

ONE TREND, TWO WAYS

SWEET PARTING

Change up your look with a flip of your locks

page 3



BEAUTY & CANCER

SKIN DEEP

What beauty rituals and products mean during cancer treatment: women share their stories

page 4



DRESSING UP

BEST OVERALL

Making a childhood fave work for work (it starts with a pink coat)

page 7

THE

Kit

BEAUTY & FASHION

IT'S IN THE BAG

Equal parts playful and proper, comic book-inspired clutches are taking the street-style scene by storm. Here's how to get the look (and wear it)

page 6

BLOGGER AIMEE SONG
OF SONGOFSTYLE.COM
AT NEW YORK FASHION
WEEK ON SEPT. 8 2014,
CARRYING A BENEDETTA
BRUZZICHES CLUTCH.
PHOTOGRAPHY:
PETER STIGTER

STAY CONNECTED



GUCCI



Gucci
EAU DE TOILETTE
Première

THE NEW EAU DE TOILETTE FOR WOMEN

View the Blake Lively video at www.youtube.com/gucciparfums

ONE LOVE ORGANICS
KONJAC SPONGE, \$12,
CLEMENTINEFIELDS.COM



BEST OF A TREND

Good, clean loving

The impact of the Korean and Japanese approach to skin care has only just begun to trickle over to North America, bringing an influx of alphabet creams, fabric facial masks, cleansing powders and sunscreen mousses. While some items may not make it here—snail-mucus serum jumps to mind—a welcome addition is the konjac sponge, a cleansing and very gently exfoliating puff made from the root of the konjac plant, native to Southeast Asia. When soaked in water, the once-parched

sponge swells to almost double its size, when it can be primed with cleanser and massaged over the face in circular motions. Softer than a synthetic sponge, and miles gentler than a sonic cleansing brush or even a washcloth, it delights both the senses and the pores—especially when it’s heart-shaped and infused with softly cleansing rose clay, like this gorgeous specimen. Now that’s love.

—Rani Sheen. Photography by Geoffrey Ross



TWEET OF THE WEEK

“There is so much good over 40... embrace what is to come, rather than what you are losing. #LadyTip”

@CindyCrawford shares some serious words of wisdom

BEAUTY MATH

A simple cat-eye paired with a baby-pink lip adds up to a flirty look we love



A GLOSSY-FINISH LIPSTICK LIKE **JOE FRESH SHINE** LIPSTICK IN KISS BAISER, \$6, LOBLAWS

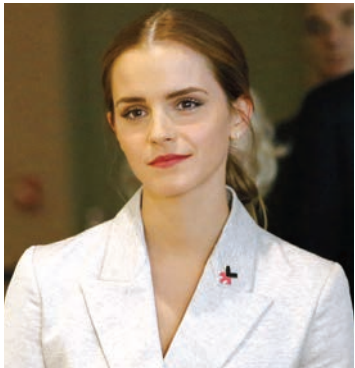
A JET-BLACK LIQUID LINER AND MASCARA DUO LIKE **FLOWER** EYE 2 EYE LIQUID EYELINER & VOLUMIZING MASCARA, \$10, WALMART.COM



Reese Witherspoon aced low-key glamour at the Washington, D.C., premiere of *The Good Lie* with black winged liner and a pretty pink pout. Simply take a felt-tip liquid liner and draw along the upper lash line, angling the tip upwards toward your temple at the outer corner for the perfect feline flick. Apply a few coats of thickening mascara for the ultimate sultry stare. Complete the feminine statement with a dewy rose lipstick.

—Natasha Bruno

TALKING POINT



NUDE SAFETY

It’s heartening that the recent leak of hacked celebrity images has been cause for solidarity, not shaming. It started in early September when people rallied around JLaw, agreeing that to look at stolen intimate photos was akin to sexual assault. Images of Rihanna, Cara Delevingne and Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen all arose in the corners of the Internet, but by month’s end the backlash was so boisterous that both Reddit and 4Chan—message boards formerly ruled by misogynist weenies—shut down threads sharing the photos and promised to help prosecute offending users. Then a threat to release pics of Emma Watson turned out to be a hoax: The culprits want President Obama to protect celebs’ personal pics. These are confusing times to deliberate privacy versus censorship, but at least a few nudie pics are no longer enough to ruin a career. —Denise Balkissoon



ONLINE GET A DAILY DOSE OF FASHION AND BEAUTY NEWS AT THEKIT.CA/NEWS/



ONE TREND, TWO WAYS

DEEPLY PARTED

Who knew that switching the way your hair falls can instantly give a tired haircut a new lease of life at no cost or commitment? A deep Veronica Lake–like side part frames the face and highlights the profile, creating major impact with minimal effort. At Hermès, the look was elegant and 1970s-inspired, while at BCBG Max Azria the effect was archalant and edgy. But there was a common denominator: Both aligned the part with the arch of the eyebrow.

1. Understated allure at Hermès For a smooth, silky style, Redken creative consultant Guido applied blow-dry cream to damp hair before blow-drying with a round brush. He parted it deeply, twisted the front section away from the face and secured it with a pin behind the ear.

2. Cool rebel at BCBG Max Azria Prepping hair with a texturizing spray for rock ‘n’ roll, tousled texture, Bumble and Bumble’s global artistic director Laurent Philippon created a faux-fringe effect by sweeping hair across the forehead and over the eyes and holding it in place with a tiny braid on the side of the neck. —Natasha Bruno





BUMBLE AND BUMBLE PREP, \$23, SEPHORA. CA. **REDKEN** SATINWEAR 02 PREPPING BLOW DRY LOTION, \$23, REDKEN.CA



Alicia Keys

Expecting her second child early next year, the singer modelled nude in a campaign for charity.

Kerry Washington

She helped create a line of *Scandal* clothing for The Limited and a bag for the Allstate Foundation Purple Purse fundraiser.

Romeo Beckham

He might be the middle son, but at 12 years old, he’s found his own spotlight: as a Burberry model.

Britney Spears

The singer debuted her lingerie line at New York Fashion Week but neglected to sport a bra herself. (Oops, she did it again...)

Miley Cyrus

Costume consequences: The singer could be fined for wearing a fake butt on stage in Mexico, which was slapped with the country’s flag.



BEAUTY & CANCER

Beauty routines, rituals and products mean a lot to women. Cancer treatment doesn’t change that. A makeup artist, a beauty writer, three actors and a survivor of 13 years explain why

BY MARYAM SIDDIQI

“While no one has any reason to be ashamed of their cancer, they have every right not to be defined by it either.”
—Sali Hughes in ‘Pretty Honest’ on the restorative power of makeup



U.K. writer Sali Hughes has a devoted following for her straightforward take on beauty. Her book, *Pretty Honest* covers what happens during cancer treatment, among other topics. (\$35, in stores Oct. 21)

How cancer changed a beauty pro’s kit for the better
Makeup artist Sheri Stroth, 40, of Toronto, was diagnosed with breast cancer in the spring of 2010 and underwent chemotherapy and radiation treatment. When her hair started falling out, she had an unexpected reaction. “I shaved my head and I was pleasantly surprised—I felt kind of badass,” she says. “I had bought a wig and scarves, but never wore them, because they made me feel like a sick person.” A beauty aficionado in both life and work, she adapted her routine to her new reality. “I’m lucky that I was able to deal with the physical changes,” she says. “I could always make things better with makeup.” Stroth had become interested in natural cosmetics about a year before her diagnosis, but at that point decided to switch over completely. She started browsing health-food-stores and reading blogs and books like *No More Dirty Looks* (\$19, indigo.ca) for recommendations. Here are the products she came to rely on, during treatment and beyond.



MARTINA GEBHARDT SHEABUTTER CLEANSER, \$45 (150ML), PUREANDSIMPLE.CA, KYPRIS BEAUTY BEAUTY ELIXIR III, PRISMATIC ARRAY, \$150, KYPRISBEAUTY.COM, BEAUTEABAR.COM, AVEDA HAND RELIEF, \$30 (125ML) AT AVEDA SALONS AND SPAS, AVEDA.CA, BUTTER LONDON 999 RESCUE SYSTEM, \$46, HORSE POWER NAIL FERTILIZER, \$24, BOTH BUTTERLONDON.CA, WELEDA SALT TOOTHPASTE, \$8, WELEDA.COM, BARLEAN’S COCONUT OIL, \$20, AT NATURE’S EMPORIUM AND HEALTHY PLANET, YAROK FEED YOUR YOUTH HAIR & SCALP SERUM ANTI-AGING TREATMENT, \$29, AT YAROKHAIR.COM, LA BELLA FIGURA BOHEMIA VERDE AROMATIC HAIR ELIXIR, \$28, AT ECDIVABEAUTY.CA

Simple Spa and Shea Butter Cleanser
“I went to Pure + Simple, a Toronto spa with a holistic approach to skin care, for advice. Martina Gebhardt’s shea butter cleanser got me through treatment when my oily skin became dry.” Visit pureandsimple.ca for locations

A Gentle Elixir
“You can have a reaction to lots of things during treatment because your immune system is down. Kypris Beauty makes some of its oils without essential oils, so they are super gentle.”

In Good Hands
“It’s a time to really take care of yourself, like moisturizing your hands a lot because they get so dry. Aveda Hand Relief is by far my favourite.”

Nail Nurture
“I was proactive in taking care of my nails. I applied nail strengtheners like Butter London 999 Rescue System and Horse Power Nail Fertilizer before and after treatments, to prevent ridges.”

Mouth Healer
“You can develop mouth sores and tooth and gum soreness due to chemo. Weleda Salt Toothpaste kept my mouth in shape so I didn’t suffer the usual problems. The taste is strange at first, but once you get used to it, you may not go back. (I didn’t.)”

Oil Up
“I kept my body hydrated with coconut oil. When you lose your hair, your scalp gets dry and flaky so I’d slather my head in olive oil, let it sit for a few hours then wipe it off with a towel. I also love Yarok and La Bella Figura’s natural hair and scalp treatments. Rahua (rahua.com) is not the cheapest line, but it’s a great treat when you are feeling down and need a pick-me-up.”

Lipstick power: Why Marina Morsani, 67, never gave it up
“In 2001, I had a lumpectomy done on a lump under my right arm. I was diagnosed with breast cancer that same year. They removed the lump and my lymph nodes on the right side. I had chemotherapy eight times, every third week, and after that I had radiation for six weeks. I’ve now been cancer-free 13 years.

“I lost all my hair after the chemo—all my body hair, eyelashes, eyebrows. I was completely like a baby. I never bothered to draw in my eyebrows or put on false eyelashes, but I was working for a property management company so I had to wear a wig. And I always put on lipstick. I took care with my clothes, my face and my perfume. Even now that I’ve been retired for two and half years, I’m always ready to go out. Always dressed with my face on.

“I’d coloured my hair from the age of 19, when I started seeing a white strand once in a while, to age 54. But when I lost all my hair, I let it grow back white. I thought, “No, this time I will just see what I look like with grey hair.” That’s when I got the compliments. I had no idea what my hair would look like but it looks great.

“I’d always waxed my legs and my bikini line, but after the chemo, the hair did not grow back on my legs or underarms. I just have a little bit at my bik—ini that I wax now. But I’m against pedicures and manicures because I’m afraid of infections.

“I never realized how much I loved massages until a masseuse said I shouldn’t stimulate the body because the cancer can metastasize elsewhere, though I have never spoken to my doctor about it. Once they find out you have cancer, they don’t want to massage you.

“Before bed, I’d put Vaseline around my eyes because I found that in the morning I was very dry. But otherwise I kept the same system as before. My colouring changed, because of the grey hair. But the makeup routine is the same: eyeshadow, eyeliner pencil, and lipstick. That’s the only thing I would not live without: my lipstick.”

—Marina Morsani, 67, Saint-Lambert, Que.



In their words
When you work in an image-obsessed industry, the physical effects of cancer treatment are more than skin deep. These stars spoke about their struggles



“You realize that no matter how much beauty, money, success you have – if you don’t have health, you have nothing.”
—Sofia Vergara
DIAGNOSED WITH THYROID CANCER AT AGE 28 IN 2000



“Your body just doesn’t feel the same, and you kind of wonder if it ever will.”
—Christina Applegate
A DOUBLE MASTECTOMY AFTER BREAST CANCER DIAGNOSIS AT AGE 36 IN 2008

“By the time my hair started growing back, it was very exciting. It was like a miracle.”
—Kylie Minogue
DIAGNOSED WITH BREAST CANCER AT AGE 37 IN 2005



HOW TO TAKE CARE
From booking facials to colouring regrown hair, we assemble pro tips for navigating the beauty realities of treatment

KEEP SKIN SOOTHED
Reduce dryness, flaking and irritation during therapy by taking sponge baths instead of full baths or showers, and adding mineral oil, oatmeal or oil-based soap to the water. Avoid products containing alcohol, which dries out hair, skin and nails.
—Canadian Cancer Society

SHELVES HOT HAIR TOOLS
Use the low setting on the hair dryer — or, better yet, let hair air dry — and avoid hot styling tools.
—Canadian Cancer Society

LASH WITH CARE
“If you don’t touch your eyebrows and eyelashes, there’s a chance they’ll stay in longer than the hair on your head. And by the time they fall out there will already be new growth there. Fake lashes can be annoying to deal with. Instead, darken the lashline with an eyeliner and a darker shadow. This gives the illusion of lashes.” —Sheri Stroth

SPA VISIT? CALL AHEAD
The spa isn’t off-limits during or post cancer treatment, so don’t be shy about booking a facial—or giving one as a gift to a loved one. Tell the therapist about your cancer treatment at the time of booking, so they take extra care and wear gloves to avoid infection.
—Holly Sherrard, Dermalogica’s education manager

WHAT’S OFF LIMITS
Avoid manicures and pedicures — the risk of infection is too high. “If [clients] have a decreased immunity then their healing response may take quite some-time. Or they might not heal at all,” says Holly Sherrard, Dermalogica’s education manager. Other off-limit treatments: waxing, peels, wraps and microderm-abrasion. Ask your doctor before booking a massage.

WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION
The Canadian Cancer Society can provide information about complementary therapies, like massage. Visit cancer.ca or call 1-888-939-3333 for details.

Look Good, Feel Better offers free workshops across Canada on makeup, hair, skin and nail care during cancer treatment. Visit look-goodfeelbetter.ca or call 1-800-914-5665 to register or for more information.



MORE THAN SKIN DEEP
Each of these skin-care silver linings came from a devastating diagnosis

Consonant: This Toronto-based skin-care line’s HydrExtreme Serum (\$72, 10 mL) was created by founder Bill Baker for a friend who needed something gentle and effective to counteract cracked, irritated skin caused by radiation and chemotherapy. Available at consonantskincare.com

Tata Harper: There’s nothing medicinal about this luxury all-natural skincare line, but its founder Tata Harper created it after her stepfa-

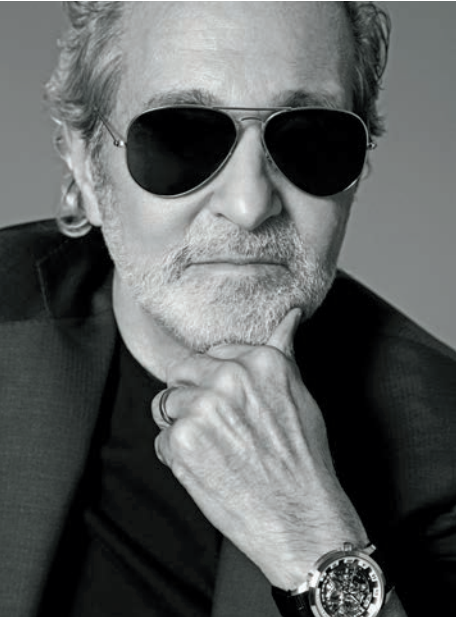
ther was diagnosed with cancer in 2002, and was advised by doctors to replace his personal-care products with natural alternatives. Available at Murale.

CV Skin Labs: This line of balms and lotions formulated for very, very sensitive skin was founded by Britta Aragon, a survivor of Hodgkin’s disease who was also her father’s caregiver during his battle with cancer. Available at thedetoxmarket.ca.

BEHIND-THE-SCENES

5 FALL STYLE TIPS FROM A SHOE SPECIALIST

BY INGRIE WILLIAMS



Vince Camuto knows shoes. After all, the CEO of the eponymous label has been in the footwear biz for over three decades. Co-founding Nine West in 1978 and helming creative direction until 1999 loom large on his CV. He’s also responsible for delivering fashion-forward styles at reasonable prices for a slew of designer labels. The iconic Tory Burch Reva ballet flat is his handiwork, too. Thus there’s no one more qualified to help you strut into fall footwear that balances lust (eye-catching details and sexy silhouettes) with must (wiggle room for toes, vertigo-free heels).

Size matters

The shortcut to happy feet is simple: Buy. Your. Size. “If you don’t have the right fit, you’re going to have problems,” says Camuto. Sounds easy enough...until that must-have pair turns you into Cinderella’s stepsister. “A store may not have an 8.5, so they sell you the 8. Then your toes are too near the front of the shoe and that’s going to hurt.” Don’t be swayed by any pair that pinches the front of your feet or doesn’t comfortably cradle heels. And don’t be shy about asking for larger sizes or various widths, something many footwear retailers now offer. “We make up to size 11,” says Camuto. “We’ve addressed the fact that the average foot size is increasing.”

Don’t fall flat

You’d think the lowest heels would yield the highest level of comfort, but that’s not always the case. Proper support is the secret to a flat shoe that feels like a slipper. You want an inside that’s built up, says Camuto, who designs his flats with highly cushioned soles or even a subtle inner wedge. “You don’t want to feel like you’re kicking back—that’s very important when you’re on your feet.”

Get height without hurt

Looking for height without the hurt? Ample padding under the balls of the feet and heels is a good sign, but draw the line at any style that forces your foot into a severe angle. Comfort is a chief factor in Camuto’s high-heel design process. “We don’t have a pitch that goes ‘straight down the hill,’ as I call it; we design an inner sole that curves. I don’t think it’s healthy for women. The worst thing you can do is wear a shoe that has you walking pitched forward.”

Don’t expect stretch

Whether it’s the voice of an eager salesperson or the voice in your head, “They’ll stretch” is a common shoe-store phrase. How much? Not enough to change this hard fact: “If you have the right boot, you shouldn’t have to break it in,” says Camuto. “They should feel good when you’re in the store.” Stick to footwear made of soft, flexible leather. If you’ve fallen head over heels for a less pliable pair, visit a cobbler, says Camuto, and have them soften or stretch the leather. And pre-empt blisters by wearing socks, even layered pairs, to minimize rubbing.

Rev up your style

When it comes to naming the hottest boot of the season, Camuto is clear: “The moto boot continues to be a key look. You can wear it with a skirt, pants, jeans—it looks good with everything.” And there’s now a moto to suit your every mood. Beyond the classic tough-girl boot (think mid-calf height finished with hardware and hefty flat heels), you’ll find elegant alternatives such as ankle booties or tall versions that hug legs, elevated by stacked heels.



VINCE CAMUTO LOUISE ET CIE FLATS, \$225, VINCE CAMUTO YORKDALE, SHOEBOUQUE.CA



VINCE CAMUTO PUMPS, \$120, VINCE CAMUTO YORKDALE, SHOEBOUQUE.CA



VINCE CAMUTO BOOTS, \$250, VINCE CAMUTO YORKDALE, SHOEBOUQUE.CA

PRESS PLAY

BOBBY PIN BOOT CAMP

How to use the U-pin to tidy any updo

BY VANESSA TAYLOR



CREATE A DECORATIVE DO WITH PINK PINS AT THEKIT.CA/VIDEOS/



V HANDY

The U-pin (otherwise known as a hairpin or V-pin) is wider than a bobby pin and used to add polish and support to updos.



SECURE STRAY STRANDS

To tuck in fly-aways or loose ends without flattening your updo, centre a pin over a stray piece and slide it gently into the base.



BALANCE YOUR BUN

Texturize the hair by teasing and spraying with hairspray to create a cushion for the U-pins. Tuck hair into cushion using pin.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY: LAURA LANKTREE (BOBBY PINS)

SWAROVSKI.COM



Miranda Kerr

Pendant \$340
Bracelets from \$70



VANCOUVER EDMONTON CALGARY WINNIPEG TORONTO OTTAWA MONTREAL QUEBEC CITY MONCTON HALIFAX

© 2014 SWAROVSKI AG



ONE-MINUTE MIRACLE

Dear Bioderma wipes, It's not just me; pretty much everyone who works in fashion or beauty adores you. Since 1991, your non-irritating, no-rinse micellar cleansing water has been a skin-care essential, though as a big bottle of liquid, you didn't make a good travel partner. But now you've emerged better than ever, as Bioderma Sensibio H2O Dermatological Wipes. Larger and wetter than average wipes, with no fragrance and nothing to irritate sensitive eyes, you were a loyal and loving companion during the hectic New York Fashion Week. Let's go on another trip together soon. Love, Rani Sheen

BIODERMA SENSIBIO H2O DERMATOLOGICAL WIPES, \$15. AT DRUGSTORES

WEEKEND UPDATE
THE COMIC STRIP

Colourful cartoon-print purses are everywhere. Here's how to pull them off without looking like you've borrowed your preteen niece's handbag

BY VANESSA TAYLOR



1. Sporty style
When it comes to power dressing 2.0, this is exactly what comes to mind this season. The boxy jacket and midi-skirt are key silhouettes for fall, but the athletic-inspired accessories like the designer sneakers and anime-print satchel inject a little humour into the look.

2. Mix & match
A varsity-inspired sweater, a delicate lace skirt and stilettos work together because of the monochromatic palette, but we love the green clutch with a quirky car graphic that punctuates the look.

3. Day-glo
Don't let this voluminous topper fool you—this outfit relies on relatively classic silhouettes. The cropped trousers and jacket combo takes on a youthful feel with these neon accessories.

4. Within the lines
If you prefer to keep your look sophisticated, this sharply styled classic trench coat paired with the perfect red pout and sleek clutch is for you. This version conveys the trend with line-drawn doodles



in black and white instead of colourful characters.

5. Focus on extras
While the pastel coat is bang on for this season, this outfit contains many pieces you likely already have in your wardrobe—slim jeans, a slouchy hat and sneakers. A few playful extras are key to this look, like the ultra-long scarf and cutesy Snoopy purse.

6. Spot on
Jeremy Scott (who created this look) is propelling this trend forward. For the ultimate cartoon-inspired outfit, look to his fall collection. While a head-to-toe outfit isn't for everyone, the oversized sweater dress and the stunning backpack make fantastic pieces on their own.



The It item To maximize the versatility of this poppy-print, we suggest sticking with a smaller size like this satchel or a clutch. MARC BY MARC JACOBS CROSS BODY BAG, \$304, SHOPBOP.COM

WE LOVE THE BLACK AND WHITE PAINTERLY STROKES



PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER STIGTGER (STREETSTYLE)



FACE
CANCER
WITH
CONFIDENCE

Cancer and its treatment can take a toll on your appearance, often making the face in the mirror unrecognizable and robbing you of your sense of self.

A free **Look Good Feel Better** workshop can lift your spirits and empower you to look and feel more like yourself again. Open to women facing any type of cancer and any type of treatment, this two-hour workshop will teach you about:

- Cosmetic hygiene
- Skin care
- Cosmetics
- Sun care
- Hair alternatives

Beyond the practical benefits, you'll receive warm support and guidance from our volunteers who are experts in cosmetics and hair alternatives, while also connecting with other women facing cancer. A complimentary kit of cosmetics and skin care products is yours to take home, giving you the tools to face cancer with confidence.

Find a workshop near you:
lookgoodfeelbetter.ca | 1 800 914 5665



LGFBCanada @LGFBCanada

LOOK GOOD FEEL BETTER IS A PROGRAM OF THE CANADIAN COSMETIC, TOILETRY AND FRAGRANCE ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION | REGISTERED CHARITY NO 13374 0316 RR 0001

AGNES
Cancer survivor, professional makeup artist and Look Good Feel Better volunteer
Read Agnes' blog on our website

DRESSING UP

GROWN-UP OVERALLS

The evolution of one fashion lover's affair with overalls

BY MICHELLE BILODEAU



When the overall trend started happening, thanks to street-style stars like Miro Duma, Leandra Medine and Cara Delevingne, I was a bit hesitant to revisit this bygone look. Not because I don't love overalls (trust me, they hold a major place in my sartorial history), but because I worried about how to

wear them without looking like a five-year-old or a farmer. A massive fan of Richard Linklater's *Dazed and Confused* and all the amazing 1970s denim that appeared in the flick, I wanted to find a new place for overalls in my closet, so I quickly surfed online for references that could help me wear overalls with sophisticated flair. I also contacted my mom, to chat about my history with the denim mainstay. She recalled a pair of floral shortalls that she put me in when I was around age four. "I always had you dressed so cute in those days," she said. My recollection of my colourful toddler wardrobe was vague, but what I do remember is

walking into Le Château with my allowance as a preteen and purchasing a pair of thin-strapped beige linen shortalls. (I still have these somewhere in storage!) Then there were my hip-hop-influenced denim overalls when I was around 15, which I paired with oversized hoop earrings, a white ribbed tank top and sneakers, mimicking my fave girl band, TLC. After seeing overalls from Frame Denime and Adam Selman (who sent a cowhide pair down the runway), as well as versions from Jill Stuart and Rudsak (silver, leather!), I was back on the bandwagon. Or should I say chuckwagon? Rocking overalls today may be tricky, so after taking inspiration from vintage black and white photos, the 1970s and my favourite street-style stars (including Emma Watson in a blue collared shirt under light denim overalls), I grabbed a pair for myself, carefully pairing them with a thin

turtleneck, a chunky gold chain, black patent pointy-toe pumps and a structured bag, to help me graduate from the playground to the real world. And surprisingly, as a 30-something professional, I did not feel anything but chic and comfortable. Which also just so happens to be my everyday motto. For weekends, I've even worked them with a white V-neck tee, Alexander Wang booties and an oversized clutch. But one thing has stayed with me from my days of listening to Wu-Tang Clan and Nas: I will never be caught wearing them with one strap down. This is my pledge.



Michelle Bilodeau is *The Kit's* digital editor. Follow her on Twitter at @mbilodeau



FROM LEFT: ANNE KLEIN TURTLENECK, \$69, HUDSON'S BAY; SONIA BY SONIA RYKIEL JACKET, \$810 US, NET-A-PORTER.COM; KATE SPADE LICORICE HEELS, \$298, HUDSON'S BAY; MICHAEL KORS NECKLACE, \$175, MICHAEL KORS.COM; MARSHALL'S OVERALLS, \$35, MARSHALL'S



POLITICS OF FASHION | FASHION OF POLITICS RUNS FROM SEPT. 18, 2014 TO JAN. 25, 2015 AT THE DESIGN EXCHANGE IN TORONTO. IT IS JEANNE BEKER'S CURATORIAL DEBUT

Catherine Malandrino Flag Dress, 2001
I remember that right after the devastation of 9/11, I actually wondered if the fashion industry would go on. After all, who could be involved in anything that "trite" in the face of the overwhelming tragedy that had just unfolded? But the fashion crowd is known for resiliency, and the very next season, designers returned with new optimism, many intent on expressing their patriotism. French designer Catherine Malandrino's iconic Flag Dress, first presented in her Fall 2001 collection, was worn by many celebrities and fashionistas to make a patriotic point after 9/11 and was relaunched in 2008 in light of the Obama presidential campaign.



Vivienne Westwood Malcolm McLaren Tartan Bondage Suit, 1977
Dissatisfaction was in the air in London in the late 1970s, with a recession, poor education and unemployment on the rise. Youth developed a rebellious attitude that was filled with rage, and punk, a new musical style that was aggressive, irreverent, and in your face, was born. From their shop on King's Road, Vivienne Westwood and Malcolm McLaren began to

produce clothing aimed at challenging taboos about sexuality, tradition and society. The provocative bondage collection for both men and women was about clothes that were decidedly restrictive and unromantic. "But when you put them on," said Westwood, "they gave you a feeling of freedom."



Castelbajac Obama Dress, 2008
Designer Jean-Charles de Castelbajac, a French nobleman with a wonderful sense of humour, got tongues wagging when he sent a sequined dress with Barack Obama's face on the front down the runway. Presented less than a month before Obama won the U.S. presidential election in 2008, the back of the dazzling frock displayed the quote "I have a dream today." And as a perfect punctuation mark, Castelbajac teamed the dress with matching gloves, one with the word "yes" and the other with "no"—an obvious nudge to get out and vote. Katy Perry wore Castelbajac's design at the 2008 MTV Europe Music Awards, days after the election.



Trudeaumania Paper Dress, 1968
As a rebellion against the older generation's values of durability, and as a statement about our consumerist, disposable society, the Scott Paper Company introduced paper dresses in the mid-1960s. It was a memorable marketing stunt, and by 1967, paper dresses were being sold in department stores for about \$8 each. The whimsical dresses often featured pop-art patterns and celebrity faces. And sure enough, political promoters took advantage and printed politicians' faces on them. Both Richard Nixon and Bobby Kennedy had their faces on paper dresses, as did Pierre Elliott Trudeau, when our country was in the throes of Trudeaumania.

A CLICK AWAY FROM YOUR CLOSET

OUR FAVOURITE ITEMS FROM E-TAILERS WE LOVE

Casual, Cozy, Comfortable and Cool
Chilly Fall days call for cozy, casual boots that provide warmth, but ooze cool. The Clay Suede Lace Up Bootie is quintessential Vince, with clean lines in neutral grey suede. Crepe soles are perfect for weekend walks and flannel lining will keep your feet warm as temperatures dip. Wear them with distressed jeans, your favourite wooly sweater and an oversized scarf for a look that is casual and comfortable from head to toe.



Vince \$350

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In collaboration with *The* **SEPTEMBER**

Maker Alysha is an award-winning graduate of the Ontario College of Art and Design University in jewelry and metal-smithing. Her inspiration comes from connections with people who have touched her life, places that have intrigued her, and nature.

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CULTURE FIX

Fashion studies

Talk about making a statement: A new exhibit explores the political messages of iconic fashion items

With style enthusiasts becoming increasingly brave, we're all realizing the power of dress when it comes to self-expression. Of course, not everybody takes advantage of fashion's potential to let the world know who they are and what they believe in. But throughout the course of pop history—the past 50 years or so—sartorial fare has been used as a both viable and stylish means to express a range of socio-political ideologies. And whether it's blatant messaging on a T-shirt or the intellectual concept behind an entire designer collection, fashion has proved to be a compelling platform for raising awareness and, in some cases, inciting change. My work on a forthcoming exhibit, *Fashion of Politics, Politics of Fashion*, at Toronto's Design Exchange (until to Jan. 25, 2015) has been a fascinating ride through the zeitgeist of the decades. It begins with the idealistic 1960s, when clothes started to matter to my generation in bold, new ways. It's also been heartening to remember the passion of various designers I've gotten to know over the years—creative artists who truly wanted to make the world a more beautiful place, and a better one as well. And with the public so style savvy, it's interesting to see how politicians themselves play with image and try to use fashion to its best advantage. More than 200 pieces are on display in the exhibit. Here are a few of my favourites. —Jeanne Beker

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