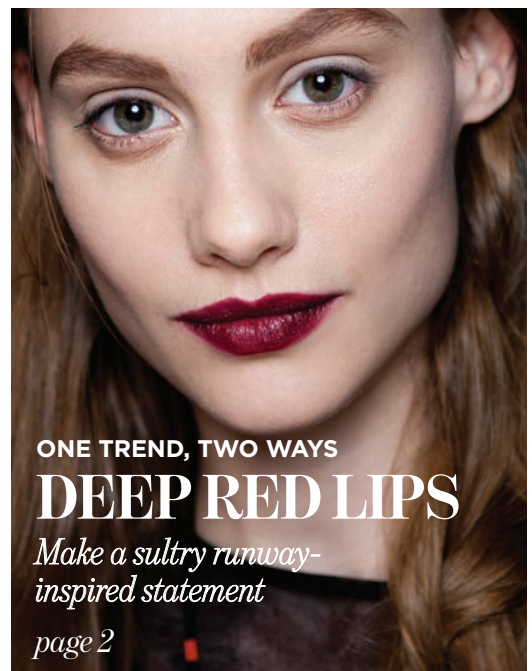


THE Kit

BEAUTY &
FASHION



ONE TREND, TWO WAYS

DEEP RED LIPS

Make a sultry runway-inspired statement

page 2



WE SNEAK A PEEK INSIDE SUZANNE ROGERS'S SPARKLING JEWELLERY BOX. PHOTOGRAPHY: KAYLA ROCCA

TREASURE TROVE

Canadian jewellery designers are gaining momentum. Suzanne Rogers is among their loyal followers and shows off her fave pieces

BY INGRIE WILLIAMS

On home turf and abroad, Canadian fashion designers have enjoyed an unprecedented swell of promotion and praise over the past few years. But there's another part of your wardrobe that deserves "shop local" support: jewellery. No matter your style preference or mood, our home and native land boasts designers who make adornments of every type.

Fashion-savvy philanthropist Suzanne Rogers is often snapped wearing homegrown baubles as finishing touches to outfits steeped in international brands. Her jewellery box houses dramatic costume sparklers by Alan Anderson, "an incredibly creative man," she says, who often redesigns vintage jewellery. Rita Tesolin features prominently as well because "she thinks out of the box and her pieces are such fun to wear," says Rogers. For fine jewellery, Rogers deems Mark Lash "perfection," and she prizes several Lash bracelets given to her by her husband to mark the births of their children. There's also one significant way that her collection sings daily with national pride. "Linda Penwarden designed my wedding ring, which obviously has special meaning," says Rogers. "She also made the custom cufflinks I gave my husband."

Continued on page 6

GLITTER & GOLD

HOLIDAY FASHION

Reinvent your party style and relegate the LBD: Sequins are back with a bang. From a camisole to a jumpsuit, choose your level of adventure—all roads lead to a look that's elegant, fun and fresh

page 4

PHOTOGRAPHY: CARLYLE ROUTH. CHANEL JACKET AND PANTS, PRICE ON REQUEST, CHANEL BOUTIQUES

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M

MELANIE LYNE

GET SET FOR THE HOLIDAYS

melanielyne.com




THE MONTH'S BEST

New and noteworthy

Cracking open a fresh notebook is a gratifying experience for anyone who likes to record happenings and conversations or jot down ideas that strike in the middle of the night. In the digital age, where everything happens on a phone or tablet, note-taking by hand, with a real pen, on real lined pages, is a real pleasure. This is especially true when using a hardbound notebook held shut with a simple strip of elastic, and YSL has borrowed that experience for its holiday palette, bound in black and gold leather with a tassel-trimmed elastic. It contains

four metallic shadows for a twinkling holiday eye, a soft pink blush for a just-in-from-the-cold flush and two lip colours: a dark pink Rouge Pur Couture lipstick and a sheeny coral-red gloss. All in all, it makes us much more likely to take note of the need for touch-ups. —Rani Sheen. Photography: Geoffrey Ross.

YVES SAINT LAURENT PALETTE COLLECTOR WILD EDITION, \$100, HOLT RENFREW, MURALE. POPPIN NOTEBOOKS, \$12, INDIGO.CA

 **TWEET OF THE WEEK**

“Diamonds are a girl’s best friend... especially when you earn them on your own. Amour”

@lindsaylohan, Nov. 12, 2014

BEAUTY MATH

Mega lashes and a bold tangerine lip add up to a look we love

LASH-BOOSTING MASCARA LIKE **CARGO COSMETICS** HD PICTURE PERFECT MASCARA, \$26, DRUGSTORES

A CREAM-TO-POWDER MATTE LIP COLOUR LIKE **BITE BEAUTY** CASH-MERE LIP CREAM IN SHERRY, \$32, SEPHORA.CA

=



Jessica Chastain made a strong statement at the *Interstellar* premiere at the National Air and Space Museum on November 5, 2014, in Washington, D.C. Follow her lead and line your lips with a clear or nude lip pencil to create a precise outline and prevent feathering, then fill them in with a vibrant orange matte lip cream. Apply two coats of mascara from roots to tips, holding the wand vertically to reach the little lashes at the corners. —Natalasha Bruno

TALKING POINT



PIGGY PEDI

Miley Cyrus’s nutty hijinks have taken a porcine turn. Billy Ray’s daughter attracted haters last week after posting an Instagram picture of her pet pig, Bubba Sue, getting a bright red manicure. Animal lovers were aghast that she’d expose a creature to the chemicals in nail polish. Next time the duo are considering a vacay spot, we suggest Singapore’s new five-star hotel, the Wagington. Guests (that is, dogs) who can afford the prices can get aromatherapy facials, swim in a bone-shaped pool or have gourmet room service delivered to their air-conditioned suites. The spot is aimed at canines, but they’d probably make an exception for Bubba Sue, and maybe even Miley. —Denise Balkissoon



ANTONIO MARRAS



TIBI

ONE TREND, TWO WAYS

DARK KISS

Blackened berry lips make a vampy cool-weather statement

Velvet centres at Antonio Marras
Taking the dark lip one step further, makeup artist Tom Pecheux applied a rich M.A.C Cosmetics matte lip stain, concentrating the colour at the centre of the lips to add dimension.

Sharp contrast at Tibi
Starting with full, groomed brows and highlighted skin, makeup artist Kim Soane precisely applied a dark wine Bobbi Brown lipstick with a creamy finish, keeping the outline sharp and perfectly defined. —Natalasha Bruno



NYC NEW YORK COLOR SMOOCH PROOF 16HR LIP STAIN IN FOREVER MINE WINE, \$6, DRUGSTORES. BOBBI BROWN LIP COLOUR IN SPICED WINE, \$30, BOBBIBROWN COSMETICS.COM




CANADIAN BEAUTY JUNKIES
The best subscription since Netflix, the monthly product sample service from beauty e-tailer Birchbox is coming to Canada.

JOE FRESH
The company is expanding with new locations coming in Mexico, Honduras, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador.

KIM KARDASHIAN
The reality star annoyed fans when she nearly sent the Internet crashing by posting a revealing cover for *Paper* magazine.

CALVIN KLEIN
When it hired size 10 model Myla Dalbesio, calling her its first plus-size model, the company received backlash.

RALPH RUCCI
After 20 years in business, designer Ralph Rucci leaves his namesake fashion house “to pursue other creative endeavours.”





NEW CANADIAN-MADE SERIES
MATTHEW GALLAGHER

Meet the romantic womenswear designer who picks his fabrics from Milan via WhatsApp

BY MARYAM SIDDIQI

"I miss Italy," says designer Matthew Gallagher, "but it's fun to come back to where I started." In 2013, Gallagher moved back to Canada from Milan, where he studied at the Istituto Europeo de Design. "I wasn't planning on staying in Toronto," says the Nova Scotia native. He returned in early 2013 because he had the opportunity to show his first Maison Matthew Gallagher collection at Toronto fashion week that March. "I figured I'd go back to Canada for one or two months to do the show. But I got good feedback and wanted to build on the momentum so decided to stay."

Home is now Toronto's Yorkville neighbourhood. He has since shown four runway collections and is nominated for a Canadian Arts and Fashion Award for Emerging Designer, which carries a \$10,000 prize. But his heart remains in Italy—and so does a key to his success. Gallagher still works with the Milan fabric store that he frequented while studying there—95 per cent of the fabrics he uses are from this shop. "They'll send photos on WhatsApp and samples through the mail," he explains about how he makes decisions on the materials he works with from season to season.

Gallagher says the theme of Maison Matthew Gallagher is "understated sexiness" and that the MMG woman is strong and feminine. "She's a woman who wants to feel special and wants people to notice her." His fabric choices help him convey this. Much of the most recent collection is composed of silk chiffon. "It looks heavy, but it's light as a feather," says the

designer. Cady, a stretch fabric, also plays prominently. "It falls like silk, but it's not shiny."

Right now, Gallagher, 28, is a one-man show—creating patterns, cutting, sewing, fitting and working on custom commissions all in the living room of his small condo. "It's aging me quickly," he jokes. Winning at the CAFAs would help. "It would allow me to grow the business internally and take some of the small steps needed to produce a few key pieces to get into a few shops," he says. "I want—and need—to get to the next level."

This is the first in a series on emerging designers nominated for a Canadian Arts and Fashion Award, the ceremony for which will be held on January 31, 2015. Visit cafarwards.ca.



ONE-MINUTE MIRACLE

Dear Ren Flash Rinse 1 Minute Facial, At the end of a long, grey day when I'm feeling down, and a little bit dull, you never fail to perk me up. You understand that I want to wind down and don't ask much of me, just that I smooth your jelly-like formula over my face, massage quickly with damp fingers to activate your brightening vitamin C (a power-packed 10 per cent of your formula), leave for 60 seconds and then rinse away. You leave me fresher, smoother and much less grumpy. *Yours,* Rani Sheen

REN FLASH RINSE 1 MINUTE FACIAL, \$58, SEPHORA.CA



WEEKEND UPDATE

THE MINIATURE HANDBAG

From a cross-body for running errands to a stylish hands-free addition to your Saturday-night outfit, handbags are shrinking

BY VANESSA TAYLOR

1. The cubical mate

The tiny bag is a no-brainer for busy model and mom Miranda Kerr. It's also an easy solution for 9-to-5-ers: If you need a larger tote to hold all your belongings, pop this one inside and use it for coffee breaks or easy access to bus fare.

2. Scaling down

When this Céline bag first hit the scene, it was a supersized tote—but this shrunken version seen on Kendall Jenner is a welcome update. The smaller scale makes for a low-key look, which is especially fitting for her off-duty moto jacket and slouchy trousers.

3. Not so basic black

Mindy Kaling opts for a classic black purse but with a sparkly twist on the red carpet. This bag can be worn with a longer shoulder strap (like here) or converted into a small evening bag using the jewelled handle, with the strap removed. Since her dress has a strong graphic print, this smaller bag is the perfect accessory that doesn't compete for attention.

4. Look, no hands!

For mums, who always have both hands full, the compact cross-body keeps the essentials close by, like here on Sarah Jessica Parker. Carrying nothing more than phone, cash and keys, this pint-size version is the ideal grab 'n' go option for running out the door.

5. Junior edition

Leave it to baby North West to be on top of the trends—her tiny bag

with studding embellishment and chain strap hits the mark. While we're not sure what she could possibly be carrying, it's an adorable addition to her outfit.

6. In the clear

When it comes to an evening bag, this mini style is an easy alternative to the standard clutch. While Poppy Delevingne's frock boasts an intricate neckline, the small chain strap and clear case appear subtle, so long as what's inside is well edited.

The it item

We love this frosty mint shade with substantial gold hardware and thin chain strap for this time of year. Pair this with oversized knits for a casual take or a sleek blazer for a dressier looks.

REBECCA MINKOFF BAG, \$199, SHOPBOR.COM



PHOTOGRAPHY: GETTY IMAGES (GALLAGHER/RUNWAY, KALING, KARDASHIAN, AND DELEVINGNE), KEYSTONE PRESS (KERR, JENNER AND PARKER).



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GUESS SEQUIN JUMPSUIT, \$119; **GUESS** CA. **ANN TAYLOR** PEPLUM JACKET, \$261; **ANN TAYLOR**.COM; **MICHELLE ROSS** EARRINGS (ONE SHOWN), \$149; **MNROSS**.COM; **MICHAEL MICHAEL KORS** BOX CLUTCH, \$299; **MICHAEL KORS**.COM; **HOMESENSE** VELVET TUFTED BENCH, \$300; **HOMESENSE**

1



CANDY CLUTCH
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SOPHIA WEBSTER FOR **J. CREW** AMMA PUMPS, \$695; **J. CREW**.COM; **EXPRESS** CAMI, \$50; **EXPRESS**.COM; **SMYTHE** TUXEDO BLAZER, \$335; **PANTS**, \$495; **HOLT RENFREW**; **HOMESENSE** DINING ROOM CHAIR, \$180



2

1. The one-piece
Don't underestimate the ease of a jumpsuit—it has the simplicity of a dress (it's an instant outfit) but with zero fuss over matching hosiery or feeling too revealing. This particular style features a halter neckline, which is fitting for an evening do, and a tailored jacket or boxy cardigan makes the perfect pairing for an office party.

2. The suit
For a striking silhouette, few looks rival a statement suit. While the base is a tweed fabric, the sequins are woven in, creating a shimmering tone—this is a key detail that grounds the overall look. As with any suit, the fit is paramount: Choose a shape that flatters but also can be broken up and paired with items you already own, like pencil skirts and blouses.

3. The topper
Hands down, one of the most flattering sequined pieces to own is the embellished jacket or top. While there are plenty of great versions in solid black sequins, this printed number also has vertical lines along the torso, making it extra flattering. Works seamlessly with a basic button-up and black trousers or jeans.

4. The dress
While a sequined dress (especially around the holiday season) is not necessarily brand new, it's how you wear it that's been updated. Look for a slightly loose fit (skin-tight styles don't offer much versatility) with long sleeves. While sequins are definitely a statement, they help to conceal lumps and bumps (this is also why a looser cut is helpful) because the eye keeps moving with the shine. Also, don't be restricted by footwear—try on pointy-toe flats or a sleek Chelsea boot and see what works best.

5. The mini
Graphic prints in classic metallic shades put a downtown spin on sequins. This miniskirt shifts from being reserved for evenings out to casual weekend wear, when paired with a chunky turtleneck or blouse. (This works with longer skirts, too.) Add a pair of opaque tights and it can be worn with ankle boots.

6. The midi
While a formal floor-skimming maxi skirt can be limiting, this sparkly midi length (hitting anywhere below the knee to lower calf) walks the fine line of reading dressy when teamed with a substantial stiletto or a little more casual with a flat oxford or boot. That versatility makes it one of our favourites this season, whether you're heading to a family brunch or informal cocktails with friends.

Cover look: The shell
The sequined cami is your no-risk entry point if you're testing sequins for the first time. With minimal investment (many budget-friendly retailers carry them in a slew of shades), you can start with just a small amount of sparkle peeking from beneath a jacket or cardigan. If you plan to wear it sans topper, look for more of a tank silhouette that will completely conceal any bra straps and offer a little more coverage, instead of spaghetti straps. Chanel flap bag, price on request, Chanel boutiques

EXPRESS MINI SKIRT, \$60; **EXPRESS**.COM; **BANANA REPUBLIC** BLOUSE, \$110; **BANANA REPUBLIC**.CA; **MARNI** CROPPED SWEATER, \$1,050; **HOLT RENFREW**; **DEAN DAVIDSON** RING, \$255; **HOLT RENFREW**; **DEAN DAVIDSON**.CA



4

MICHAEL MICHAEL KORS SEQUIN DRESS, \$225; **MICHAEL MICHAEL KORS**.COM; **DANIER** JACKET, \$599; **DANIER**.COM; **MICHAEL MICHAEL KORS** ANKLE BOOTS, \$278; **MICHAEL MICHAEL KORS**.COM; **MULBERRY** CAMPDEN CLUTCH, \$990; **MULBERRY**.COM; **DEAN DAVIDSON** APEX RING, \$255; **HOLT RENFREW**; **DEAN DAVIDSON**.CA; **HOMESENSE** INDUSTRIAL WOOD STOOL, \$100; **HOMESENSE**

HOW DO I CLEAN THAT?

If you ask any luxury retailer in Toronto who they trust with their precious merchandise or personal items (think Granny's stash of Hermès silk scarves), the answer is almost always Creeds, with over three decades of garment-care experience. We spoke with president Jeremy Creed about how to clean tricky holiday fabrics.

Embellished

If the care label indicates the item is washable, hand-wash with a mild detergent and lay flat to dry. "Most beaded or sequined pieces need to be professionally cleaned," says Creed. And fragile finishes (like studding or rhinestones that are glued on) as well as any special fabrics like wax-dipped or iridescent finishes that can be removed during dry cleaning, should also go to a cleaning professional, he says.

Delicate knits

"After each wear, air your sweater out on a padded hanger (skinny wire hangers are the enemy).," says Creed. If it can be hand-washed, lay it flat to dry (hang drying stretches out the garment because of the weight of the water). If it needs to be dry cleaned, take measurements beforehand (Creeds measures all knit garments to ensure the item is delivered back as expected). If you suspect shrinkage, a professional can return the item to its original shape using a steam and pressure process.

Leather

"Cleaning leather at home isn't recommended, so extend the wear of your coat or top by wearing a scarf around your neck to protect the collar from body oils and perspiration," says Creed. Remember to store any leather piece in a breathable fabric garment bag—instead of a plastic one that dries out the leather. When having an item professionally cleaned, bring all matching accessories like straps or belts to be cleaned at the same time (even if they aren't 'dirty'); this will ensure a consistent colour for the whole piece.



3

BANANA REPUBLIC BLOUSE, \$119; **BANANA REPUBLIC**.CA; **PINK TARTAN** MATTE PANT, \$325; **HOLT RENFREW**; **BAYVIEW VILLAGE**, YORKVILLE AND **PINK TARTAN**.COM; **H&M** BEADED TOP, \$199; **H&M**.COM; **TED BAKER LONDON** CLUTCH, \$240; **TED BAKER LONDON**.COM; **SOPHIA WEBSTER** FOR **J. CREW** NICOLE HEEL, \$510; **J. CREW**.COM; **HOMESENSE** AREA RUG, \$600; **HOMESENSE**

Shimmer and shine

From the catwalk to the street, sequins are having a revival—and they've never looked better

BY VANESSA TAYLOR
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CARLYLE ROUTH

If you thought sequins were just for disco divas and drag queens, think again. And we're not just talking about a dress that comes out once a year for New Year's Eve bashes. Their application this season in structured dresses and flowy skirts (and even onesies!) is both classy and contemporary. They're sprinkled on casual sweatshirts and knits or adorning cropped trousers, as seen at J.Crew's fall/winter presentation during Toronto fashion week. Whether you're easing into this look with just a hint of shine or searching for a show-stopping party piece, we've selected the absolute best looks—ideal now, during the busy holiday season, and well into the winter months.



6

DONNA KARAN NEW YORK SKIRT, \$5,965; **HOLT RENFREW**; **H&M** SWEATER, \$79; **H&M**.COM; **J. CREW** CHOKER, \$114; **J. CREW**.COM; **CALL IT SPRING** FLATS, \$45; **CALL IT SPRING**.COM; **MACKAGE** CLUTCH, \$295; **MACKAGE**.COM

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HAIR AND MAKEUP BY VANESSA JARMAN USING RIMMEL LONDON/TREEMME FOR PH.CA

Canadian gems

Continued from cover

Given Rogers's access to labels of all origins (she's pals with Zac Posen, after all), it's refreshing—and maybe even a bit surprising—to see her consistently decked out in Canadian jewellery. She doesn't see it that way, however. "I don't think of it as 'local' talent—just talent," she says. "It's really inspiring to see the pride Canadian jewellers have in their work, and that rubs off on you. You then love to wear their pieces and take pride in them being Canadian. I would put all those designers up against equivalent designers anywhere in the world."

ROCK STARS

Three homegrown jewellery lines sure to dazzle

1. A sparkling statement

With a glittering collection now at bridal mecca Kleinfeld Hudson's Bay, it's fair to say that Rita Tesolin has come a long way from designing jewellery as a young teen. "I wanted

accessories to match my outfits, so I started making earrings and hair bows out of leather scraps," she says. "My aesthetic today is bold, eclectic, asymmetric yet balanced," she says. "I love to work with natural stones, such as natural turquoise and smoky quartz, to be surrounded by their energy. I find it invigorating." Her signature pieces (oversized bib necklaces, shoulder-grazing earrings, wide cuffs and beaded clutches) can be spotted at a distance, but she doesn't think big is the only way to be beautiful. "The statement is defined by the women wearing the jewellery," says Tesolin. "Whatever makes a woman feel confident is what she should wear."

2. Eco-luxe couture

"Defining the Ecksand style is nearly impossible," says Erica Bianchini, who helms a team of "renegades" as chief creative officer of the brand, "and that's the way we want it for our clients, because no two people's style is identical." Linking one-of-a-kind design with exclusive, ethically sound gems and next-level customer service, the Montreal-based line is shaking up the high-end jewellery industry. The brand's award-win-

ning Diamond Coil necklace is both innovative and incredibly striking. Still, there are some rules Bianchini adheres to—always match jewellery to your skin tone, for instance. "With the rose hues in my skin, yellow gold is not only fitting for me but making a comeback in my books," she says. This season, she'll be wearing peach or orange fine gems, like morganite, or light pink diamonds, as well as a large cocktail ring from the Veiled Heart collection. "Having a detail that only I know about, like a hidden heart on my ring, puts a huge smile across my face, and a big smile is above all most important for this extraordinary time of year."

3. Clean-line connoisseur

If gossamer chains and geometric shapes make you swoon, then Melanie Auld Jewellery is tailor made for you. "I tend to lean towards delicate pieces that can be worn or layered together to create a cool and individual look," says the B.C.-based designer. "It's more personal, and a woman can create her own style depending on which parties she might be attending." For her own outfit of the day, you'll find Auld wearing ear candy this season—a lot of it. "I am very much into layering my



TOP: CUSTOM CUFFLINKS, LINDA PENWARDEN; ABOVE: FLORAL NECKLACE, ALAN ANDERSON; BELOW LEFT: SUZANNE ROGERS; BELOW RIGHT: RITA TESSOLIN CRYSTAL CUFFS

HANDLE WITH CARE

Ellinor Stenroos, a Calgary-based silver- and goldsmith and jewellery designer of EVStenroos, shares the best way to take care of your treasures and trinkets.

Respect it: "Only clean pieces that have diamonds or sapphires as gems unless you have consulted a jeweller. Emeralds, pearls, opals and other softer materials need to be cleaned with extreme caution."

Clean it: "The best thing to use is just warm water, a toothbrush (never toothpaste, it's abrasive) and a liquid dish soap. Inspect jewellery afterwards for any stones that may have loosened. If a setting has worn down, a gem can remain in a ring solely because of the dirt buildup surrounding it. And costume jewellery may not endure a hot water bath, as glue may be a component."

Store it: "It won't visually dazzle you, but storing jewellery in individual Ziploc plastic bags helps prevent tarnishing and discolouring. And you'll easily be able to look through your collection."

ears right now," she says, describing her mix-and-match approach to ear jackets, studs, climbers and cuffs. Having blossomed from an personal artistic outlet in 2003—"Women would stop me to ask where I got my jewellery, and so it progressed into a line," she says—the modern-looking collection can be found in boutiques around the globe and Auld couldn't be happier. "Now I eat, sleep and breathe jewellery," she says. "The world is limitless inspiration."



ECKSAND RING, STARTING AT \$3,200, ECKSAND.COM. RITA TESSOLIN EARRINGS, \$375, RITATESOLIN.COM. MELANIE AULD JEWELRY NECKLACE, \$185, MELANIEAULD.COM



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- K. Westlake



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PHOTOGRAPHY: KAYLA ROCCA (ROGERS'S JEWELLERY COLLECTION)

DRESSING UP

TAKING THE PLUNGE

Years removed from her braless days, one writer learns to embrace the bare-ish chest as a grown-up

BY JULIA LECONTE

For many, going away to university means freedom from parents and structure. For me, in 2003, it meant liberation from the shackles of adjustable straps. Thin, flat-chested and too young to care about nipple outlines, I was convinced that brassieres were for sports and, sometimes, grandparent visits. Otherwise, I was a braless wonder during my Ryerson years. Plus, having been born and raised in Deep River Ont., I was now in Toronto: My tops could dip low.

As I got older, gaining a bit of maturity, some shame and, most importantly, gainful employment, I worked a couple of bras into my rotation. My necklines rose accordingly.

But here we are in 2014, and deep Vs are everywhere. Naomi Watts (TIFF), Cara Delevingne (GQ Men of the Year issue), Kendall Jenner (Givenchy Spring 2015 runway show) and Kim Kardashian (everywhere) are testing the limits of exposure, flirting with the level of J.Lo's iconic Versace dress at the 2000 Grammy Awards.

But we don't all have Jennifer's abs, or a boxy-suited boyfriend to balance the look. So how does a 29-year-old non-celeb pull this off for everyday?

The first rule for real life is unfair and out of your control: Be born with small to modest breasts. I'm a Kate Hudson, not a Kate Upton, and (barely) filling an A-cup is half the battle. Big-breasted and want to rock the trend? I say: hell yes. But given the darting eyes I experienced during my experiment (I should get danger pay for taking public transit), I can imagine the awkwardness that actual cleavage would cause. Also, bras are impossible, so support is next to nil.

Second rule: Know your audience. Working in a very non-corporate media environment such as my Now Magazine office meant no one batted an eye at my exposed sternum, except to compliment me on a dipping white

Whitney Linen top and a sort of scandalous cowl-necked sweater. On the job, material is key to pulling it off: Clingy = bad, thick = good.

Third: Balance the look with modesty everywhere else. I paired a midi-length belly-button-grazing dress by Third Floor Studio with a jean jacket one night and a V-cut blazer the next. I also poured a fairly substantial necklace into the mix on one outing, to make the triangular swath of skin less in-your-face.

Fourth: Confuse would-be naysayers with business attire. As my friend the Now style writer Sabrina Maddeaux suggested, why not see the trend through to its ultimate incarnation? Instead of layering your look with a blazer, simply wear the jacket with nothing underneath, as Miley Cyrus and Rihanna have recently done. (Pasties—or, in my case, Band-Aids—are essential here.) A Smythe tuxedo dress worked beautifully for drinks in the financial district, while a deceptively soft topper from Le Château was fine in a coffee shop.

Fifth: No matter the strength of your double-sided tape, what was sleek against your skin while standing will bunch and gape when you sit down. If you must sit, accept the fact that someone might see your stomach rolls or a flash of full-on boob.



Sixth: As figure skaters have known for decades, sheer fabric is a great way to lower the risk of exposure. A see-through Narces dress with embroidered florals on the lady parts allowed for a carefree night at Toronto's coincidentally named Booby Ball fundraiser and a break from the perfect posture I'd adopted all week to avoid nip slips.

If you're confident baring your upper bod, deep Vs are surprisingly easy to wear. Man-repeller trends cause more of a commotion in most real-life scenarios: I've received more stink-eye from high-waisted jeans and shoulder pads. But a woman showing skin, for better or worse, will always be fairly normalized. Outside of a strictly corporate work environment, you'll be hard pressed to find a place where a little boob is unwelcome. Love that or hate it. Reflect on it. I am.

But I'm also just happy to peel off my Band-Aids and cover up. It's almost winter, after all.

Julia LeConte is the music editor at NOW magazine.

Below: Julia LeConte posts her field research on Instagram @julialeconte. Left and right: She wears dresses from Third Floor Studio (thirdfloorstudio.com); centre, LeConte in a Smythe tuxedo blazer (smythelevestes.com).



HANEY DRESS, \$1,275, NET-A-PORTER.COM. BCBGMAXAZRIA DRESS, \$287, BCBG.COM. LE CHÂTEAU BLAZER, \$110, LECHATEAU.COM.



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ML

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