



*the*  
**spyglass**



fall issue  
twenty twenty





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**based on your fall opinions,**

# **WHICH ONE OF MY FRIENDS' PETS**

**are you most similar to?**

# START

What's your favourite type of fall weather?

- A. Cool, foggy mornings or rainy afternoons.
- B. Suspiciously hot...with maybe 3 clouds.
- C. Windy, with the promise of rain at night.
- D. Clear & chilly, with starry skies after 7 PM.



mostly A

Behold (my personal favourite!) Severus. He's an emo but he can also be a baby. He is very energetic despite sleeping all the time. He enjoys sneaking into McDonalds and eating butterflies. For more wonderful pictures, his Instagram is @severus.dog.

What's your favourite fall food?

- A. Potatoes! Lots of potatoes!
- B. Baked apple goods.
- C. Super fancy Atlantic salmon.
- D. Poutine — with extra cheese.



mostly B

This beautiful boy's name is Roy. Despite what this picture suggests, he is surprisingly energetic. He is a "hungry boi", and will wait for you to drop food so he can snatch it from your paws. Like Severus, he likes chasing butterflies and squirrels.

What's the worst thing about fall?

- A. Really strange weather patterns.
- B. No more ice cream trucks.
- C. Adjusting to the new school year.
- D. Nothing! Fall is superior.



mostly C

You're most like Mimi! She likes to be very intimidating, she bites things, and she has a short attention span. Above all, she is very intelligent. Not sure if that's a good thing -- she is probably planning your funeral as we speak...

Pick a fall activity:

- A. Adventuring through piles of fallen leaves.
- B. Sleeping to the sound of the rain.
- C. Looking disdainfully at geese.
- D. Driving through the countryside with all the colourful trees



mostly D

Lucky you, you got Shori! He likes to sleep all day but he puts up with his family's antics pretty well. He likes cheese, car rides, and swimming at the family cottage, and is fluffier than a chinchilla.

What's the best Halloween costume?

- A. Christmas cosplay.
- B. Ghost (white sheet with cutouts).
- C. A politician...or the coronavirus cell.
- D. Something timeless like a demon or a goblin.

A vertical photograph of a person from the waist up, wearing a light-colored, patterned shawl over a dark shirt. They are holding a long, light-colored staff or walking stick. The background is a blurred landscape of green fields and trees.

CULTURE  
IS  
NOT  
A TREND

CULTURE  
IS  
NOT  
A TREND

CULTURE  
IS  
NOT  
A TREND

Oftentimes, I feel as though people have a hard time differentiating between cultural appropriation and appreciation. In a time where cultural sensitivities are heightened, it's important to understand why someone may be offended by the shirt you're wearing. Although the two words sound similar, their effects are drastically different. Appreciation and appropriation of a culture are separated by a fine line that one must navigate carefully. Unfortunately, the issue of appropriation isn't a one-worded answer that I can offer you in this article. You may be wondering, "who are we to say what other cultures can and cannot be offended by?" which is a valid question. Though, like the line that separates appreciation and appropriation of a culture, the answer is complicated.

To know the difference between the two, it's important to understand what appropriation really means. Cultural appropriation is not just about using or taking aspects of someone else's culture—it's about the power dynamics involved. Let's use the "fox-eye" trend as an example. Non-Asian celebrities, influencers and models have been promoting a "fox-eye" pose, which involves pulling one's eyes back in an exaggerated manner to create an "upward slant". You might be thinking, "what's the big deal? It's just a pose." Well, not quite.

An Asian person with narrow or heavy-lidded eyes has most likely heard a bad joke about their eye shape or faced ridicule for it at least one point in their life. Out of the blue, this trend comes along where non-Asians are being praised and called "beautiful" for an eye shape that this Asian person has had their whole life. See the issue? People who have never felt the brunt of having that eye shape are being complimented for something that they don't have. It's insensitive. By having this trend of "slanted" eyes, it reduces someone's race and hardships into a trend that will be gone in just a few months. Another horrible case of cultural appropriation was the 2019 Gucci turban being sold as an accessory.

To have been subjected to racism and prejudice for your religion and then having to see your culture being sold as an "accessory" is like a slap to the face. Starting to see the pattern? The gist is, the people benefiting from this power dynamic are being praised for something people of that culture are mocked for.

But there are also instances where a culture is appreciated properly. Angelina Jolie is known to be a humanitarian activist and often visits countries in the Middle East to connect with people in need. The

actress shows respect and appreciation for the cultures and religions of the countries she visits by wearing a hijab. Angelina Jolie is not appropriating the culture, all while making sure that the spotlight is on her mission.

Steps to differentiating between appropriation and appreciation starts with yourself. Examine your own culture. Would you be offended if someone wore your important cultural symbol inappropriately? Secondly, consider the context. Did you take or witness someone taking something from another's culture without knowing the significance behind it? Most importantly, is it your culture? If so, you have the right to decide if something upsets you or not. If not, you do not have a say in whether someone of that culture can be angry. Instead, support those who have had their culture appropriated and take action from there. Cultural harmony is achieved through knowledge. Be open! Learning, creating awareness and understanding the context will lead to appreciation rather than appropriation of other cultures.



## cultural harmony is achieved through knowledge

// JANICE KO  
PHOTOGRAPHY // RACHAEL PENG  
DESIGN // ANASTASIA BLOSSER



// MICHELLE LIU  
DESIGN // DAVID WANG

- + There are few fashion houses in the world who can rival the House of Chanel. Known for its timeless fashions, unique fragrances, and its role in shaping the fashion landscape of the 1920s, imagining any dark secrets lurking beneath Chanel's simple opulence would be difficult. However, greatness often brings with it controversy, and though information has become accessible, Chanel's fans are glued to its relevance in the fashion world. They remain ignorant to the pain and suffering of the victims of Adolf Hitler that was not only condoned, but actively enabled by Chanel's very foundation; Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel.
- + The Nazis occupied Paris in 1940. During this time, Chanel grew close with Baron Hans Günther von Dincklage, an officer in the German military intelligence known as "Abwehr". Her relationship with him allowed her to grow close with German-infiltrated high society. Through Dincklage, Chanel was introduced to Baron Louis de Vaufreland and became Abwehr Agent F-7124, codenamed "Westminster" after a former love interest of hers. Sent to Madrid to collect political information and again to British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, Chanel was eventually exposed by her friend Vera Lombardi in 1944. She managed to safely escape to Paris, and erased her ties to the German military. With an extravagant and celebrated return to the fashion world in 1954, Chanel lived the rest of her years as a celebrity before her death in the Hôtel Ritz in 1971.
- + Why would Chanel go to such lengths? Why get involved in a war that didn't involve her? Many questions swirl around the controversy, and answers can be found by looking into Chanel's personal interests. Impressed by her work in Madrid, German superiors released her nephew André Palasse from a prisoner-of-war camp. Chanel also managed to use her connections to free Lombardi from her detainment in an Italian prison. However heroic these personal intentions may seem, Chanel's business goals were by no means innocent. With "Aryanization" laws forcing Jews to give up their businesses, Chanel saw an opportunity to regain a branch of her empire. However, her efforts bore no fruit—the Wertheimer family transferred ownership to a Frenchman named Félix Amiot before fleeing to the United States. Ironically, the Wertheimer family backed Chanel's return to the fashion world after the war, and even today, Alain Wertheimer sits upon the throne of Chanel's fashion empire as CEO. The Wertheimers' ongoing reign sparks yet another question: why has Chanel not been rebranded if its namesake was actively responsible for the suffering of millions of people in the war, including the ancestors of its current owner?
- + Perhaps the Wertheimers are naïvely unaware of Chanel's role in the Second World War, or perhaps they are, like many others, simply afraid of change. Renaming such a large and illustrious company would cost a staggering amount of money, not to mention potential outrage in the fashion company as consumers feel that their logo clothing is no longer relevant. However, the most renowned fashion magazines, critics, and journalists are already enamoured with the idea that Chanel has started a new era. After the death of Karl Lagerfeld and the appointment of Virginie Viard as the brand's first female chief designer since Coco Chanel, Chanel's runways have already seen a drastic change in both setting and style. It is likely that if a name change were to occur, now would be the most, if not the only convenient time to do so until Viard is replaced. As a fashion powerhouse, Chanel has more funds than necessary to completely rebrand, and would not be the first to do so after Coach Inc. rebranded themselves to Tapestry Inc. with little difficulty.
- + Alas, the creative decisions of Chanel's empire lay in the hands of her beneficiaries, and though she never endured ramifications for her actions, her dark history has finally been unearthed from the gilded depths of her legacy.

# How to Talk to Humans

// SARAH GRISHPUL  
PHOTOGRAPHY// RACHEL LIU  
DESIGN// ELLIE LIANG

We all have something we're afraid of. Fear is simply a survival instinct built into our systems to protect us from the harsh reality of our world. Fears can often seem irrational, yet that doesn't make them any less terrifying to face. Being afraid of judgement during social interactions is often pushed aside as silly and foolish.

Still, that doesn't stop the fear from feeling any less real.

I've often struggled to feel at ease in social situations. As easy as it was to escape social environments as a child, the amount of energy I expended to actively avoid social interaction came to bite me in the behind once I began to grow up. Turns out, it is more challenging to remain withdrawn now that I'm older, due to the massive amount of social responsibilities now balancing on my shoulders. It was during the beginning of my newfound struggles that my parents gave me some important advice:

**"You will never get anywhere in life if you don't build up your communication skills."**

As much as I hate to admit it,  
they were right.

No good ever comes out of letting your fears and anxieties take the wheel. Avoiding interaction with others may grant you the alone time you desire, but in the long run, pushing aside emails, phone calls, texts, and communication will only isolate you further. By ignoring others, you will end up losing great opportunities and relationships you never knew existed. Seeking conversation and forming a network of people to converse with can create relationships that will make your life much happier.

The question is,

**how would you go about building those communication skills?**

Like every strength, this specific ability requires practice. Actively seeking out conversations and reasons to engage with people allows you to experiment with what works best for you. Diving in headfirst is a method that allows you to put your fears aside and be confident. Even though you may be terrified, it is essential to know that others won't notice your fear unless you indicate it. Body language is an important and unspoken form of communication that can conceal or reveal your internal emotions. Whether it's unconscious or not, taking note of your stance, hands, posture, and expression will help you determine what makes you and others feel comfortable and approachable.

I won't lie when I say that it's difficult to change your perception of your strengths and abilities.

Taking a step back and evaluating how you want your life to be led is the first step and is relatively simple, but implementing those strategies is a whole new ball game. However, the task is far from impossible. With the arrival of each day comes a new opportunity to learn and grow, so don't be afraid to share who you are with the world.

**don't be afraid to share who you are with the world.**

LEARNING

FROM

# SHAKESPEARIENCE

WITH MARVIN KARON & COLM FEORE

VIRTUAL WORKSHOP DATE VI IX MMXX

In a classroom environment when our first introduction to a piece of literature is hopelessly intertwined with our teacher's opinions and interpretations we believe that there is a wrong and right answer. Shakespeare forces us to think; Shakespearience teaches us to understand.

In the 22 years that Marvin Karon and Colm Feore have been running their Shakespearience workshop, they have discussed and dissected interdisciplinary topics such as literature, history, politics, and acting techniques for both the stage and screen. Their experience in front of the audience and behind the productions has given them extensive insight on the inner workings of drama, but they credit their success to reading Shakespeare.

Shakespeare's work is intimidating. His career has been gatekept by the educated and elite, giving the impression that one can never appreciate or understand his work without a formal education. He has become a status symbol, the bard of the bourgeoisie, yet he was still writing for the masses of London to fill his seats. Shakespeare wrote for the illiterate, for the uneducated and the poor because he wrote to connect and to sell tickets. He was constantly competing with his contemporaries to win over the masses, to book out performances. Unlike his associates however, he never faded into oblivion, so then there must be a reason he has stood the test of time.

Shakespeare's work is timeless experience within dated language, forcing his modern audience to compromise. To try and understand his plays and sonnets for the revered genius that he is, one must be willing to work through the seemingly different dialect that Shakespeare writes in. The language is the most disliked aspect of his plays, the only part that is readily criticized.

Though annotated copies and No Fear Shakespeare are blessings to students everywhere, the best they can do is translate the plays into comprehensible language. Unlike the screenplays of the 21st century, much of the emotions

and cues that Shakespeare used are not explicitly written. In the constantly changing theatre scene of the late sixteenth century, twenty plays could be shown in the same auditorium in a month. There was no rehearsal, nor director because there simply was not in the time. In an act of compromise for perfection and efficiency, Shakespeare gave his performers clues within their scripts, clues that have been passed down into your school-provided copy of Macbeth. Through alliteration, metre and a dozen other literary devices, subtle hints are dropped in reference to the emotion, themes and foreshadowing within a scene.

When all else fails, there is always Shakespearience's simple solution. Make a choice. Emphasize an emotion to find meaning within a text, an easy feat with the advantage of metre. I may not know what a paunchy, elf-skinned, canker-blossom is, but I know it does not sound like a compliment and would not deliver it as such.

The Shakesperience workshop provides an experience rare in any high school English classroom, the freedom of interpretation. Colm Feore and Marvin Karon have refined a workshop, rather an experience, beyond the traditionalism of a classroom setting, urging students to interpret, think, and decide on Shakespeare's intent. Through their acting exercises, one walks away with the masterful ability to dissect the densest of prose and build an interpretation. If genuine poetry can be communicated before it is understood, if through diction and its connotations one can recognize the ideas and themes of language too dense to translate, Shakespearience provides the solution to understanding Shakespeare.

MACBETH

// ANASTASIA BLOSSER

PHOTOGRAPHY // ANASTASIA BLOSSER

DESIGN // STELLA WANG

HAMLET

# SiMPLe

A girl with long blonde hair is sitting on a large, gnarled tree branch against a dark, star-filled background. She is wearing a dark blue hoodie with a graphic on it and green patterned shorts. She is holding a black phone to her ear with one hand and resting her other hand on the branch. The tree branches are brown and have some green and orange leaves.

I admit that I have spent most of my highschool life wishing that I was air: wishing that no one would touch me, hoping she didn't see me in science class. When I last saw her in real life, we hadn't spoken for the two years since she moved to California, and what was meant to be a simple apology turned into a second chance.

Every day since March, we have spoken for hours on the phone in oppressively hushed tones so as to not wake our parents; if we needed to speak loudly to one another, I would climb my way onto my roof and her onto the top of the tree by her house. We would sit and talk for hours as everything went wrong in the world below; and over the death and the decay, we loved. It is that unlikely, devouring type of love that makes you give up all pretension, that pushes you towards the realm of awareness of the divine arbitrariness of life. It is the type of love that makes you wonder what cosmic favour you must have cashed in to afford the simple privilege of meeting them, of being liked by this person, and of being liked enough that they listen to what you have to say.

When I grow tired of this individual life and find myself wanting another, I will call her and let her thoughts float through mine, and I am consistently met with her fantastic ability to fold a little bit of confidence into my brutish heart. I have spent the better part of my quarantine either writing to her or on the phone with her, talking about everything: politics, daydreaming, the refuge of art. We talk about life and school and the past, about all of the days we wasted in those two years as almost-strangers, alone together in science class pretending the other didn't exist.

I tell her that it's more meaningful this way, that at best we will never take each other for granted and at worst we will have to build an entire relationship over the phone. Though it is disparaging at times to know that the next chance we will get to see each other is when she returns to Canada for University next autumn, I tell her that the two of us

# Privileges

are lucky to possess this particular advantage, an advantage over the indelicate masses who own the simple privilege of indulgence. Though, even as I say it, I do not feel exceptionally lucky.

Simple privileges are not something people like us are accustomed to; we are only privy to the complicated ones, and to desire, but not without despair.

The problem arises as I sense myself falling, as though I am bound to the same nature as the leaves this autumn: time passes through me, school passes through me, but people do not. I admit that before all of this, I took people for granted, unaware that come September my peers would be seeing me for the first time in six desperate, long, and insufferable months on the verge of tears, unable to hug even the mildest of acquaintances. It is a simple privilege: to be able to fall into someone, and, by touching them, know that you can fall no further.

Yet we sit here, in this strange corner of history, unable to touch, thousands of miles apart from one another and six feet apart from everyone else. On the days where it feels particularly difficult to find any advantage in this, I call her, and she will exercise that fantastic ability of hers. From the top of her tree in California, she reminds me that in the autumn of 2021 we will be roommates at McGill, and in her voice I can feel a certain renewal of myself with the changing of the leaves. She tells me how someday, very plainly, she might extend an arm out to me in a silent act of tangible improvisation, and feel my hand fall into hers. Looking out at the world from my roof, I tell her how I want to be able to look over to her standing close to me after all this time, loving her like a Sunday evening, or a twist ending, or a second chance.

// ANNIKA PAVLIN  
ILLUSTRATIONS // POLINA SPAKOVSKY  
DESIGN // ANASTASIA BLOSSER



# Freshman Advice Column

From english essays to sports to new social situations, freshman year of high school is both exciting and intimidating at the same time. For many, it is their first taste of true independence. While the new level of freedom may be great for students, navigating high school for the first few months can be exceedingly frustrating and overwhelming. Thankfully, many seniors have made it through to tell the tale. We rounded up some useful tips from current RHHS seniors to help you survive and make the most of your high school experience.

## Lauren Wang

Throughout these 4 years, Dolly Parton's words are especially fitting: "Find out who you are and do it on purpose." I want to emphasize that you should never feel self-conscious being YOU. I hope you'll be able to make fond memories!



## Daniel Kim

Stay true to yourself and others. Popularity is a myth, cancel culture is wrong, and we should all forgive and forget. Take risks while you can; nothing will wait for you. If you want to become successful in life, you need to have belief in yourself, love for your friends and family, a passion for something, and time management skills. Drop the video games and do something that helps you work towards your future!

## Melissa Lamanna

Hghschool really does go by so fast so enjoy every last second. Be yourself, do what you want to do and don't let anybody stop you! (P.S. Skipping class really is pointless... just stay in school — it's much more fun and you can make great friends!)

## Serzna Arafat

Be open to exploring new things and meeting new people. My greatest experiences at RHHS came from meeting people with unique interests. Also, don't miss out on spirit days and events like Carnival and Coffee House! They're a great way to chill and enjoy high school for all it has to offer.

## **Helia Seyedmazhari**

Join as many clubs as you can! Clubs can help you with choosing a career/education path, and meeting like-minded people. Can't find a club that interests you? Start one! Creating your own club can enhance your interpersonal skills while you're giving back to your community.

// STELLA WANG AND KERRY YAN  
DESIGN // ELIZABETH TSYBEN  
VECTOR // SKETCHIFY

## **Soham Nagi**

Participate and don't just be a silent observer in class. Put in effort and try to always do your best. Life will always get tougher, so learn to just relax sometimes. Don't trust easily and have respect for everyone – teachers especially. Make friends with good habits and ambition. One bad apple spoils the bunch!

## **Stanley Kim**

Surround yourselves with people who love you the way you are and not who you're trying to be. Be kind, if you can make someone's day by saying a few words, why wouldn't you? There will be ups and downs through high school, but don't ever let your downs shadow your ups.

## **Paula Yuan**

Plan carefully. When you're in grade 12, learning lots of incredibly difficult material, you'll want a spare. Don't be dazzled by prestigious clubs or organizations. Will you really be okay with putting hours into something you dislike just for a theoretical boost in your university applications? Explore what you love.

## **Sibi Krishnan**

Hey RHHS Grade 9s! My greatest advice to you guys for highschool has got to be to always stay positive and enjoy yourselves! Four years may seem like a long time but they really fly by, trust me.

## **Shreyas Bhat**

Trust your teachers! They want you to succeed just as much as you do, and though advice and criticism coming from them might seem harsh, all of it's done with the intention of improving you.

# MEET YOUR TEACHERS:

Imagine this: you're in a building with 1600 other students, and not a single person knows you – your personality, your passions, your ambitions. Being the new kid can be extremely nerve-wracking; you leave behind all your old friends, and you have to adapt to a completely different atmosphere. It's hard to fit in when everybody already knows each other – teachers are no exceptions. Meet Mr. Rawlins, a teacher in the RHHS music department who arrived just this year. What better way to welcome him than to conduct an interview?

Mr.

## What made you want to become a teacher?

"Growing up, I have always loved music, but I never really connected it to a career. Music was just something I was super passionate about; I never thought that it was something that I would be able to make money doing. Then when I went on to high school, I was put into the music program and I realized how much I loved it. I had a particularly great experience with my teachers when I saw that these were people who loved music just as much as I did. The only difference was that they were getting paid to work with music and teach others to love music too. I remember having a light bulb moment thinking, 'this is the career I'm meant to have, these adults are making a living doing the most amazing thing in the world.' From that moment on, I went full force ahead into music education."

## What inspires you to teach every day?

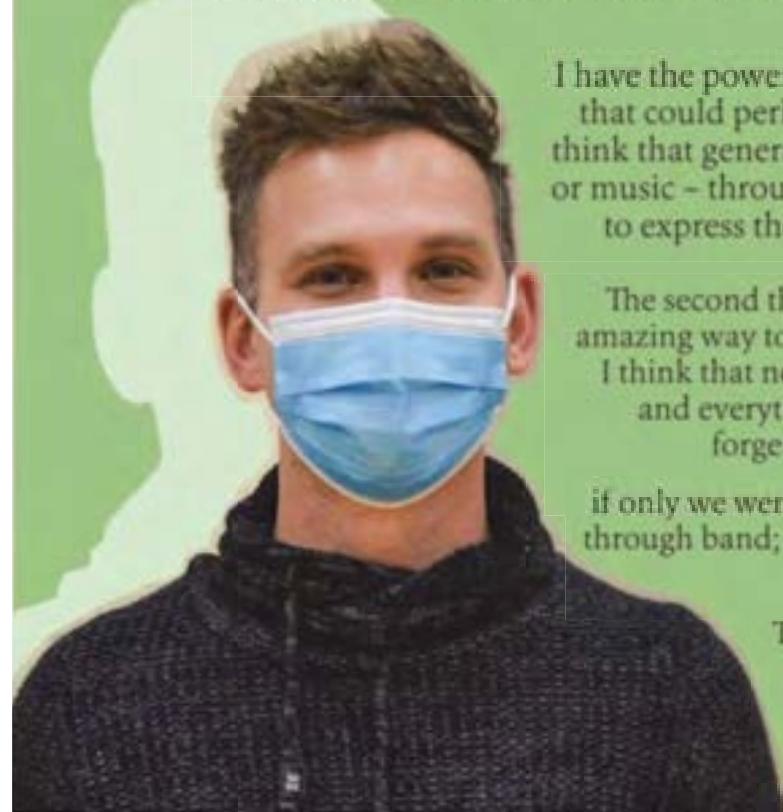
"What inspires me to teach every day is knowing the fact that as a music teacher, I have been given an incredible opportunity. I know it's not the same through this virtual format, but I think I possess two cool abilities...

I have the power to help students connect deeply to something that could perhaps be a way for them to express themselves. I think that generally in the arts – whether it's visual arts, drama, or music – through lyrics or through poetry, people can be able to express themselves through ways that are a little atypical.

The second thing is that being a part of an ensemble is truly an amazing way to enlighten students about the existence of others. I think that nowadays in our world when we turn on the news, and everything just seems so tragic, we isolate ourselves and forget about the people around us. But then you think:

if only we went through life from the same perspective as we go through band; when we are contributing to something, not only do we play a role, but so do other people.

Together, we form a beautiful sound that can only be made through collaboration. I think playing music reminds us of the importance of teamwork."



# Rawlins

## What's your favourite memory of teaching?



"I would say my favourite... consists of more big overarching memories. I have memories of taking a group of students, who were mostly beginners, and then pushing them to work really hard. Seeing them work their butts off to a point where you could see how drastically they improved is such a rewarding feeling. Also remembering the performances where they exceeded my expectations and then reflecting on where they started. Just thinking about how far they've come makes me feel accomplished as a teacher..."

As Mr. Rawlins says, we all have a part to play -- whether it's inside or outside of band. Together, we can achieve success that no individual can accomplish on their own. Music is much more than just sounds; music reminds us of life's ups and downs, of both joy and pain; music accompanies us through the early mornings, the inevitable afternoon slumps, and the late night study sessions; but most importantly, music brings us all together.

Just remember that being new can be a scary experience -- teachers and students alike. And so the next time you pass by room 1069, don't be afraid to say hello to Mr. Rawlins; it'll make his day.

# June: Barcarolle

// SAMANTHA LEE  
PHOTOGRAPHY // KERRY YAN  
DESIGN // DAVID WANG

*One step, two steps, three steps.*

My feet sank into the cool, spring sand, leaving shallow footprints behind me. The straps of my sandals hung loosely from my left hand, following the gentle breeze as I strolled across the familiar beach under the starry sky.

*One step, two steps, three steps.*

He waited at the shore with his hands placed behind his back and gaze turned upwards. It was a full moon today – just as it was every day. There was something special about the way his glassy eyes reflected the moonlight. It was warm – reminiscent of how our lives used to be.

I quickened my pace as my steps turned into a rhythmic skip, anticipation rising for our daily walk together with no set destination and our meaningless conversations about nothing in particular. Though we did it every day, it was a comforting constant against the current of chaos and change. Here, it was safe.

"Today, I've prepared something different – a voyage through these waters." His tone was calm, yet firm like his grasp on my hand.

*"Something... different?"*

I choked out a few words as he led me towards the boat. I let the tide kiss my bare feet and the subtle tinge of salt in the air linger in my memory before stepping inside.

How long had it been since I last faced the bright blue sky and the blinding sun? The paddle stirred, bringing illuminated ripples towards me, and I grazed my fingers along the surface, dancing to a familiar rhythm.

He kept rowing and rowing until the steady beat of my steps against the wet sand became a distant stranger and my uneasiness began to dissipate. This was it. The joys of the past. The feeling that no other experience in the present or the future could replicate. I basked in it, leaning my head backwards, letting my hair float against the forward current of the boat and taking it all in before it slipped between my fingers again.

*But something was nagging at me, eating me alive from the inside.*

I was forgetting something.

Suddenly, the clouds turned dark gray, and the sky roared with a deafening thunder. The waves crashed and tossed the small wooden boat upside down, letting me fall into the depths of the ocean. I remember now: the feeling of despair, drowning in a sea of your own pain and tears. This was also a part of the past I was so fond of.

I gasped, taking in a breath of the salted air. Letting out a sigh of relief, I realized that it was all just a dream, and the boat was still swaying above the water. But a thought still lingered: why had I forgotten about this part of the past?

*"Do you remember now?"*

He spoke before holding out his hand. "Come with me. Leave the ocean of the past behind and join me on a journey into the waters of tomorrow."

That's right. The only difference between the past and the present is that I could change the outcome of today. And when faced with the most painful reality, the only option is to go forward.

As many proud Torontonians flocked towards the 2020 NBA playoffs, everyone waited with bated breath to see how Canada's only team would fare. Though individual opinions were diverse, the fanbase shared a general unifying agreement—the team had one of the most memorable runs in their history. Returning to the playoffs as last season's champions, the Toronto Raptors held a lot of hope for a thrilling run. But at last, to the disheartenment and disappointment of many fans, the season was cut short with an intense game seven loss.

A year ago, Pascal Siakam was regarded as a rising star and his popularity surged among the public. Nonetheless, this sentiment serves as a stark variance to his newfound reputation. Following the Raptors's defeat, Pascal Siakam took the bulk of the blame for the team's loss, as his postseason performance was less than exceptional. While acknowledging the viewers' criticisms, Siakam admitted that he felt disappointed and dejected with his performance.

Regardless, the onslaught of criticism and disparagement he received was unreasonable, as sudden shifts in the quality of an individual's abilities are very common occurrences.

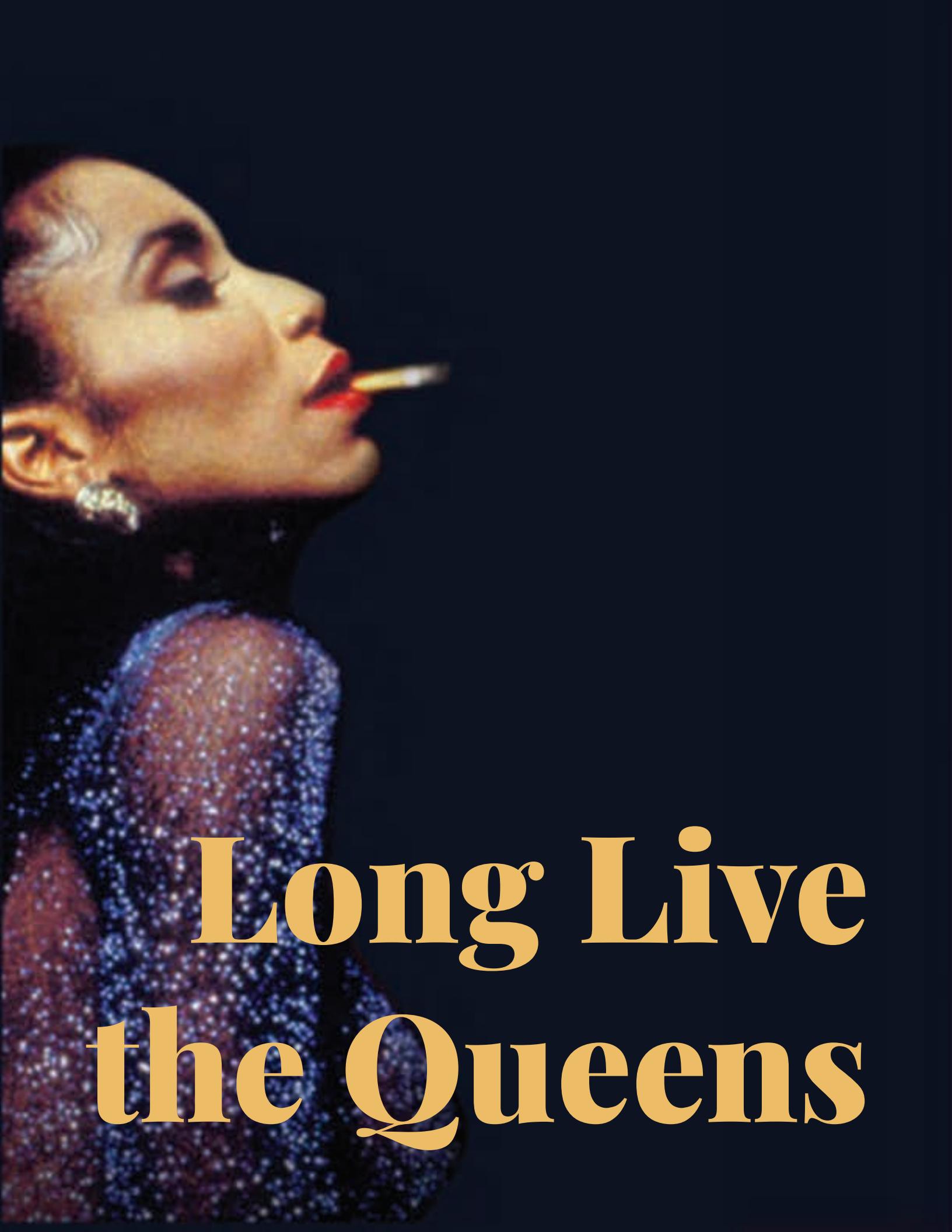
# Losing Touch With A Passion



Losing touch with a passion is something that can impact all athletes, artists, and entertainers. Such a notion may also be used to excuse and explain Siakam's performance. Performers in the realms of athletics and arts spend countless years of their lives working towards formidable levels of excellence. They refine their skills to ultimately demonstrate their achievements through awards, championships, or competitions, and incredible amounts of effort and sacrifice compose the formula of success for these individuals. That is why losing touch with their passion is catastrophic, especially during times of competition—in this case, Siakam's playoff run. Individuals at the height of their abilities, losing touch, and then performing like all their previous training was non-existent is a devastating shift that can occur much too suddenly.

There are many possible catalysts for these shifts, such as mental blocks spurred by anxieties, physical limitations from injuries, and emotional deviations. Those affected by these setbacks continue to push themselves to return to their previous level of skill while struggling to retain the sense of enjoyment they once held for their passion. These stressed efforts are sequentially futile. Echoed in the similar circumstances of Siakam's struggles, allowing him to play while it was apparent he lost touch with his approach to the game, only further hindered his performance. In his state, only comprehensively addressing the original catalyst would have aided in the reconnection process of his skills and passion. If he had been able to do so, the Raptors might have survived the playoffs for another series.

Moving forward, none besides Pascal Siakam himself will understand what affected his performance so drastically during the final games. Yet by analyzing the nature of performers, the notion that perhaps he did momentarily lose touch with his passion is a feasible suggestion. Siakam's underperformance is nothing short of normal human behaviour, considering performance struggles are a commonality among those seeking greatness in an activity they love.

A close-up, profile photograph of a woman's face, tilted back with her eyes closed. She is smoking a cigarette, and a thin plume of smoke rises from her mouth. Her hair is dark and appears to be made of small, reflective particles, giving it a textured, metallic appearance.

Long Live  
the Queens

With their giant wigs, clockless makeup, and comedic chops worthy of several Emmys, drag has taken the world by storm and has become a key part of pop culture. From your favourite meme to your tv screen, drag is everywhere. Drag is an art form that uses makeup, fashion, and comedy to transform oneself into a completely different person, often of another gender. The fluidity of gender is often expressed through drag, and it can be a tool to find one's true self. Drag isn't some trend that's cropped up within the last few years. The art itself has a lot of history and the artists are more than the court-ordered jesters that the public treats them as.

At its core, drag is a celebration of both racial minorities and the LGBTQ+ community. The roots of drag are unclear; cross-dressing was fairly common in many societies, and even the original Globe Theatre actors often had to partake in drag to make up for the lack of women in the field. Modern drag stems from 20th Century ball culture, an underground social scene mainly in New York City. Ball culture involved young members of the LGBTQ+ community experimenting with and creating caricatures of gender; an example is a man dressing as a woman. These balls also created a sense of community, particularly amongst the young African-American and Latino-Americans who were racially ostracized for their skin colour (something that continues to this day). Ball culture created the idea of Drag Houses, in which older kings or queens would take care of younger artists, and they would become a "found family"; a tradition that continues to this day. These

Kings and Queens of the underground scene have also been present at some of the biggest events in queer history, i.e the Stonewall Riots and the Pulse Nightclub shooting. Some of the most influential queer people at the time were drag artists, and today, many drag queens have risen to celebrity status.

The diversity and artistry brought by these queens are unmatched. In the past year, the winners from 4 seasons of RuPaul's and Canada's respective Drag Races have been POC, including three Black queens and one from Guyana, along with Persian, Vietnamese, and African queens.

Having role models that resemble you, the viewer, can change a life. These queens have inspired young people worldwide to explore gender, experiment with makeup & fashion, and step outside their comfort zones.



# Drag queens are the new *rockstars.*

YVIE ODDLY, RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE  
SEASON 11 WINNER

// TIA HARISH  
DESIGN // ELIZABETH TSYBEN  
COVER // PARIS IS BURNING  
IMAGE // YVIE ODDLY VIA  
RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE

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## Civil discussion has turned into a food fight where meaningful comments are rewarded by rotten tomatoes in the face.

Biden was cut off no less than 73 times in the first presidential debate, even during the allotted 2-minute time for each candidate to speak uninterrupted. Although it is for good causes, most social media activism is a viscous soup of buzzwords and empty calls to action. While black squares dominate Instagram feeds, they drown out the lived experiences of minorities whose words have much more to offer than an overused hashtag.

## "Well, of course we should listen to others,"

we say, while doing exactly the opposite. At some point, everyone has dismissed an article because it was written by Fox or Buzzfeed. All of us attach expectations to names—"this person can't possibly be right"—because they're conservative or bad at math or your enemy from seventh grade. However, nothing, and nobody, is black and white as we assume, and there are things worth hearing everywhere, regardless of where they came from. Somebody having an opinion that you do not agree with does not invalidate the future statements that they make.

## What's worse is that we often assign labels.

When news sources become "racists", or people become "fascists," it devalues those terms into meaningless insults and makes it much harder to call out true injustices when they happen. If every other contemporary politician is a fascist, Mussolini doesn't seem uniquely bad. Don't get me wrong: you definitely shouldn't condone real racism or fascism. Words are powerful and those labels have their rightful places. But, we only move backward when name-calling takes the place first and foremost in front of actual discourse.

## There is a common sentiment ...

that people who hold dissenting beliefs are somehow unworthy of our attention. We call them bigots and retreat back into our ideological bubbles. But this only enables the "them versus us" rhetoric that drives people further apart. Why should you listen to the other side when they seem to hate you for existing? Social movements—civil rights, feminism, the LGBTQ+ movement—have always valued changing people's minds as much as they emphasized pride in one's identity. Shouting into an echo-chamber of like minded people may amplify your voice, but it does not change the number of people who agree with you.

## To reform others' beliefs, it's important to listen.

Regardless of how you personally feel about religion or Trump or the police, there will be others with different experiences. Some opinions are more rooted in fact than others, but somebody being misinformed does not make them a terrible person. Listen to what they have to say. Provided both parties are being respectful, talking and debating about the roots of our convictions makes for a far more positive experience;

PEOPLE CAN'T BE EDUCATED IF NO ONE IS WILLING TO EDUCATE THEM.



#blacklivesmatter



#fakenewsalert



#listeningiseverything

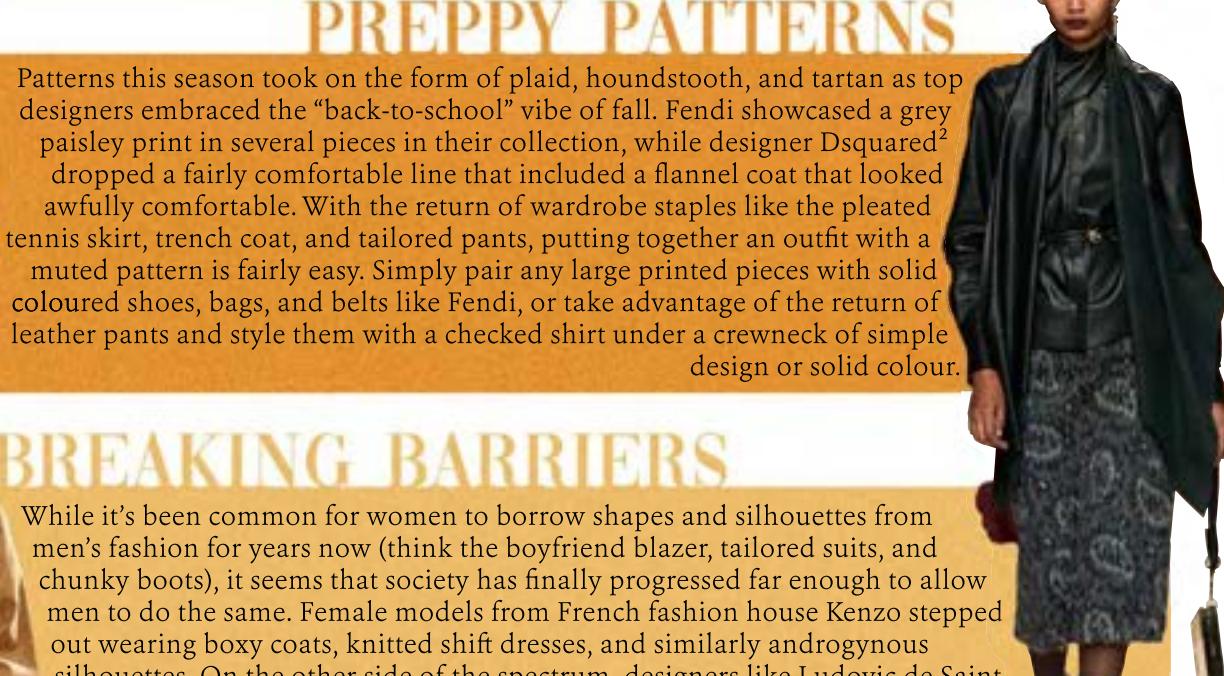


FALLING INTO  
FASHION



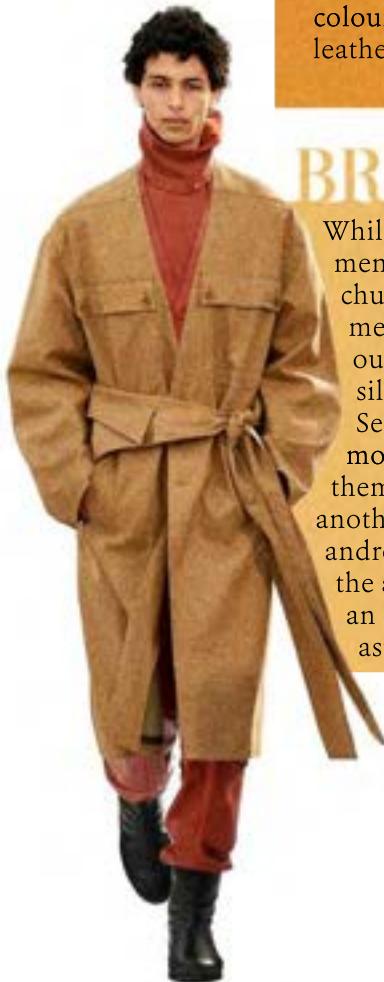
Roughly half a year ago, designer brands hit the runways with their last fashion shows before the world went into self-isolation. While most of the looks were fantastical, garish, and definitely unwearable for the average high-school student, there were several key takeaways that both high-profile celebrities and the everyday RHHS student can flaunt from the comfort of their quarantine Zoom classes.

## LEATHER & LACE



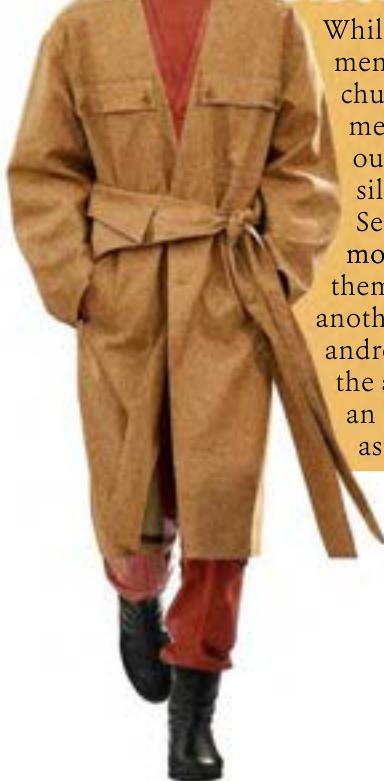
Prominent last season mainly within menswear, leather brought a grungy twist to almost every runway worldwide. While leather lurked somewhat discreetly last season, shown mostly in menswear pants, it has made an explosive debut in fall and winter shows, featured as a material for bags, coats, pants, and even the occasional harness. Leather, however, is a very strong material, and is difficult to pull off effectively. This season, designers combatted leather's dominating nature by pairing it with delicate laces and satins. Gucci, bizarre as ever, styled a floaty babydoll dress with a leather harness and matching leather shoes. Meanwhile, Dunhill went all-out with a leather jacket, pants, and dress shoes, all in different colours. Albeit intimidating for the high school student, options for exploring leather could be starting small with a simple jacket, or venturing into tailored leather pants for the more bold. Keep pants high-waisted for a clean silhouette, and pair with a top in a softer or more delicate style. Finish the look with a wool or similarly heavy, longer coat, and pair with chunky shoes for a modern vibe.

## PREPPY PATTERNS



Patterns this season took on the form of plaid, houndstooth, and tartan as top designers embraced the "back-to-school" vibe of fall. Fendi showcased a grey paisley print in several pieces in their collection, while designer Dsquared<sup>2</sup> dropped a fairly comfortable line that included a flannel coat that looked awfully comfortable. With the return of wardrobe staples like the pleated tennis skirt, trench coat, and tailored pants, putting together an outfit with a muted pattern is fairly easy. Simply pair any large printed pieces with solid coloured shoes, bags, and belts like Fendi, or take advantage of the return of leather pants and style them with a checked shirt under a crewneck of simple design or solid colour.

## BREAKING BARRIERS



While it's been common for women to borrow shapes and silhouettes from men's fashion for years now (think the boyfriend blazer, tailored suits, and chunky boots), it seems that society has finally progressed far enough to allow men to do the same. Female models from French fashion house Kenzo stepped out wearing boxy coats, knitted shift dresses, and similarly androgynous silhouettes. On the other side of the spectrum, designers like Ludovic de Saint Sernin pushed the envelope of menswear as the spotlights shone on male models in crop tops, cinched waists, and mesh fabrics. Though the pieces themselves weren't revolutionary, the menswear fashion industry has taken another step towards redefining gender norms. For those still unsure about the androgynous look but looking to experiment, soft colours and pants cut above the ankle are a good start. Blocky and loose silhouettes in shirts and coats lends an airy look to any outfit, and of course, the 5.5 inch inseam shorts are an astronomical upgrade from the typical knee-length basketball short.

// MICHELLE LIU  
PHOTOGRAPHY // VOGUE  
DESIGNERS // ALEXANDER WANG, FENDI & KENZO  
DESIGN // ANASTASIA BLOSSER

# To Boldly Go

// LEAH BEL BEN-TZUR  
PHOTOGRAPHY // KERRY YAN  
DESIGN // DAVID WANG

When the pandemic forced most of us into quarantine, my very first thoughts were, respectively: "Life is going to be so different now", "All of my plans are going to be cancelled", and "I can finally watch that show my dad's always wanted to watch with me." I admit that my priorities ranged from grounded to nonsensical, but so goes the times of quarantine.

That last priority wasn't completely unfounded, though. For months, my dad kept talking about how great this one show — a series in a longstanding franchise — was. How the storytelling was complex, how the characters were rich in development. The way he spoke about this show made it seem like it was the best series to ever grace the screen. After watching it, I couldn't agree more.

I admit that some moments were cheesy and the acting made me laugh when it was supposed to make me cry, but I saw something in it. It was the same thing I saw over the next few science fiction shows I watched over the summer.



"What I saw was nothing short of refreshingly **human**."

While countries suffered increasing racism and sexism amongst its people, the crew members aboard an interstellar space station were laughing over drinks. They weren't mad with the fact that their captain was a Black man, nor were they with the fact that they were being treated by a doctor with a Middle-Eastern surname.

While leaders debated the politics of affording basic human rights for many of their people, aliens were finding common ground with humans in the fields of science and medicine. They spoke in different languages, but it was their minds — their souls — that made an impression at the end of the day.

While fear and dissociation became a norm for many people's lives, the cadets within the metallic walls of spaceships were filled with nothing but a readiness for the challenges they would face ahead. They were rushing to the aid of a fellow crewmate, more concerned with the health of a friend than their status.

What I saw, and still see, in science fiction is that it does not depict the way the world is, but how it should be. It showed people overcoming their differences so that they could be a part of something so much bigger than themselves: a society that would never again go through the horrors of the war, destruction, and division.

Whether we try to achieve this level of peace, or keep it a goal as unreachable as the farthest parts of our galaxy, is up to us.





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