWER MIGHT SHOCK YOU

We hope these glimpses into the subtle beauty of other people's lives have inspired you to add some glamor and pizazz to your own in simple yet meaningful ways. Remember, beauty is pain, and laughter is the best medicine—so keep on reading SlapStik Comedy!

- Jonathan Hernandez -





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SOME OF THE BEST FASHION FROM THE 2024 MET GALA

This year's Met Gala, themed "The Garden of Time," was a star-studded event filled with floral pieces, earth tones, and outfits that seemed to nod to Tim Burton's Alice in Wonderland and J.G. Ballard's short story "The Garden of Time," which inspired the theme.

The main theme in Ballard's story revolves around how humans grow and evolve over time, with a subtheme of the creation and destruction of things. These ideas were echoed in many looks at this year's Met Gala, from floral accents symbolizing growth (like those in Ayo Edebiri's outfit) to accessories such as watches and pins in Jeff Goldblum's ensemble, or Lana Del Rey's tree branch veil.

Zendaya

As one of the co-chairs of this year's Met Gala, expectations for Zendaya's outfits were high. Considering that her last appearance at the event in 2019 featured a Cinderella-inspired gown, fans eagerly anticipated her return. Her first look of the night was a Maison Margiela gown by John Galliano, featuring a mysterious blue-and-dark green palette that felt straight out of the fantastical "Tulgey Wood" in Alice in Wonderland. The gown's nature-inspired details, such as birds and grapes, were complemented by Zendaya's dark eye makeup, adding to the fantasy vibe. Her second look, a long black puffy Givenchy dress with a fish-shaped pink flower crown, was a stark contrast to the first. While the crown was beautiful, it felt like a distraction from the dress itself.



Bad Bunny

Bad Bunny, another co-chair of this year's Met Gala, wore an all-black Maison Margiela ensemble with a striking red streak running from his thighs to his ankles. The look included black leather gloves, a beret-like hat, black-and-silver glasses, and a fabric bouquet of black flowers with red stitching. The attention to detail in this outfit was impeccable; the red detailing, resembling stitches, ran from his neckline down the front of his jacket to the bouquet of flowers. This look seemed to draw heavily from the "destruction of things" element in Ballard's story, with the all-black flowers and subtle hints of red possibly symbolizing blood.



Ayo Edebiri

Actress Ayo Edebiri stunned in an all-white halter Loewe dress with a mesh-like fabric. The 3D flowers on the dress transitioned from light to dark, from the top to the bottom, evoking the image of flowers blooming in early spring. This design choice, combined with her bright pink blush, created an overall joyful and vibrant tone that perfectly captured the theme of growth.

Sabrina Carpenter and Barry Keoghan

New celebrity couple Barry Keoghan and Sabrina Carpenter embraced the Alice in Wonderland theme with their looks. Sabrina channeled Alice in a black Oscar de la Renta dress with a puffy blue skirt, offering a grown-up yet playful version of the classic character. Barry, on the other hand, wore a brown Burberry suit, a white scarf, and a black top hat reminiscent of Johnny Depp's Mad Hatter. While Barry's outfit was fitting, it felt a bit safe—I would have loved to see him add a personal spin with a pop of color or some orange eye makeup, à la the Mad Hatter.





Taylor Russell

Actress Taylor Russell wore a Loewe gown that looked like it was plucked straight from a forest. The dress, with its white skirt and wood-like turtleneck top adorned with red flower detailing, reminded me of a tree beginning to bloom—a perfect representation of the growth and evolution theme in "The Garden of Time." The unique mix-and-match of textures in this gown was risky but ultimately one of my favorite looks of the night.

Lana Del Rey

Singer Lana Del Rey wore a tan Alexander McQueen dress with one of the most intricate headpieces I've ever seen. The dress featured branches that extended above her head, supporting a tan cloth veil over her face. My favorite detail was the red rose she held in her left hand, possibly symbolizing a "roses vs. thorns" or "good vs. evil" metaphor—a nod to the creation and destruction themes in "The Garden of Time."



Karlie Kloss

Supermodel Karlie Kloss dazzled in a pink crystal Swarovski gown that featured 3D flower petals and vines cascading down her neck and abdomen. The dress reminded me of a newly bloomed tulip and perfectly captured the theme of growth that Ballard presents in "The Garden of Time." While the look may have seemed basic to some, I believe it represented the theme beautifully.





Elle Fanning

Actress Elle Fanning wore a Balmain gown that resembl sculpture, complete with tw up her sleeves. This gown a of staying true to the theme creative boundaries. The da be emerging from water, sy and growth—again tying in theme of the evening. The n like a risk, but it paid off be

Jeff Goldblum

Jeff Goldblum lo traveler in a bla stunning array o sunglasses, a wh brooches, and a gold-rimmed gla hanging from his pocket. Accordi Vogue, Goldblu accessories, including a "bird standing atop an opulent stone" and two abstract flowers in diamonds and pearls, were inspired by "The Garden of Time.

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Conclusion

This year's Met Gala brought more exciting looks than usual, with many guests truly embracing the theme inspired by Ballard's story. The event felt like a departure from the simple black suit plague that has dominated in previous years (though there were still a few). Overall, the creativity and risk-taking with textures and accessories made this year's Met Gala a standout.

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Met Gala

1. Zendaya: Preview
2. Bad Bunny: Vogue
3. Ayo Edebiri: Vogue
4. Sabrina Carpenter and Barry Keoghan: Glamour
5. Taylor Russell: Just Jared
6. Lana Del Rey: Vogue
7. Karlie Kloss: Vogue
8. Elle Fanning: Harpers Bazaar
9. Jeff Goldblum: Vogue

Sketch Style: The Impact of Fashion in Comedy

1. Pete Davidson and Timothee Chalamet in Rap Roundtable: Alternative Press
2. Kristen Wiig in The Lawrence Welk Show: Introducing the Maharelle Sisters: Decider
3. Barney Stinson in his iconic How I Met Your Mother style: Salon

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