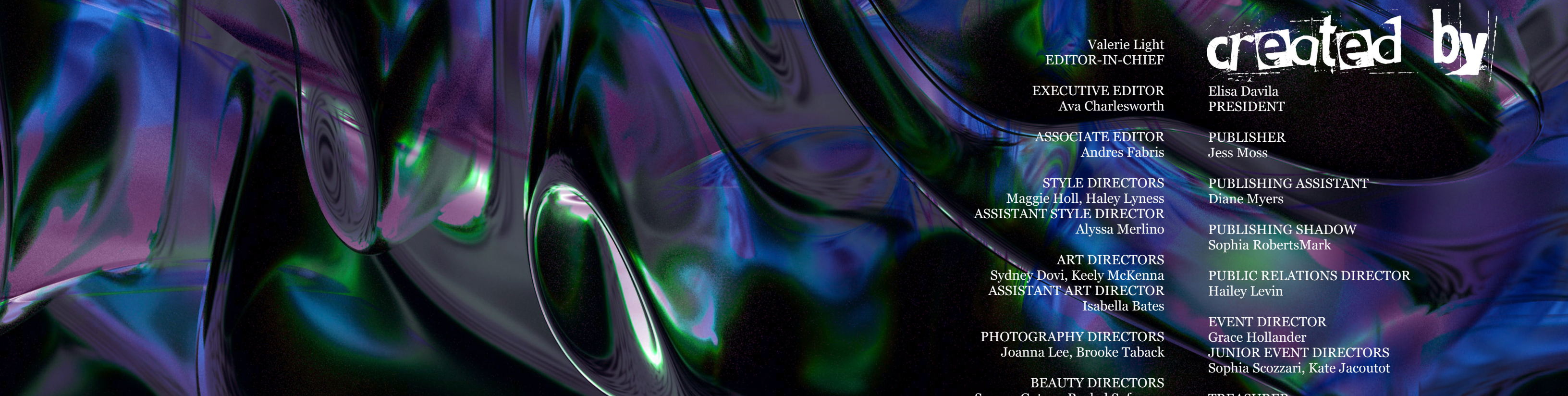


VADRESS





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letter from the EDITOR

I truly believed that my first day as the Assistant Beauty Director of UDress was the beginning of the rest of my life. Being this ambitious, though, has always been a blessing and a curse of mine: it is lovely to power through my college career, collecting roles and accolades; but, in so many moments, I have had great trouble enjoying the present.

Becoming Editor in Chief reversed this so-called curse and allowed me to bask in every moment. I knew that this was a once in a lifetime experience that would escape me the moment I let it. I latched onto the present moment during the entire photoshoot process. When you flip through this issue, you see only completed articles and photos. You miss out on the team moments that truly make this magazine: the dance parties, the laughs, the creative conversations, the arguments, the day-long meetings, the all-nighters with the layout team, creating garments on the floor of Taylor Hall, the feeling we all get when we hover over the photographer to see the “it” photo—these are the moments worth appreciating as they happen. This change is what sets apart the creative outcome of UDress issues Meta and Ultra. It was the electricity.

Meta is about the future. The issue is both slick and jagged. Bright and dark. Seductive and punk. Meta has a touch of gore to tie in how the integration of technology in fashion establishes an eerie shift in style and the industry. Fashion is not always palatable— it can be creepy and dark. Using fashion to heal through dark moments is cathartic, and I wanted that represented in a UDress issue. There is great glamor in gore. Continuing with Ultra’s precedent, I am especially proud of the Meta issue because it was a challenge for a lot of us. Ultra fit into our creative repertoire, whereas this theme is the rebellious, punk rock sister. UDress students are exceptionally talented, visionary, and dedicated. My deepest thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue.

In a way, it feels like UDress and I grew up together. We have both changed immensely— socially, culturally, visually, and stylistically— through these past four years. I can confidently leave knowing that I have given my all to this organization and it is time for me to propel into the future.

with love and lip gloss
valerie light



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BELOW





Men's style is shifting to explore and push past confines. The emergence of athleisure in the wake of the COVID pandemic is fading as the world returns to new routines. Homewear has reverted to nicer apparel. Casual expression stays carefree with airy mesh elements and camp collars, like loose button-ups over a relaxed tee paired with plain jeans or high inseam shorts. Additionally, virtual meetings forever changed business wear and loosened dress codes. Turtlenecks are a safe but eccentric addition under a suit jacket and can be combined with a lively pair of flared pants to form a standout outfit. Athleisure isn't completely gone, however, as many suiting brands offer comfy sweatpants disguised as slick suit pants for easy work attire.

This new era of experimentation sees an increase of cis-gendered and heterosexual men stepping into the unfamiliar waters of fashion and its freeing trends. Both ends of the dress-code spectrum benefit greatly from borrowing feminine elements. Summertime cropped shirts are one advancement past societal constraints. A suit jacket with puffy shoulder pads and sleek wrists can feminize a broad frame as part of a forward outfit. Color also benefits from extreme experimentation, as pieces such as blazers expand beyond neutral tones. The new goal of menswear is a hybrid uniform, combining all aspects of suiting and casual clothing. For example, a summer suit with shorts promptly shepherds the vogue by combining conventional elements into one fresh mainstream.

Accessories can also incorporate traditionally feminine details. Rings are no longer only for married men or endure a lonely existence on the hand. Embellished bands play well with casual outfits, while simpler etched rings show necessary restraint in the right settings. Looking further into timeless accessories, you'll find that celebrity style icons like Harry Styles and A\$AP Rocky prove that youthfulness has reclaimed the pearl from history. Pearl trends ensnare necklines and earlobes male, female, and beyond. For those who are bolder, taking steps into the world of makeup is a natural progression of taste-making.

Current menswear trends prove that the bounds of traditional fashion are constantly breaking. The shuffling of specific elements between different designs, gender norms, and conventions creates new style standards. Testing out both original and proven accessories in casual and formal styles further propels advancement, turning the future of fashion into the now.

BY: JOHN SALSINI-TOBIAS (he/him)

Photography: Ayomiposi Ademilekun
Styling: Han Khondaker
Beauty: Ella Sawdy, Susana Gatera
Model: Han Khondaker



CLIMBING THE GATES OF HIGH FASHION

September 13, 2021: the most anticipated fashion event in two years comes to the spotlight. Celebrities come together to celebrate Americana fashion at the Met Gala.

Each outfit stuns audiences, then Addison Rae appears in a vintage Tom Ford for Gucci dress, and is asked why her dress is Americana. She answers, “He is an American designer, highlighting that, and highlighting the fact that Tom Ford really loved to empower women and make them stand out, and I’m paying homage to that.” Rae’s response underwhelmed viewers, stating nothing original to portray the designer in a unique light.

However, her presence at the Met Gala was the bigger curveball. Why was she there? She is everywhere, and, with 86 million TikTok followers, a budding music and acting career, and a fragrance line, it’s not hard to imagine why. Everyone knows her, so you can’t blame Anna Wintour for extending an invitation. Yet, at such a prestigious event, Rae’s cadence made her appearance seem like another stop on the press tour, pushing the “anti-influencers” agenda in high fashion.

Despite being the new “It-Girl” in fashion, Emma Chamberlain felt the same pushback when pivoting her career, starting with her Louis Vuitton partnership. In an interview with V Magazine, she stated, “I think some people are not ready to accept it [influencers] as a new form of celebrity, which I totally understand because it’s like mixing something new with something classic and it can feel wrong.”

Even today, high fashion is run by those who still believe that being a celebrity is exclusive. The idea that today’s breakout stars solely create social media content is a major disconnect between those of the past. Despite this notion, by corralling brand deals with these influencers, brands are opening doors for influencers to become fashion icons.

Wisdom Kaye, a fashion-TikToker-turned-IGM-model, is the next big thing, working with Ralph Lauren, Dior, Coach, and is Vogue’s “best-dressed guy.” Unlike Emma Chamberlin and Addison Rae, it was an easier transition for him since his niche is fashion, displayed in his first style video on TikTok in 2020.

The gates to the high fashion world might be tall, but not impossible to climb. Influencers must educate themselves on the industry to earn their space. By taking the time to learn about designers and their modes of expression, the fashion world can begin to welcome influencers.

BY: NATALIE HELEWA (she/her)

PAYING HOMAGE TO ASIAN TRENDS:

From Hime haircuts to streetwear to dragon tattoos, Asian media has inspired a slew of new crazes in the Western world. While some trends translate accurately abroad, others are misconstrued in America, inadequately representing the original cultures.

At the heart of this issue lies traditional dress like the Chinese cheongsam. This garment is synonymous with Chinese culture and holds a heavy history in its design. On fast fashion sites, a common misrepresented outfit includes a garment with a high mandarin collar, knotted buttons, and curved hems. This silhouette mimics yet misinterprets the style of the traditional Chinese cheongsam. Is it tasteful? Not necessarily. By shortening the dress and exposing more skin, American brands profit off traditional Asian garments without any respect to the culture.

While the Western world altered the perception of Chinese cheongsams, Korea boasts a more accurate translation of traditional clothing: the modern hanbok. This adaptation emphasizes the traditional elegance of the hanbok but puts a contemporary spin on it. The soft lines, flowing layers, and high waist have remained consistent throughout generations. Initially reimagined by Korean designers for Korean idols, this trend is being praised by many for keeping the integrity of the hanbok while adapting it for the modern-day.

Western appropriation of Asian cultures is not exclusive to fashion but beauty, as well. Currently, eyeliner conveys a prominent obsession where people attempt to emulate the “fox-like” eyes of Eastern Asians. Some people go so far as to mimic monolids, which are eyelids without creases. Using black liner to elongate and angle the eyes has become commonplace on social media. It is not an innocent recreation of an Asian makeup look but a wrongful imitation of racial features. More often than not, these crazes are a mere glorification of what it means to be Asian rather than an authentic trend from abroad.

In actuality, this trend manifests differently overseas. Eyeliner is the new pathway to enhancing Asian beauty. A cateye with extended corners and drawn-on faux lower lashes took Eastern Asia by storm. Rather than excessively changing one’s eye shape, they exaggerate their natural features, which is an authentic celebration.

Taking inspiration from other cultures undoubtedly promotes diversity, yet is susceptible to wrongful imitation. Asian representation is finally coming about, but with this recognition comes many misconceptions. Cultural appreciation in fashion and beauty go a long way but so does respect.

BY: OLIVIA SCHEFF (she/her)

A WORK IN PROGRESS



Photography: Dylan Batten;
Styling: Riley DeJardin, Han Khondaker;
Model: DaVon Davis

REMEMBERING "VIRGIL"

“When creativity melds together with global issues, I believe you can bring the world together” -Virgil Abloh.

Virgil Abloh was more than just a creative director; he was a passionate visionary, an influential leader, and a talented artist. Throughout his life and career, Virgil Abloh reinvented streetwear—a style rooted in Black culture—as we know it today.

His career in fashion began after he graduated college, immediately landing an internship with Fendi and Kanye West in 2009. Both being up-and-coming Black creators from Chicago, West and Abloh shared a unique artistic vision. The pair’s immediate connection led to their iconic collaboration, covering everything from merchandise to set designs. Abloh became West’s creative consultant and the director of West’s creative agency, DONDA, in 2012. West describes Abloh as “one of the smartest, fastest, most innovative people [...he’s ever] created with.”

In 2013, after the successful launch of his first company, Pyrex Vision, Abloh founded Off-White. Based out of Milan, Abloh described the company as “the gray area between black and white as the color off-white.” The high-end brand seeks to represent streetwear as an art movement, “using any, and every, medium necessary to do so.” The brand can be distinguished by its logo, use of quotations, zip ties and even tape. Off-White became a major commercial success, and by the end of 2018, sales and consumer sentiment ranked Off-White as the “hottest label”—even surpassing Gucci. With Off-White, Abloh collaborated with dozens of brands and companies, like Rimowa, Mercedes Benz, the NBA, Levi’s, Moncler, Kith, and Byredo.

In 2018, Abloh was hired as the creative director for Louis Vuitton’s menswear department, becoming the first black creative director for LV and one of the first Black designers in a luxury French fashion house. With his status and undeniable talent, Abloh paved the way for other Black fashion designers and creators today.

Abloh sought to create fashion that could change the world—and he did. Abloh established a successful bridge between luxury fashion and streetwear that is reflected throughout the industry today. Many brands are inspired by Off-White’s creative approach involving unique color schemes, logos, avant garde prints, and statements on clothing. Abloh opened our eyes to the limitless opportunities of self expression and originality in fashion, and, more specifically, streetwear. Today, streetwear is recognized more as a luxury and an art form, valued for its originality and underlying meaning within the Black community.

BY: GABI GIOLLI (she/her)



It is impossible to deny that Gen Z's conduct contests the conservative norms upheld by the previous generations. With social media as a powerful tool in advocacy, no content is off-limits. Regardless of social platform preference, influencers are present in everyone's feed. Their transparency catalyzed a new topic of conversation: plastic surgery.

Once reserved for the wealthy, procedures like Botox are becoming more common throughout all ages. Though behaviors are quick to change, stigmas can take generations to override. For every benefit, there is a cost, and often, the satisfaction of an enhancement is rewarding enough. For example, influencer Victoria Paris openly shares her plastic surgery journey, empowering her audience to be confident in their decisions. Conversely, could this be normalizing procedures?

I asked college students from various universities about their biggest insecurity. Regardless of gender, physical features were the prominent answer. However, their answers varied when asked if they were willing to have such features reconstructed if given a chance. Some viewed these as problems to be "fixed," while others sought a simple boost of confidence. Familial pressure and mental health were also significant influences.

Award-winning plastic surgeon Dr. Troy Pittman believes the influx of surgeries in 2022 results from influencers perpetuating an image of "godly perfection" which in actuality were created through tailored filters. Pre-COVID, patients sought ear tucks and rhinoplasties after experiencing bullying. Contrastingly, procedures like liposuction and glute enhancements are growing, often rooted in dissatisfaction with pandemic weight gain.

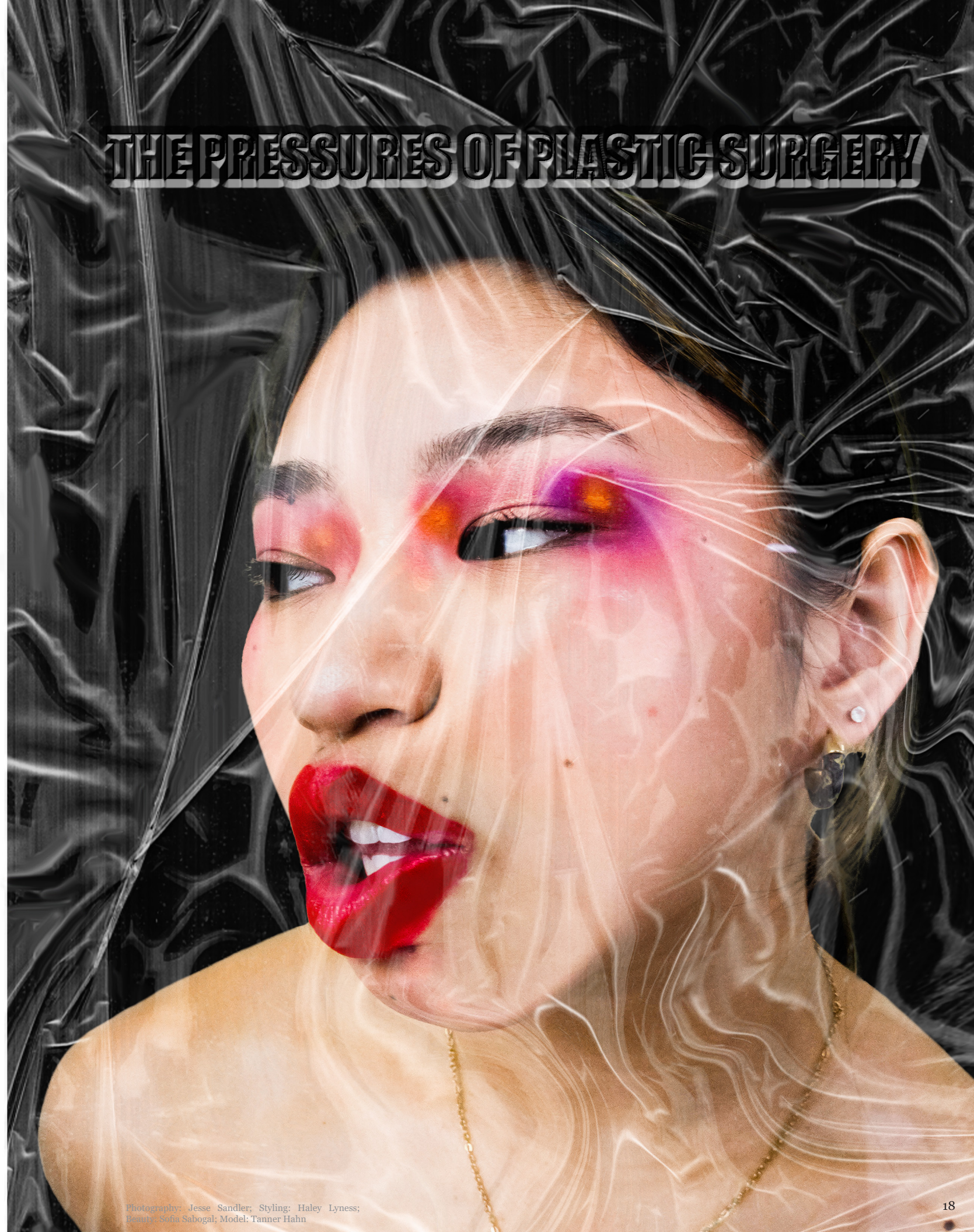
While noninvasive procedures can increase self-love, there is a risk of running towards a nonexistent finish line. Impressionable children expect puberty to transform their features into those seen on magazine covers, contributing to a surge in eating and psychological disorders.

Still, last year 24 million people across the world opted for procedures. So, what are the benefits? People feel confident! "When you look good, you feel good" is a strong claim projected by influencers who intend to destigmatize preconceived notions of plastic surgery. Another benefit is affordability, with average cost ranging from \$200-\$4,000, creating accessibility for clients of lower socioeconomic backgrounds rather than being exclusively for the wealthy.

As trends evolve, so will plastic surgery. Whether for, against, or contemplating, it's time to approach this conversation without judgment. Know your reasons, protect your mental health, and discard others' opinions. Oh, and shake what your momma (or surgeon) gave you!

BY: UDRESS STAFF WRITER

THE PRESSURES OF PLASTIC SURGERY



THE TIKTOK GRAVEYARD

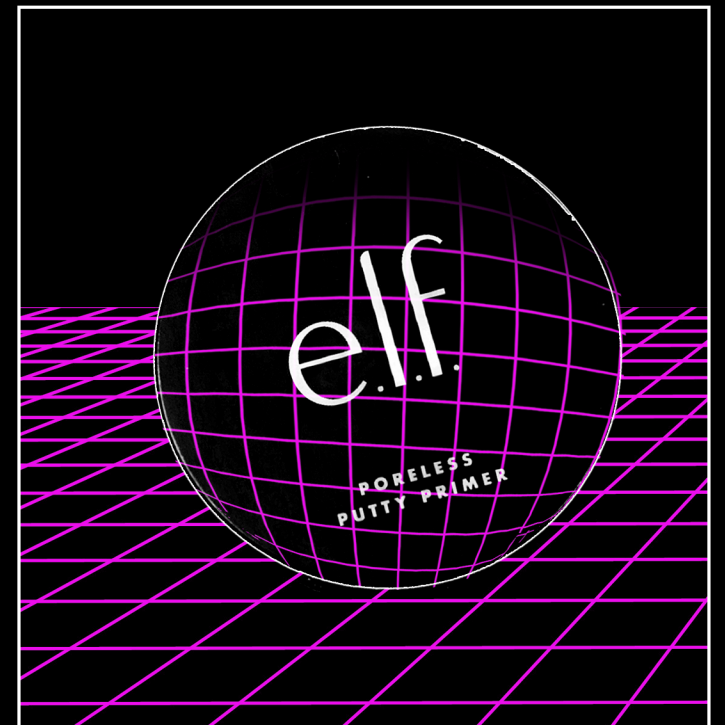
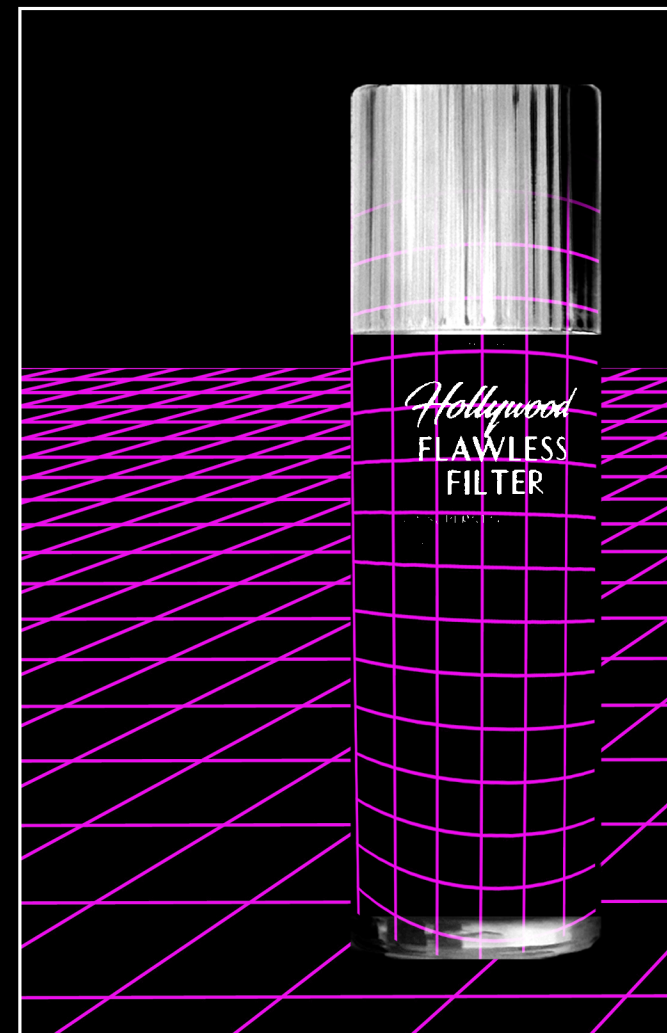
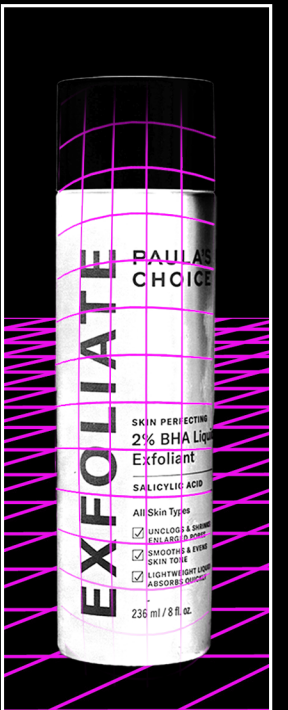
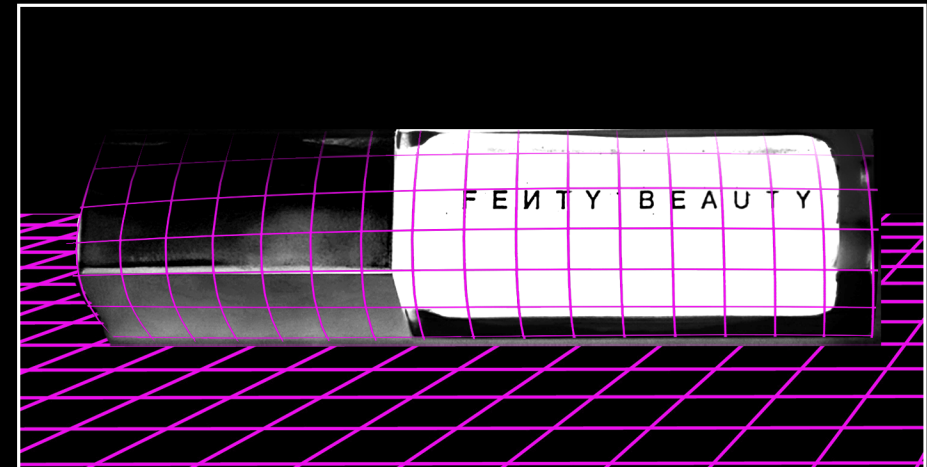
Product after product, money down the drain. In a world full of skyrocketing prices and sustainability concerns galore, why chase after every viral beauty fad that crosses our “For You Page”? Our generation is more environmentally conscious than any before, yet we still fall victim to the newest lip oil or liquid blush. Beyond the sustainability issues, this form of splurging is not financially feasible for most of us either.

With the ongoing supply chain issue making shipping overseas more challenging than ever, it is clear that now is the time to invest in “holy grail” products rather than temporary trends. Factories and brands cannot keep up with the massive demand for a product when it goes viral. Product virality is unpredictable—brands cannot prepare for when their product skyrockets, making alternatives important as viral products may continue to be out-of-stock for months. Instead of fighting over the overpriced Dior Lip Oil, invest in the tried-and-true Fenty Gloss Bomb at a fraction of the price. Continuously purchasing new products each week once others become outdated is a full-time job, so going back to basics may be a more sustainable option. Rather than updating your liquid blush or glittery gloss every few weeks, why not buy something that will last?

That’s not to say that I don’t succumb to pretty packaging—the truth is quite the opposite. When I saw the Charlotte Tilbury Beauty Light Wand blush for the first time, I fell in love. I was desperate for the peachy, glowy finish that everyone on TikTok praises. When I checked the website to find that the product had sold out for the foreseeable future, I was heartbroken. That is, until I realized just a few weeks later that the Charlotte Tilbury blush was a thing of the past. The world had moved on, so I stayed with my dependable Nars Orgasm blush to get the job done.

These viral products are piling up in our makeup bags, forging a “graveyard” for trends of weeks past. If we all decide to scale down our careless purchasing habits, especially those influenced by our “FYP,” we leave a less damaging impact on our planet, and our wallets. So the next time you can’t afford the next big beauty craze taking off on TikTok, remember it’ll be washed up by Friday.

BY: SARAH MAGRINI (she/her)





PEARLCORE

Earlier this year, my grandmother called me over to her house to give me some of her old jewelry. When she offered me her pearl necklace, my jaw dropped. Pearls, although currently trendy, are a classic, elegant, and chic accessory that instantly elevates any look. The best part about pearls? You don't need to inherit them from your grandma to rock it.

Seeing easily accessible trends start to surface is one of the most exciting things about fashion. Genuine pearls are hard to come by and often expensive, but the availability of artificial pearls allows for greater inclusion of the trend. Most people passing on the street wouldn't recognize whether or not your pearls are authentic or second-hand.

Another appealing aspect of pearls is their versatility. Pearls look beautiful hanging around the neck, but other accessories also use them, like mini purses and belts. Additionally, as seen on men like Harry Styles, A\$AP Rocky, and Shawn Mendes, pearls can be androgynous. Their versatility speaks to the elegance or minimalistic aspect of dress. Harry Styles loves to wear his pearls with a casual sweater, while A\$AP Rocky rocks his pearls with tailored suits. They can be punk or preppy. Aside from style, pearls are also making headway in the makeup industry. Adding stick-on pearls to your next eyeshadow look will definitely turn heads and elevate your look.

Pearls with a t-shirt and jeans elevate a casual outfit and create a more elegant look in formal wear. More companies are making pearls a staple in their pieces. For example, these sea gems appear in high fashion, like Barbie Ferreira's Jonathan Simkhai look at the 2021 Met Gala. Although it would be nearly impossible to show up head-to-toe somewhere in perfectly placed pearls like Ferreira, I know that I will be adding them into my everyday wardrobe this year.

BY: CARLY BECKER (she/her)

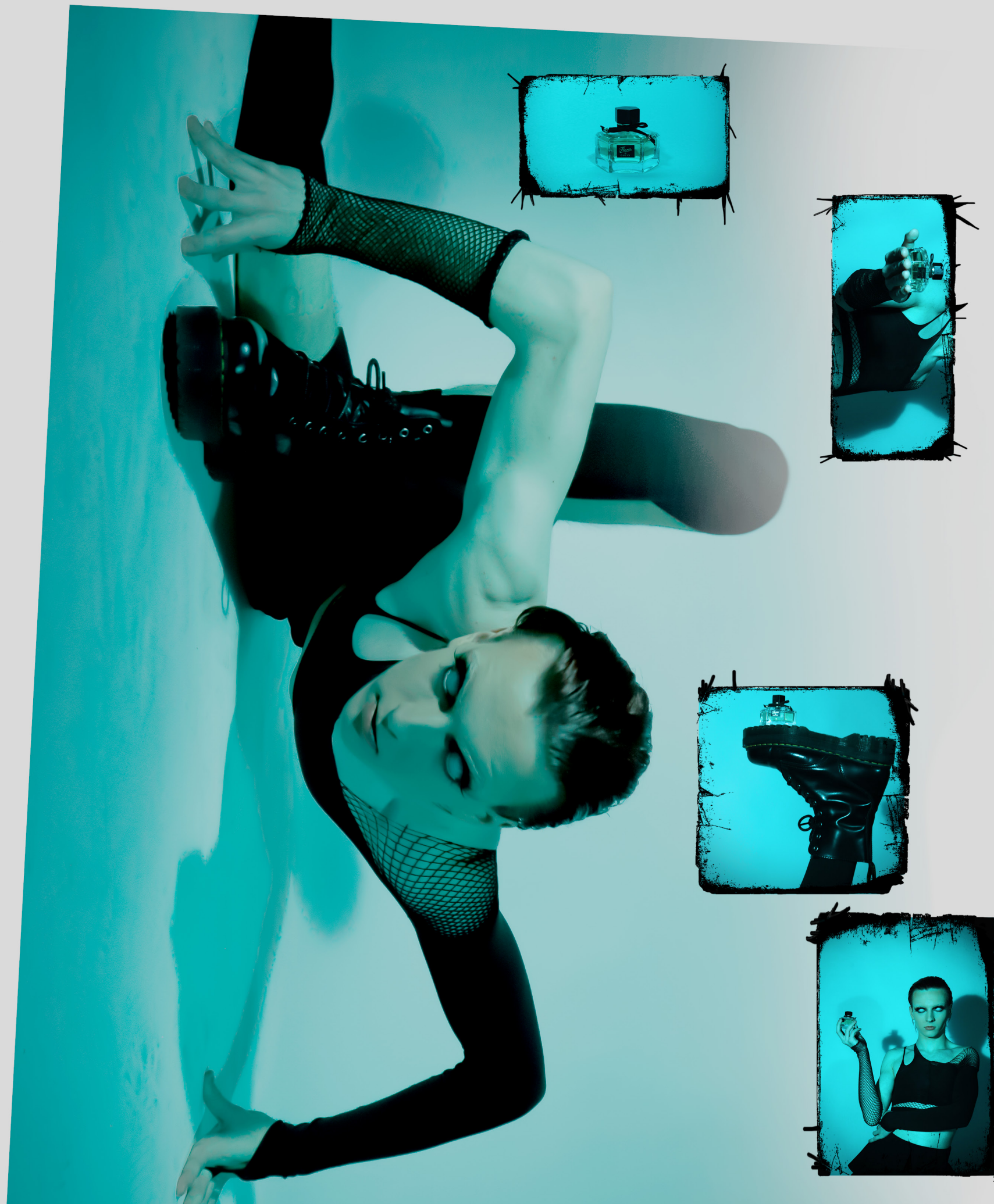
Separating Sex and Fragrance

There is a clear division in the marketing of fragrances as similar messages of a genderless customer are presented unequally. While some brands advertise genderless scents, others still market a binary. Even though “unisex” refers to a vision of gender non-conformity, Rihanna’s “Fenty Eau de Parfum” usage of the term suggests otherwise. This neutral characterization is fleeting and subliminal to the messaging that fans can smell like female-identifying artist Rihanna with her traditionally feminine perfume. Nevertheless, the repeated stock shortages of this fragrance show that the step from celebrity line to an upscale brand has hit all the high notes.

Niche brands with low production numbers have increasingly pushed towards neutral lines, though with differing approaches. Estée Lauder brand By Killian maintains traditional sexualized marketing in their perfumes, with names like “Kissing Burns 6.4 Calories a Minute. Wanna Workout?” and “Rolling in Love.” However, they favor grouping fragrances by scent type and leave any gender labeling to the customer. The current trend of perfumeries moving toward genderless lines includes the removal of erotic branding and, instead, enhancing mood in fragrance marketing. Maison Margiela’s Replica line falls into this category with descriptions of the fragrance’s inspiration taking the place of title: “Sailing Day” smells exactly as it sounds. While sea notes and juniper do not conform to traditional gender, the real bold steps for nonconforming fragrances are when roses and leather collide. Frederic Malle’s “Rose & Cuir” is the perfect example of this middle ground, with neutral spice notes and a cedar base. Even when a scent seems like it conforms to gender norms, traditions shatter when any unique wearer chooses to spray it on and ignore convention.

Reducing developmental costs and enjoying the freedom of experimentation without mass-market judgment might be responsible for brands creating genderless fragrance lines. Upscale brands that still employ gendered labels, like Creed, will be in danger of losing their coveted status in the changing industry. Niche brands will continue to guide popular designer brands to become more neutral. This influence can already be seen in special designer lines such as La Collection Privée by Christian Dior and Armani Privé. Both brands are still better known for their gendered flagship scents, particularly the Dior “Sauvage” and Armani “Si” offerings. While some brands are slow to create genderless collections, others celebrate it openly, potentially rebranding how we see couture fragrance today.

BY: JOHN SALSINI-TOBIAS (he/him)



Meet Kate Kope, an on-the-rise career model who graduated from UD in 2019 with a Food and Agribusiness Marketing and Management degree. Throughout her years as an undergraduate, she balanced schoolwork, being a sister of Sigma Kappa, and freelance modeling. I had the pleasure of chatting with Kate about her modeling origins, navigating the ever-changing industry, and what her vision is for the future of her work.

BY: CHARLOTTE SCHUMACHER (she/her)

Did you do anything during your time at UD to develop your career to be what it is now?

I started [modeling] the summer before going to college and I got extremely lucky with the professors at UD. When I would email or talk to them about my job, explaining that this is how I pay to go here and pay my bills, they were very lenient with me which I'm really grateful for. Without that, I would have had to turn down a lot of jobs, and lots of castings, and I wouldn't have had as many opportunities as I did.

Would you say there are ways in which your modeling career has taken off beyond your original expectations?

In the beginning I thought, I may as well try this, what if it ends up becoming a full job? That would be so amazing. Now, I definitely think about it [modeling] as a career and it's like oh, how long can I do this for? How much can I work and for who? Now, it's about how I can make this work for me forever.

What does a typical workday look like for you?

I never really know what I'm going to be doing or when. It's not knowing when I'm going to work next that is stressful. You tend to find out sometimes a week in advance, sometimes only a day in advance, so you always have to be on call. When I am working, I will maybe fly to LA, get there, have dinner, work the whole next day, go straight to the airport that night, then take a red-eye back. But, when I work in New York, I just wake up, go to the gym, go straight to set, and then into hair and makeup.

What aspects of your work bring you the most satisfaction?

I love that it's really creative. I never know what I'm going to do and that's exciting. You get to model some cool hairstyles and makeup and I love the people on set. They're just some of the best people. There's a web of connections that you start to create the more you work, you get to make really great friends. It's definitely stressful at times but the pros constantly outweigh the cons for me.

What would you say are your main motivations for remaining on the cutting edge of your career?

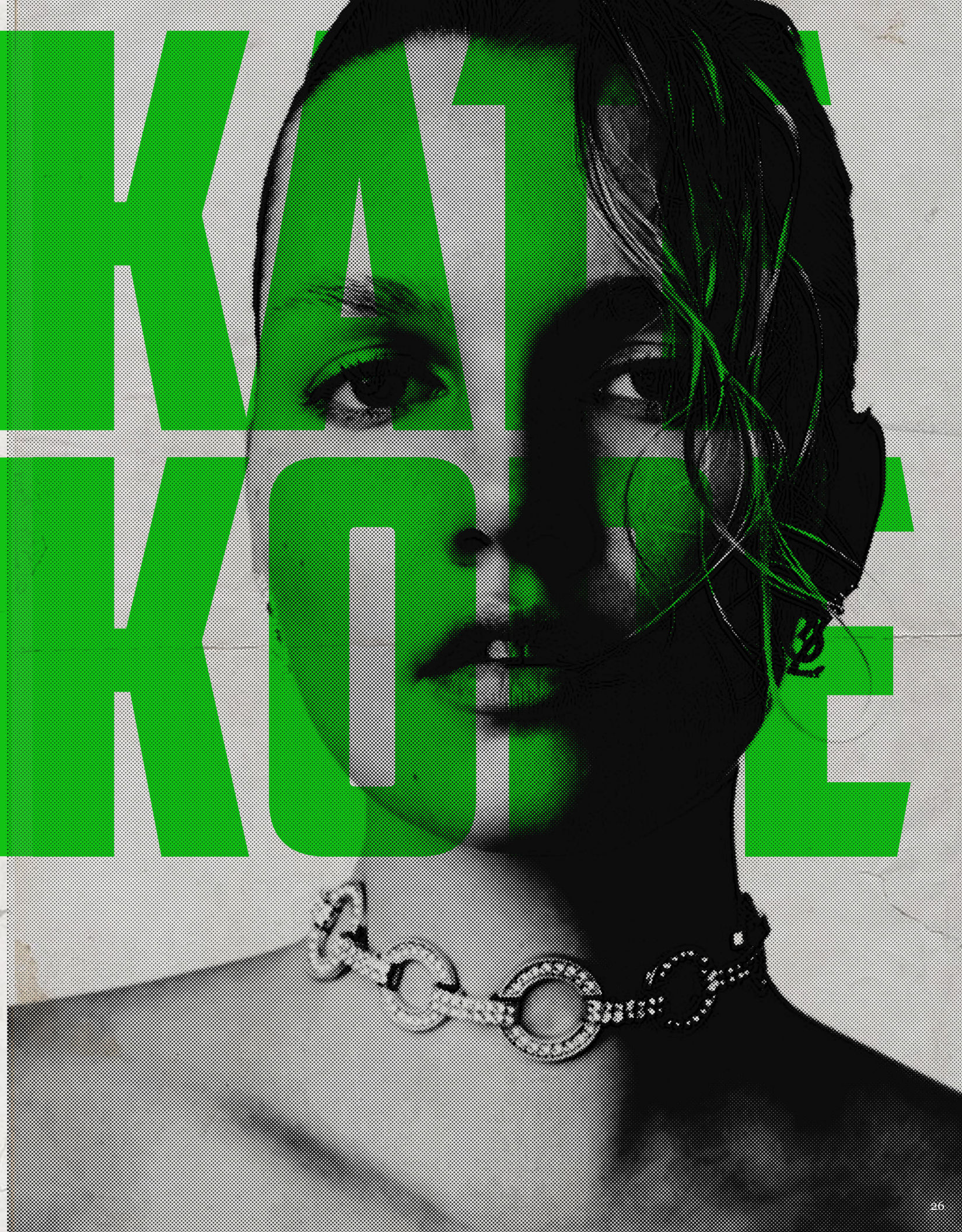
I really love this job and I want to remain in this industry in any capacity. To have a job that you enjoy, I think, is sometimes a luxury, sadly. I'm not technically plus-size but in the industry I am. Growing up, I loved Victoria's Secret. I was always reading magazines like Teen Vogue and I definitely felt sort of fat at age 10 just because I had big thighs, you know? That has changed so much even in the past five years, so that's nice to be a part of it. You don't have to be super thin to model anymore and I like that that's changing.

Who was your favorite brand to model for?

I think my first big campaign was with Hollister; this was when I was still in school. I've worked with them since then. Not continuously, though. That was a cool moment because I loved Hollister even as a kid. I recently started working with Skims which I really love because their art direction is amazing and they basically employ all women on that set. A lot of them are young and creative, it's really awesome to get to work with people like that. Their entire crew is just incredible.

What does the future of modeling look like to you? Do you have any advice for aspiring models?

I think the future of modeling is already heading in the right direction, and that's great. There's a lot of diversity in front of the camera but not as much behind the camera in terms of hair, makeup, and production people, photographers, or even businesspeople. More than that, I would say if you want a model, do it. You never truly know what's gonna happen. You don't know what opportunities are out there. Just say yes. Just be open.



TICKET TO STYLE



PUNK/ROCK

Concert halls are growing as a medium for fashion. Those lucky enough to secure a ticket to Harry Styles' Love On Tour had the privilege of attending a night of spectacular music while immersing themselves into a fashion spectacle. Arenas flood with people inspired to be their truest selves through style, gaining a memory that withstands time that leaves a trail of glitter. Whether sitting for New York Fashion Week or Ariana Grande's Sweetener World Tour, bold looks heighten the experiential sensations and influence mainstream styling.

For decades, music molded the way listeners dress and express themselves. Pop-punk princess, Avril Lavigne, is an original style icon, cultivating an entire "Sk8er Girl" generation. With the release of her newest album, Love Sux, pop-punk fashion is reborn in mainstream media with a resurgence of pink plaid and black eyeliner. Low-rise jeans, neon hair extensions, and fingerless fishnet gloves also satisfy the forgotten grunge couture we all know and love.

Hand in hand with this iconic genre is Hayley Williams, lead singer of the band Paramore. Williams is a master of both chic and casual, expressing her aesthetic through graphic tees, checkered vans, and black tights. She frequently challenges the orthodox by changing her hair from red to orange, green, and now blue. On red carpets, Williams often wears all black; however, her manipulation of muted tones is what elevates her style. One of Williams' best-known carpet looks incorporated her typical black base with a short sleeve skater dress covered in large white bows from top to bottom, which elevated the look with texture and contrast. These bold notions of resisting basic trends to mesh and mold their style into whatever they enjoy gives fans the courage to do the same.

What was once acceptable, beautiful, and saturated in the fashion industry is now fresh and free of constraints. As punk influence begins to seep back into pop culture, we have the chance to look at this outrageous and risky fashion and say, "I'm Still Into You."

BY: CECILIA DEEL (she/her)



Photography: Ayomiposi Ademulegun;
Beauty: Jasmine Otazu, Ummeh Islam, Spencer Lawson;
Models: Bobby Gioia, Mikaylla Haskins, Kenny Akojie

Style is personal and intimate, allowing individuals to make a first impression without saying a word. When we walk around campus, we observe so many different fashion aesthetics. Here is a behind-the-scenes look at some of the best UDressed students on campus.

BOBBY GIOIA, a junior at UD, described the way he dresses as a personal twist on what he sees around himself. He's inspired by trends and popular items from social media, but mainly from those around him on campus. For his everyday style, Gioia incorporates vibrant pieces like cow print jeans and patterned button downs to showcase his personality. To show a more reserved side, he chooses neutrals like brown and black corduroy. During his photoshoot, Gioia shared his appreciation and mentioned how he was unable to properly express himself during a previous UDress issue his Freshman year. Gioia is still finding his way through fashion, but he says he thrives off the daily hunt for new pieces.

BEST UDRESSED

On campus, **MIKAYLLA HASKINS** is another best UDressed who coordinates color to craft her favorite outfits. With yellow and black hair, Haskins styles her outfits with black, red, and pink clothing. Her favorite piece is her beret which she feels completes all of her outfits. Her outfits often consist of overall skirts and laced boots paired with patterned tights. Haskins gets her style inspiration from Japanese pop-fashion which often pairs skirts, ribbons and socks. Haskins, a Computer Science major, is a great example of how even non-fashion majors can impress with their style.

Building off of Haskin's style, **KENNY AKOJIE** is another best UDressed on our campus. Akojie loves the idea of building up a look by adding pieces of an outfit together until it reflects who she truly is. Layering is a must, which reflects the outfit she styled for this shoot. A favorite piece from this look is Akojie's handmade flower coat. She is passionate about hand making clothing since it gives the freedom of choosing the color, material, and vision of each outfit. Along with sewing, Akojie often styles herself using inspiration from streetwear, classic-styled, and chic clothing. Overall, Akojie certainly is someone to take inspiration from in the fashion world.

Although only a few students were highlighted here, the hope is to open your eyes to various styles around campus. Nothing is stopping you from stepping away from the norm and being adventurous with your personal style.

BY: PAIGE RENNEISEN (she/her)





UNDER THE “OTHER” UMBRELLA OF DRAG

Drag. More than gender presentation. More than drag queens or impersonating femininity. It is an art form. It is a means of expressing one’s self. No criteria, no norms, no boundaries. The entirety of drag is what you make it.

On every level, drag is a form of expression. Everyone has their own story that they choose to express. Not only do we see this today, but the original drag influencers, the Club Kids, exhibited this dating back to the 1980s. Synonymous with NYC nightlife, the Club Kids took the city by storm and celebrated their queerness. Wacky, expressive drag was their specialty, and they paved the way for what we know drag to be today.

Beyond the common glamor and sparkles lies another form of expression that takes on a completely different presentation: gore. Often used as an outlet to confront the deeper sides of their lives, horror expression is a unique component of drag that many find solace in. While all styles of drag transcend norms, horror art is on a whole other level. From blood to spiders to metal contraptions, this form of drag is full of possibilities.

Even the process of drag itself is an art. The duo Fecal Matter exemplifies this in their extensive transformations. Known for their out-of-the-box aesthetic, Fecal Matter takes pride in embracing their true selves. Makeup becomes a weapon to clear the way to freedom. Lipstick becomes eyeliner. Heels become alien legs. The creative process behind their looks is an essential component of their expression, and the same goes for more feminine drag artists. An integral aspect of drag is tapping into yourself and navigating what to express.

At the end of this process comes the result. Grotesque and glam aren’t mutually exclusive, something drag queen Charity Kase takes pride in. Her style is distinct and differs from the usual, as she wears elaborate costumes with exaggerated features and, of course, gore. Using drag as a means to express creativity, emotions, and escape from reality, is common in the community. Blending nightmares and daydreams is the backbone in the art of horror.

Defying and transcending norms. Celebrating queerness. Going beyond hyper-femininity. Expressing the self to the fullest extent. Drag is all-encompassing and here to stay.

BY: OLIVIA SCHEFF (she/her)



Photography: Anna Bender,
Styling: Josie Gladden,
Sofia Sabogal, Maggie Holl,
Beauty: Digby Roberts,
Model: Digby Roberts

FENTY

OR FRAUD?



When consumers think of the integrity of a product, honesty is the first thing that comes to mind. Does the product live up to the quality standards that it advertises? Does the product follow the company's mission statement? With celebrity makeup brands on the rise, it is important to ask ourselves if these makeup products are worth the investment. For example, successful celebrity ventures may reflect society's need to emulate stars rather than good product performances. To reiterate this, you may love Madison Beer as a singer, but does that mean you should run to buy her Morphe eyeshadow palette?

The answer is: it depends. We as consumers have to remember, celebrities have access to various treatments to make them look younger, glowy, smooth, and overall, perfect. It is essential to research these products and to not just dive into a purchase because you admire the celebrity. Rihanna is a perfect example of a celebrity who is involved in every aspect of her makeup line, Fenty Beauty. She and her friends test the products themselves to make sure the line includes a range of skin tones and aligns with the mission statement of Fenty Beauty which is "...so that women everywhere would be included." While using and seeing the various skin tones included within Fenty's products, it is clear that this is Rihanna's brand because her values are embedded with its overall execution. She made sure to pay attention to detail from product performance down to the attractive, sleek packaging. The hard work paid off, garnering rave reviews, which makes consumers more thrilled to use it, recommend it, and purchase more.

Ariana Grande's R.E.M. Beauty is a prime example of a celebrity makeup brand that is—unlike her extraordinary singing—extremely underwhelming. The aesthetic and presentation of the brand is bland and you can find better quality products at lower prices elsewhere. Even fans of Grande can see that there is nothing unique about the line, which is the most important factor against competitors.

Celebrity makeup brands are slowly improving, but still have a long way to go. Think to yourself. Can you name a list of successful celebrity makeup brands besides Fenty and Rare Beauty? It is very difficult to find celebrities that stick to their brand. Thankfully, makeup users will not hesitate to speak up when it is obvious a celebrity name was slapped onto a palette.

BY: MALLORY REINKEN (she/her)



GUYLINER

The beauty of cosmetics is enhancing your features to create a piece of art that increases self-esteem, overall confidence or expresses creativity. Male makeup ranges from using concealer to cover blemishes to wearing a full face of fierce glam. “Guyliner” is a growing movement with endless possibilities for an eyeliner’s shape, design, and color.

“Guyliner” could be a simple smudged-out line on the lid, lower lash line, or a long dramatic neon pink wing. From a ferociously dragged out cat eyeliner and basic outer and inner tight line to a graphic wing with a hint of glitter on top-- eyeliner is whatever you want. Certain liner shapes will elongate or shorten the eye depending on what look you want. Colored liquid or coal liners draw attention to the eyes, accentuating the natural shape and color. Machine Gun Kelly is a well-known celebrity that proudly wears eyeliner showing the public the normalcy of male makeup.

Where mainstream culture recently normalized men wearing nail polish, it is only the beginning for guys with eyeliner. Similarly, a subtle approach to makeup is applying concealer before work because it is not noticeable and blends in. Nevertheless, this is a natural progression for men wearing makeup in everyday life. Subtle enhancements are starting to emerge for men, and eyeliner is the perfect addition because you can either stand out or blend in.

The evolution of artistry in the makeup industry has no boundaries, especially with gender. Still today, opinions and stereotypes instill that makeup is unmasculine, shaping society’s perspective towards men using cosmetic products. With the rise of drag makeup and beauty influencers on social media, they provide a safe space for men to embrace their beauty interests while relieving the pressure of unrealistic standards. Male makeup is a transcending phenomenon revolutionizing the way we view the industry, revealing artistic capabilities and unreal talent.

BY: MADISON CASEY (she/her)



DEPARTMENT-LESS STORES

Men's and women's: two categories that supposedly encompass "all" gendered clothing, except the genderless. Finding clothes is supposed to be an adventure of self discovery, but those labels put a hard stop on that journey. The reality is that an industry known for self-expression remains behind on including everyone. The new genre of gender-free fashion is revolutionary and becoming more expressive compared to the bland designs of five years ago.

Gender-free fashion is the frontier for Gen Z. According to Garrett Smith, CEO of the Phluid Project, over 60% of consumers are willing to shop across gender lines, and 40% already do so. In a profit-driven world, it makes sense for retailers to capitalize on gender-free, but many don't. Who is doing gender-free fashion right and how is retail becoming more inclusive?

The leader in gender-free fashion is none other than the Phluid Project. With a focus on being your authentic self, they created the world's first gender-free store in 2018. The brand's messaging not only caters to trans and non-binary consumers, but to everyone. Phluid Project's use of bright colors brighten the traditional gender-neutral clothing, breaking boundaries one piece at a time.

I and Me is another brand making big steps by combining genderless and sustainable fashion, putting creative design first, gender last. All materials are sourced from partners that value reduction of waste, water, and harmful chemicals. I and Me is a leader in sustainability, gender-free movements and is a great pick for guilt-free, gender-free shopping.

What about big retailers? The Phluid Project partners with other retailers who want to embrace the movement. Their recent partnership with Saks Fifth Avenue was a major success and made the retailer a leader in gender-free sections in stores. Nordstrom is also making big strides to provide that option to their customers and they teamed up with brand Wildfang to provide gender-free fashion aimed at Gen Z under their private label BP. The line has over 500 pieces to cater to everyone, proving that big names can still make an impact on smaller communities.

When will gender-free fashion be in all major retailers? The truth is: not in the near future. Gender-free fashion is a new concept in the industry and mostly appeals to the younger generations. The journey to inclusion is long but not impossible. If consumers push for the relevancy and advocacy of gender-free sections in stores, fashion can be welcoming for everyone.

BY: NATALIE HELEWA (she/her)

the rise of
nepotism babies

Famous families and leg-ups in Hollywood are nothing new. They are the building blocks of notoriety. A large number of actresses, models, and musicians' careers take off due to famous relatives. Those born into these families are nicknamed nepotism babies and, as it turns out, they run the industry today.

Nepotism babies have been the center of controversy in the internet age, but whether or not you are supposed to love or hate them isn't always black and white. While their presence of privilege is unavoidable and shouldn't diminish their hard work and challenges faced, it does mean that their career path is considerably easier compared to those without such privilege.

It has seemingly become an everyday responsibility to determine which nepotism babies are deserving of their fame and which ones run the risk of corrupting the art that Hollywood set out to produce. This new generation of nepotism has given us the likes of Willow and Jaden Smith, Bella and Gigi Hadid, Kendall and Kylie Jenner, Maude Apatow, Kaia Geber, Lily-Rose Depp, and Brooklyn Beckham. So, where do we draw the line? Who isn't acknowledging that their privilege got them to where they are today?

Take a look at Gigi Hadid: the model admitted she's completely aware of her privilege in a 2018 interview with Vogue Australia. Her mother Yolanda is a former supermodel and her father, Mohammed, is a multimillionaire luxury real estate developer. "There are so many girls who come from all over the world and work their arses off and send money home to their families as my mother did... and I wanted them to know that it's never about me trying to overshadow or take their place," said Hadid. Bravo!

Then, there is Kendall Jenner's brand of nepotism, which dismisses how the luxury of her family name has catapulted nepotism babies to success. In an infamous *Keeping Up With The Kardashians* episode, Jenner said that stardom made it "harder" for her to become a model. Given that thousands of young aspiring models struggle financially, it stings and disregards the hardships of so many.

It ponders the question: are there superior models out there who just aren't given the chance because they're not a Kardashian?

And what happens when this generation of nepotism babies starts having babies of their own? I don't fathom a world in which we do not care about what they're doing and how they use their privilege. Nepotism in Hollywood is rampant. It's interesting and entertaining, both beautiful and complex. The cycle will only continue to repeat itself, so we must learn to live with it, or to some extent, while still holding celebrities accountable.

BY: ANNA PARKER (she/her)



DESIGNING FOR DISABILITIES

Destigmatizing disabilities is one of many goals for our generation, but is this translating to the fashion industry? Though current brands like Pretty Little Thing include ethnically diverse models, adaptive clothing is scant. Journalist Annie Groer defines adaptive clothing as “[fashion] re-engineered for [people] with physical, cognitive or sensory issues, both chronic and short-term.”

Disabilities encompass physical disorders alongside non-visible mental illnesses. A diagnosis like autism can make soft fabrics feel scratchy and tight on the skin’s surface; other disorders like ADHD and body dysmorphia have psychological effects. As a result, individuals seek adaptive accommodations like loose, dry-fit-material clothing for an increase in overall comfort. Additionally, those with diagnoses like multiple sclerosis may find it difficult to shop for adaptive garments that fit their mobility needs. This lack of representation translates to a scarcity of products making it easy to forget the privilege most have while shopping.

One in four adults have physical or mental disabilities, yet I challenge you to recall the last time you saw adaptive clothing on display. Arguably, the strongest contributor to such scarcity stems from the unintentionally dismissive quote, “See the person, not the disability.” A disability can impact lives greatly; therefore, when influential companies invalidate disabled persons’ needs, it perpetuates outcasting. In trying to suppress disabilities, accessibility remains stagnant.

Companies like Facebook, with nearly 308 million users, continue to limit sponsored results including the word “disability”, thus fueling shame and inaccessibility. Additionally, family brands like Kohl’s and JCPenny hold influence in changing the norms; yet trendy styles for non-disabled people continue to make headlines.

Hopefully, we are among the horizon of tangible change as slowly, brands like Target are creating adaptive options like velcro shoes and tagless shirts. The caveat? It’s only available for kids. While encouraging that children have a strong foundation of comfortable clothing, what happens when they grow up? Brands must continue to expand, tailoring for people of all needs and ages. Tommy Adaptive, a line of universal design apparel from Tommy Hilfiger, inches the industry closer to inclusion, with clothes for all ages. Yet, this line (and adaptive clothing) are neither price accessible nor fit for a diverse range of styles. Adaptive clothing is usually plain or basic, which contributes to the societal notion that people with disabilities should stick to the status quo and allows little room for self-expression.

Adaptive clothing should be more than just a box to check. Clothes are an integral part of building confidence, identity, and joy. Accountability, education, and awareness are crucial as a lack of representation causes much harm to quality of life. Fashion must be an inclusive, comfortable, and encouraging medium for all.

BY: UDRESS STAFF WRITER



JUST LIKE MAGIC.

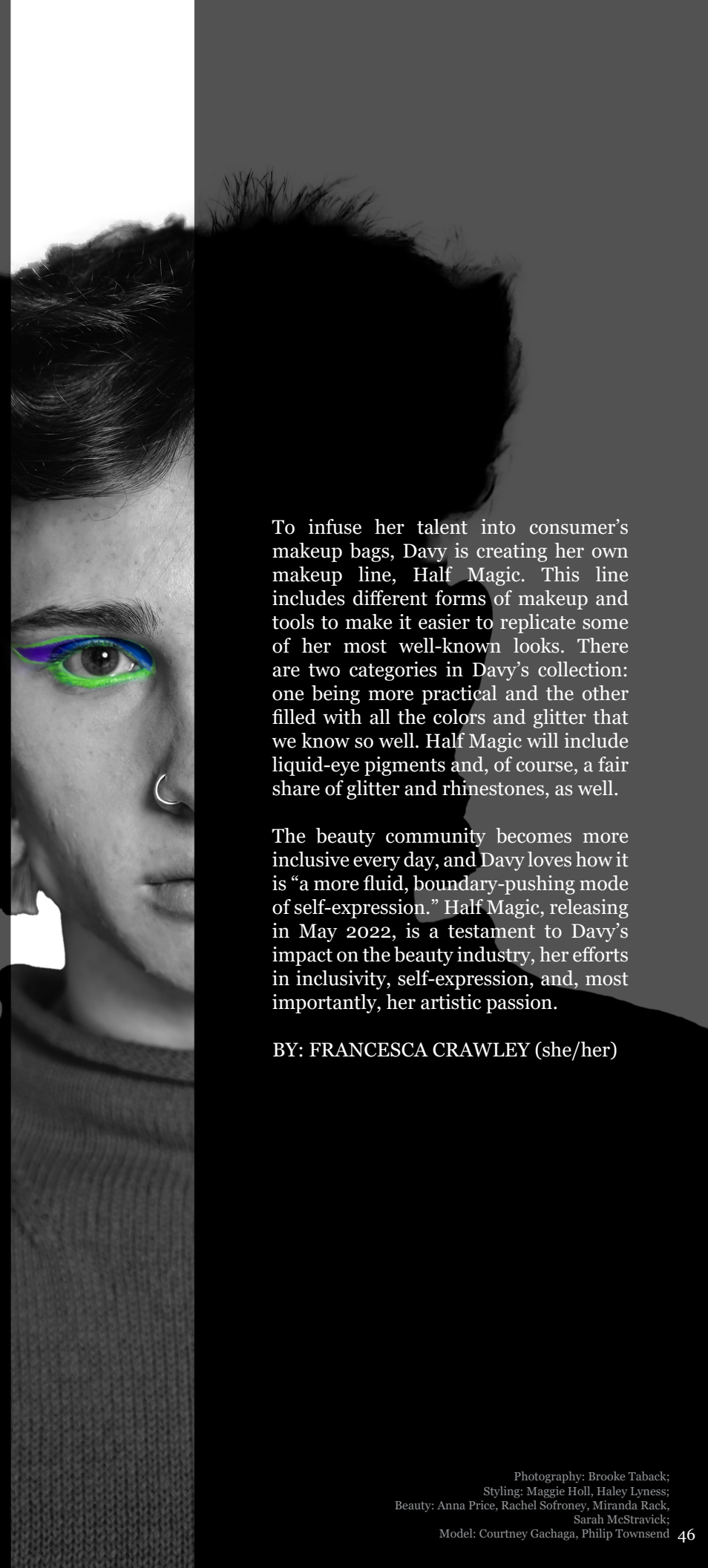
The television series Euphoria took the world by storm in 2019 and continues to influence all aspects of popular culture, especially makeup trends and the cosmetic industry. Behind the rhinestones and colorful eyeshadow is Doniella “Donni” Davy, the mastermind and makeup designer of the hit series. While the show is her most known work, she boasts an impressive resume including the films Moonlight, Under the Silver Lake, and the historical series The Underground Railroad.

Davy takes her inspiration from late 1960s celebrities like Twiggy, legendary jazz singer Nina Simone, 1970s glam rock moments, and Gen-Z Instagram accounts. She incorporates these inspirations in the films Moonlight and Under the Silver Lake through various cool tones and shades of blue and purple, adding to the films’ ambiance. She believes that Gen-Z is reconstructing the beauty industry, embracing the freedom that makeup gives everyone, and “defying beauty and makeup norms.” Through this style, Davy expresses what makes her different from the rest. She uses makeup as an outlet for storytelling, to show everyone that they can be whoever they want.

After only the release of Euphoria’s first season, Donni Davy received an Emmy for her role as a makeup designer. In the show, her eyeshadow looks include glitter, gems, and brighter colors, making her work stand out in a predominantly neutral-toned industry and thus allowing the audience to see her prolific vision. Brands were dying to collaborate after knowing her undeniable impact on the industry, but Davy knew she wanted to do something even bigger.



DONNNY DAVY’S DOMINANCE IN BEAUTY



To infuse her talent into consumer’s makeup bags, Davy is creating her own makeup line, Half Magic. This line includes different forms of makeup and tools to make it easier to replicate some of her most well-known looks. There are two categories in Davy’s collection: one being more practical and the other filled with all the colors and glitter that we know so well. Half Magic will include liquid-eye pigments and, of course, a fair share of glitter and rhinestones, as well.

The beauty community becomes more inclusive every day, and Davy loves how it is “a more fluid, boundary-pushing mode of self-expression.” Half Magic, releasing in May 2022, is a testament to Davy’s impact on the beauty industry, her efforts in inclusivity, self-expression, and, most importantly, her artistic passion.

BY: FRANCESCA CRAWLEY (she/her)



Let's Get Digital



For those trying out fashion's latest trends and technology's newest investments, forget about the physical element of fashion. Non-fungible tokens (NFTs) are digital assets that represent real-world objects. A fashion NFT is a purely virtual design of a garment that is never produced. The Fabricant, a digital couture house, sold 'Iridescence,' fashion's first breakthrough into NFT marketplaces in 2019. This digital outfit created by Johanna Jaskowska sold for \$9,500. Success only grew from here, with NFT sales hitting \$24.9 billion in 2021.

Consumers buy fashion NFTs and regular NFTs for the same purpose: to hold ownership of digital art. If you have trouble understanding the value behind NFTs, think of each non-fungible token as an individual file. Now, imagine you're using Photoshop to design your dream handbag. When the design is complete, you save it to your computer as a file with a unique code. If someone out there would be willing to buy that file, a digital asset, for \$200, all you must do is upload it to an online NFT marketplace and wait for a bid. You might wonder why a person would want to buy this seemingly useless digital property. If you are not interested in keeping an NFT as a collectible, there is great potential to resell it for a profit.

The lack of NFT regulation has allowed certain unethical activities to occur. Hermès is suing artist Mason Rothschild for his creation of the MetaBirkin NFTs. The Birkin bag has been a distinct Hermès design and fashion staple since 1984. Rothschild's 100 digital imaginary Birkin bags have sold as high as \$53,000 apiece. New Hermès Birkins are typically sold for around \$10,000, while a used one-of-a-kind Birkin can be in the \$100,000 price range. Future regulations will likely eliminate an artist's ability to sell designs that do not belong to them. However, Rothschild's art reflects not just the demand for unique pieces but luxurious NFT fashion.

Fashion NFTs have a slightly different edge compared to other non-fungible tokens because, typically, NFTs are digitizations of pre-existing objects. However, high-end brands such as Burberry, Gucci, and Louis Vuitton have released unique NFT pieces that only exist in the digital world, adding a certain exclusivity to fashion NFTs. High demand for these assets will soon fade as prices are already declining. But the impact NFTs are having on digital fashion will not.

BY: ABIGAIL RIZOL (she/her)

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Pictured on the right is a set of original glasses that represent digital art as an NFT through blockchain; however, these glasses are not just a pretty picture. These glasses have a feature of utility— they can be used as a digital accessory through social media augmented filters, like on Instagram and Snapchat. 1 of 5 Americans who have a social media account have posted using an augmented filter (source: consumerreports.org). If you are interested in tapping into the world of digital NFT fashion, scan the QR code below on the right to view 1 of 5 Qizmed Original glasses available for ownership on the blockchain. Scan the left barcode to try on these glasses through the augmented portal. As the world of digital art expands, learning artists like myself are able to create without limitations and efficiently problem-solve to turn visions into (virtual) realities.

BY: NICK OTERI (he/him)



Instagram Filter



Purchase NFTs

SENIOR

SWAP

SEND OFF



JOANNA LEE - PHOTOGRAPHY DIRECTOR



SARAH CARLSON - ONLINE COORDINATOR



MAGGIE HOLL - STYLE DIRECTOR



VALERIE LIGHT - EDITOR IN CHIEF



HALEY LEVIN - PR DIRECTOR



ANDRES FABRIS - ASSOCIATE EDITOR



NICOLE O'ROURKE - MODEL COORDINATOR



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