

**WHAT ARE YOUR CLOTHES SAYING ABOUT YOU???**(Reference: CHOICES, February 1991)

Do they say, "I'm awesome!" "I'm sophisticated!" "I'm a natural slob!" "I'm a real snob!" "I'm wild and crazy!" or "Don't ask!"?

How you dress says a lot about you. If you don't believe it, ask the costume designers for television shows. Their jobs depend on picking the right clothes to make people look good—or tough, or nerdy, or out of place, depending on the script.

When a friend says, "You're looking good," you smile. You know that you're dressed right. When a director tells an actor, "You look good," the costume designer smiles. It means that he or she has done the job right. The actor's clothes give off clear messages about what the character is like. Sounds doubtful to you? Try watching a television show with the sound off. Chances are you could pick out the good guys and the villains just by their clothes and appearance.

So how do costume designers do it? Each one starts with about \$5,000 a week for the wardrobes of all the characters on a show. For them, that's a tight budget. They sew some clothes, buy new ones, and use old ones that they pick up at costume rental companies or thrift shops. Then it's a matter of interpreting characters. What clothes should a costume designer use to make Fresh Prince look free and happy or to develop a nerdy look for Paul (on The Wonder Years)?

Below, costume designers reveal how they create the looks of the characters you love (or hate). They also give tips on how to improve your look. Because—right or wrong—people often form impressions about you based on what you're wearing. Are you sending out the message you want?

**JUDY RICHMAN**Fresh Prince of Bel Air

"Carlton is so preppie that it's almost funny. I use every cliché to emphasize it—madras shorts, pink socks, pink shirts, tennis sweaters, topsiders. His clothes reflect his attitude, and vice versa.

"Ashley is a silly, superficial, spoiled rich girl who could be a 'fashion victim.' She'd go for anything that has a current look—except for street clothes. She dresses expensively and stylishly, but she's sometimes a little over the edge.

"The Fresh Prince wears bright neon colors, with baseball-type hats often tilted or turned. He wears huge shirts with baggy printed pants. His clothes reflect his personality—free, happy, and unrestrained."



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***Richman's fashion tips:***

Don't follow a look just because it is a fad. You'll lose your individuality. Your wardrobe—like everyone else's—is more versatile than you think. Look at what's in your closet with an open eye. Try things together that you haven't worn together before. Stand in front of a mirror, pull out a jacket and a pair of pants that you've never worn together before. Take a belt off one outfit and try it with another.

Don't forget proportion. If you wear a close-fitting skirt or pants, choose a large, loose-fitting jacket over it, not a short, skimpy jacket.

If you are willing to try new things, you can create a new wardrobe at any time you want and have fun doing it!

**ERIN QUIGLEY**

Roseanne

"Becky is concerned with fitting in socially, while Darlene is very athletic and has a sarcastic, cutting wit. Both actresses like oversized clothes. So I put Becky in mostly pastel colors like pink and pale yellows. She looks like she's saved her allowance so she can shop at the mall.

"Darlene, who can dress a little more funky, wears darker colors like purple and deep green. Her clothes reflect her passion for sports. She wears a lot of T-shirts and sweats."

***Quigley's fashion tips:***

For a funky, radical style, mix patterns with interesting texture and color combinations. Go for the nontraditional in accessories and for shoes that have interesting detailing.

**For girls:** To achieve a cool, sophisticated look, pick geometric lines; cool colors such as blue, green, and purple; and simple accessories.

**For guys:** A good way to look cool and sophisticated is to wear a shirt of natural fibers, such as cotton or silk. Pair it with jeans and good-looking shoes.

**MARTI SQUYRES**

Married With Children

"In this show, the clothes have contributed to the characterizations. I think that some of the writing has evolved from how we dress the characters.



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"Kelly Bundy is a classic bad example. She looks cheap. I dress her in very tight, short outfits, with a lot of midriff showing. Her clothes are kind of suggestive. We use a lot of accessories, like big earrings, studded belts, bracelets, and necklaces. Her shoes are high heels or boots.

"Bud sees himself as very cool, but he's really not. He wears blue jeans and button-down shirts that are not tucked in. When he gets dressed up, he adds a slightly oversize jacket or blazer. His footgear is trendy—steel-toed boots and Reeboks."

***Squyres's fashion tips:***

Develop your own look. Be an individual. Experiment a little. Hand paint a leather or denim jacket.

**For girls:** Don't ignore accessories. Earrings can create a great look, and they don't have to be expensive. Boots look great with jeans and with either a long or short skirt.

**For guys:** Wear bright colors—as long as you feel comfortable in them.

**SILLA ANDREEN-HERNANDEZ**

The Wonder Years

"Clothes let you show your parents and society which direction you're headed. It's always been that way.

"Kevin and Paul are easy to dress. Because the late '60s and '70s were not as hip as some of us think, I keep the wardrobe simple. The clothes people wore then were more fitted than now, so sometimes when I dress kids they feel awkward because they're used to oversized clothes.

"Paul, who is a nerd, wears glasses and a lot of cardigans. Winnie is very good natured, never wild or mischievous. Her clothes project sweetness and innocence. If she wears a loud floral print dress, it will be in soft colors.

"Kevin's older sister is a hippie, and wears bell bottoms, love beads, and headbands."

***Andreen-Hernandez's fashion tips:***

The more simply you dress, the more emphasis you can put on your face and your personality. The number one rule is to be comfortable.