

Fall Fashion: Expect Some Magic

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With light-hearted moments of summer behind, fall is the time to look for that new job, or shake things up at the old one. It is the time for little kids to go back to school and big kids to go off to college. Few would deny that it is the season to put your best foot forward. The controversy here is more about what will be on that foot, and how it relates to the attire above.

To grasp the complexities of what lies ahead, we turned first to morning talk-show favorite Marcus Stewart – also known as The Fashion Doctor. Stewart is the east coast buyer and trunk show coordinator for Decades, the vintage and haute consignment retailer worshipped by fashionistas. Stewart's fashion contributions can be seen on Bravo TV's *Dukes of Melrose*, which chronicles daily operations at Decades. His styling expertise has also graced the pages at *GQ*, *Lucky*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Men's Vogue*, *Vanity Fair*, *Teen Vogue* and more.

Stewart promises that fall will be an amazing season. "Designers want consumers to be fashionable, yet they understand that practical fashion is on the rise," he says. "Consumers are becoming smarter, and the majority will only buy what they can use more than once, and items that are easy and offer some form of comfort. I predict 'classic trends' items that, while they aren't seen every season, are always chic and style-worthy to have."

Here are the Fashion Doctor's three top forecasts for fall:



Brazilian Cristofoli chunky heel



The duffle coat is reappearing on runways.

The Wild Wild West – Nothing says American more than boots, hats, leather and fringe. It's all about chic-yet-rockin' country vibes. A key item to have will be the wide belt. Skinny belts have been all the rage for the last few years, but the wide rustic belt is about to come back.

Muted Brights – Contrary to popular belief, fall does not equate only to browns and dreary grays. Uplifting tones will be a huge trend, with colors such as pink, purple, and orange seen often in muted hues. These colors play perfectly with tans, black and creams. This is great news because it allows consumers to go through their closets and recycle some of their spring items by layering



Top left: Christina Scherck. Top right: Zankhna Parekh. Above left: Jeanne Mozier. Above right: Roberta Ramos.

colors with neutrals.

The Duffle Coat – This classic item in past times has been seen as heavy and outdated. But the return of the duffle is upon us. This practical piece takes anyone from day to night without a second thought. In fact, Stewart predicts bold-colored duffels for Fall 2014.

Hello, Grunge

We also had a chance to talk to Los Angeles-based Christa Scherck of Celebrity Style & Publicity. Scherck, a red-carpet stylist, had this to say: “Fall 2014 consumers will continue with their taste for heavily embellished hardware in buckles and straps and luxury fabric details like fur, leather and suede. Menswear designers continue to show us narrow and skinny

leg trousers and jeans, and the focus for men's shoes will be on the dress boot, which compliments both suiting and casual wear.”

Scherck assures us that teens want buckles and hardware too, to pair with the grunge style that she believes is making a comeback. “Girls love sequins, pompoms and faux fur,” Scherck states. “Boys continue to wear primary-colored shoes to go along with their kidswear, which is increasingly black/gold (popular with urban men as well).” As for women, Scherck says, “The slouchy pant and cropped pant we are seeing for women will pair well with pointed-toe solid-colored pumps, and anything with an ankle strap is chic.”

Make Way for Maxi

Roberta Ramos is the style expert of Brazilian Footwear, a program that promotes the export of shoes that are developed by the Brazilian Footwear Industries Association (Abicalçados) in partnership with the Brazilian Trade and Investments Promotion Agency (Apex-Brasil). Her forecast for women for the fall centers around the maxi coat. “Maxis work perfect paired with knee-high and ankle boots of bright colors and different materials such as glossy finishes, check patterns and metallic colors,” Ramos says. “Chunky heels, in contrast with shimmering crystal, will also be seen a lot.”

As for men, Ramos predicts that blue will be the color for the season. On the feet of the boldest and trendiest, Ramos says we are likely to see blue, green and yellow (which are, incidentally, the colors of the Brazilian flag). “The modern dandyism mixes street-wear and classic pieces by pairing casual socks, coats and sporty shoes with tailored suits in bold colors,” Ramos adds. “The fall/winter season is all about having fun when it comes to menswear.”

Good News for Moms

Zankhna Parekh was born in India but received her degree in physical therapy in the U.S. Following a ten-year successful healthcare career, she decided to return to her first love, fashion design. She has written numerous articles on the subject, and has even done a stint as “Glambassador” for *Glamour*

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magazine. But she is first and foremost a designer, and her first collection – which features clean lines and minimalist silhouettes – has launched and is definitely worth viewing.

Parekh caters to on-the-go mothers who want to be effortlessly stylish and on trend. Her designs accentuate and flatter curves and hide problem areas that many moms have. Her clothes are fashion-forward and socially conscious; she does not use animal products, and she ensures employees receive a fair wage.

“Moms everywhere can rejoice,” Parekh tells us, “because the word on the street [for fall] fashion is *comfort*. Longer hemlines and flats are making a huge wave on runways. Skirts and dresses are at least calf length and colors are mainly icy metallic and pastels. Animal motifs and boho prints will also be big, allowing moms and daughters to share clothes.”

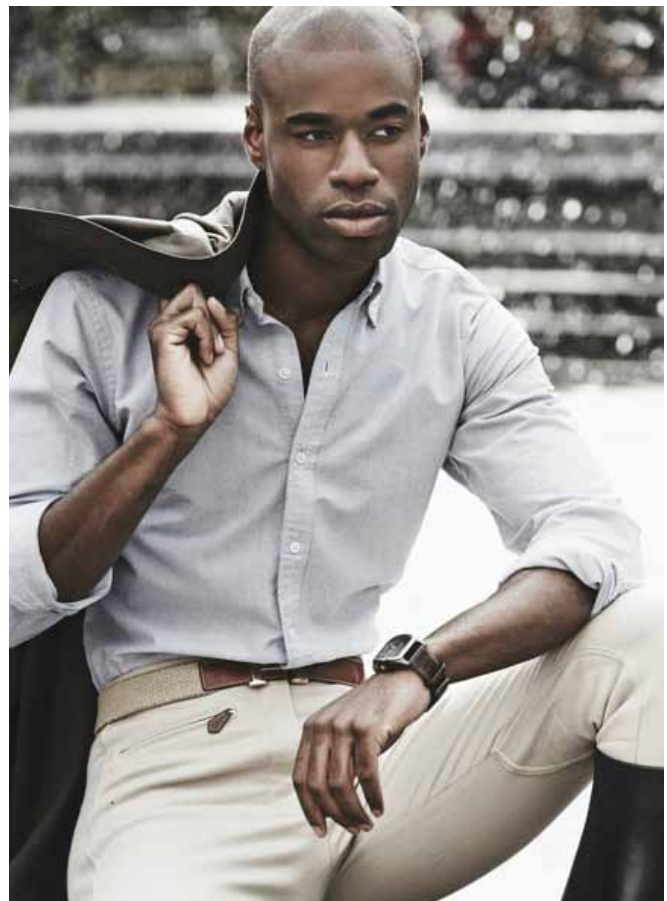
As for younger kids returning to school, Parekh states with certainty, “Girls will be wearing skinny jeans and printed skinny pants, while boys will still be going for the flannel and layered looks.”

Welcome Wizards

For a final word on fall fashion, we couldn't resist a conversation with someone who has made a career of predictions. Jeanne Mozier is, in fact, an astrologer. But hold on, because Mozier specializes in predicting trends. Her clients include the CIA, various politicians and political organizations (her newest book is a political novel entitled *Senate Magic*), and yes, agencies in the fashion sector.

“According to the stars (the kind in the sky, not Hollywood),” says Mozier, “mid-July 2014 through early-August 2015 is all about looking royal, dramatic and rich! Confidence is up, consuming returns, and people want to appear glorious and proud. Quality is the gold standard, even at the bargain price level!”

Mozier foresees luxury fabrics such as velvets, silks and fine



For men: dramatic and proud looks.

woolens for both men and women. “Jewelry, especially gold, is at the top of everyone’s accessory list,” she adds. “For those who can’t afford the real deal, quality knockoffs will be the hottest product lines around.”

Forget hot sexy images, Mozier warns. “Fashion magic, like movie themes, is moving from horror and the undead to wizards in splendid robes with jeweled accessories. There is a glamorous haze over all fashion.”

Wizards in splendid robes can only be good news for consumers and retailers alike. ■



This Brazilian Ferracin is about having fun.