

Tom Ford



Having held the helm of menswear and womenswear for Gucci, Yves Saint Laurent and his eponymous line, Tom Ford has also turned his hand to designing beauty, eyewear and accessories, film production and directing, and fashion photography.

Ford was born in Austin, Texas in 1961. In 1979 he moved to New York to pursue a history of art degree at NYU. Upon arriving in the city, Ford was introduced to what the fashion industry had to offer. "This nice guy from my art history class came in and asked if I wanted to go to a party. Andy Warhol was [there], and he took us to Studio 54 - wow. Even today, I still start shaking when I hear Donna Summer because it's the music of my coming-of-age," he told *Vogue*. A year later, the designer dropped out of his degree in favour of an acting stint in California.

Having saved money working through his time as an actor, he enrolled at Parson's school of design to study architecture but quickly switched to fashion. Upon graduation, Ford was employed by Cathy Hardwick as a design assistant.