

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 TV shows. Their jobs depend on picking the right clothes to make people look a certain way. Tough, nerdy, out of place etc., depending on the script.

Chances are, if you were to watch a television show with the sound off, you could pick out the different characters just by their clothes and appearance. Costume designers begin with about \$5,000 per week for the wardrobes of all the characters on a show. For them, that is 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?

CHOICES magazine interviewed some TV costume designers to see how they create the looks they are after.

JUDY RICHMAN for "FRESH PRINCE" of Bel Air says:

"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 attitudes.

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."

Richman's fashion advice--don't follow a look just because it is a fad. You'll lose your individuality. Your wardrobe 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. If you are willing to try new things, you can create a new wardrobe at any time you want and have fun doing it!

SILLA ANDREEN-HERNANDEZ is the costume designer for "THE WONDER YEARS." She says: "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, 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 are sweet and innocent. 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.