

Who Are You Wearing? Christmas Special.

Kiri Pritchard-McClean

With Guests: Miquita Oliver, Joe Lycett, Lolly Adefope, Kate McGuire, Tom Allen, Michelle de Swarte, Ian H Watkins, Susan Calman, Amrou Al-Kadhi, Rhys Nicholson, Dr Ronx Ikharia, Rachel Fairburn, Owain Wyn Evans, Da'Shaun Harrison, Suzi Ruffell, Cat Cohen.

[Intro Music]

Kiri: Hello and welcome to this bonus episode of Who Are You Wearing? I'm Kiri Pritchard-McClean a standup comedian who loves clothes. And the only thing I love more than clothes is chatting to very stylist people about their clothes. Now when we record the podcast we always ask a load of quickfire questions just to get warmed up. And we don't release the answers to those but there's so many belter ones we thought we would give you a sneak peek. So we're going to give you the gift of inspiration by sharing their answers to the question, who is your style icon? And tis the season so of course I've been asking people what they're going to be wearing over Christmas. Here are some of the brilliant answers we've got in the making of Season two. Starting off with Miquita Oliver who has the perfect Christmas style icon.

Miquita: Cher in the '70s.

Kiri: That is the perfect answer. Perfect answer.

Miquita: Right OK good. I've always loved her, I was very lucky enough to interview her a few times and she is what a woman. What a woman. So wise, so brilliant and just by the third interview I didn't want to leave her side, I was like I got really close to her [laughs] And then I sort of in the last ten years started looking at some old kind of not really like the Sonny and Cher Show, a little bit after that but actually the end of the Sonny and Cher show she really takes it there, just the fact that she was creating these looks with Bob Mackie and they were so beautiful and glamorous but she wore them like she was in jeans

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and a t-shirt, she always looked so relaxed. And she was tall and thin and rakish like but she was so sexy. I just love her. And I feel like she dressed for exactly who she was and she always looked free.

Kiri: Yeah you're so right.

Miquita: Which Cher just feels doesn't she?

Kiri: Yeah I hadn't noticed that before. There's a great Welsh girl that I work with. If I want a piece of clothing that doesn't exist I've got a girl who will make stuff for me.

Miquita: Oh wicked.

Kiri: And every now and then we go through stages and she's like 'I've been looking at loads of Cher at the moment' and I was like 'I've been looking at loads of Cher'. Because that era is so perfect like aww.

Miquita: Yes, yes. And if you really delve deep there's so much. There's like all of the old Sonny and Cher Show. Then she gets her own show, I didn't know this, I watched a Cher documentary. And then she takes the looks to new levels. Like all these separates like beautiful trousers and sort of halter necks. So much skin, so many sequins and colour and flair. And then she starts to become an actress and just goes to the Oscars like a g in Bob Mackie with like a feather headdress, it's like go on, just go on. I love her. I love her.

Kiri: In your house do you have Christmas day outfits? Like an outfit that will be bought especially for it or one that you wear every year?

Miquita: We're quite a pyjama-y Christmas family. But this year we've had to do quite a lot of Christmas shoots. So we've had like three fake Christmases already and we had to dress up for them and we were all like 'I don't know what we wear on Christmas day?' Like that's not an outfit in

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our lives. But turned out we all had pretty good Christmas day looks. So I think this year will be the first time we really do put some clothes on for dinner [laughs]. Or we'll be so Christmas'd out by all our fake Christmases I probably will be in pyjamas.

Kiri: Yeah maybe you'd don't need to because I mean you've already had the experience in the photos so you can just I mean gaslight yourself into thinking that was the actual occasion, that's the one that goes in the photo album.

Miquita: Totally, totally. My mum was like 'I don't think I can be bothered to cook Christmas dinner, I've looked at so many.' And I was like, I get it, I get it, for Christmas day [laughs]let's be honest.

Kiri: Oh classic Cher and I of course will be alternating between Bob Mackie and pyjamas on Christmas day. Now as you'd expect Joe Lycett has one of my favourite answers for style icons and his Christmas day outfit sounds as brilliant as it does itchy.

Joe: What's the name of that, is it Iris Apfel who wears those huge glasses?

Kiri: Iris Apfel.

Joe: I love her.

Kiri: Yeah.

Joe: And I suppose I'm, I mean I'm a bit like you are, a bit of a magpie anything that shines I'm into it. Who wears a lot of shiny things? You, you're my style icon.

Kiri: Thank you [laughs] finally!

Joe: You and Iris.

Kiri: [Laughs] What? I'd watch that Flat Share sitcom, I'd absolutely watch that. OK I don't know if this is a

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Northern thing and where the Midlands stand on it, do you have Christmas day outfits in your house?

Joe: Oh my God. Sort of, I mean we like to dress up a little bit. But I had when I was younger, I don't know if you remember me when I was a younger man with the long hair that was longer than yours is. And I was a little chubbier than I am now and I sort of looked like um? I looked like a sort of, I looked like Clare Balding.

Kiri: [Laughs]

Joe: There's no getting round it. Um in a very nice way, I think Clare Balding is very beautiful so I'm saying that as a compliment to both myself and Clare Balding but I don't think I look as much like Clare Balding now. And I would wear on Christmas Day I found this cardigan in a second hand shop that someone had stitched in the farmyard scene on the back and it was like kind of, I don't know what, it was not quite wool but what's like a kind of longer sort of weirder wool, I don't know. It was not a particularly nice fabric. And then yeah stitched into it were these like there was a cow and a farm and like just ridiculous. So I would wear that and everyone hated it.

Kiri: [Laughs]

Joe: And I think I sort of wore it out of spite essentially. And I got one Christmas jumper, you know every time you do a Christmas special. I literally just filmed the Christmas special for QI last month which was March. So I had to find a Christmas jumper which I didn't have access to so I wore this sort of goldy thing because I thought it was a bit festive. But normally if I had access to it I've got this Christmas jumper I bought years ago which I love and it's quite classy, it's got reindeers across it. So I now wear that most Christmases.

Kiri: Love it.

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Joe: But yeah for many years I had that horrible cardigan which all of my family hated and that brought me a lot of pleasure at Christmas.

Kiri: [Laughs] Where is it now?

Joe: I think it got thrown into a furnace.

Kiri: [Laughs] Under a full moon by a priest, sure.

Joe: Yeah [laughs].

Kiri: You heard it here first, Kiri Pritchard-McClean, Joe Lycett style icon, and I'll say it...muse. It's done, it's out there. From one comedy icon to another Lolly Adefope talks us through her favourite androgenous icons.

Have you got a style icon?

Lolly: I've got a lot of people that I follow on Instagram who I think are style icons. Most of them are men, I will say that. Also there's a girl called Naomi Shimada who has incredible style and another girl called Alva Claire who has very cool style. And then this guy called Paul Binam who I think just has the best style in the world but it's more like I can't wear what he wears but I just love what he wears.

Kiri: It's nice to look at nice people. Do you know what I mean, like people who put themselves together well?

Lolly: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Kiri: Mwah, mwah, mwah, I find that delicious.

Lolly: Yeah. Natasha Lyonne as well actually maybe, some other style icon.

Kiri: Yeah she always looks.

Lolly: She wears quite a lot of men's clothes or like masculine clothes.

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- Kiri: Yeah because I feel like she's reinventing or moving on from what was Marlen Dietrich and then was the woman. Oh Diane? Keaton, Diane Keaton.
- Lolly: Yeah, yeah.
- Kiri: So that sort of like masculine great hair you know like.
- Lolly: Exactly. Yeah, yeah, yeah.
- Kiri: She's the modern version of it.
- Lolly: Totally.
- Kiri: In your house do you have like for Christmas day do you have outfits that you dress up in? Like you'll buy it and you'll be like 'I'm going to wear that on Christmas day' it's like a special outfit.
- Lolly: Yeah but I only really started doing that in like the last maybe five years. I think before it used to be like what are my fanciest pyjamas that I can wear all day on Christmas day. And then like a few years ago, I guess in a kind of a dark way it was like when everyone started using Instagram it was like OK what am I going to wear on Christmas day? [laughs]
- Kiri: [Laughs]
- Lolly: I didn't before that.
- Kiri: What's going to look thirsty on the 'gram?
- Lolly: Yeah, yeah, yeah exactly [laughs].
- Kiri: [Laughs] Tis the season to be thirsty.
- Lolly: Yeah, yeah [laughs]
- Kiri: Oh I'm so glad that I'm not the only one who thinks about their Christmas day outfits in terms of Instagram. Phew that's made me feel better. Now Kate McGuire of

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Converted Closet is up next and we get to geek out over one of the most stylish women in the world.

Kate: I watched an Audrey Hepburn documentary the other night and I mean god I have to say, really her. No she just wore clothes in a way that I've never seen and she was a ballet dancer. I think she just looks like just ethereal in everything. It's like she's dancing, she's performing. She points her toes as she walks and you know I love the way Dior dressed her as well. So I feel like she's probably my style icon.

Kiri: She's incredible isn't she? Because just thinking in terms of her films in like Roman Holiday like she's flawless in that and it's sort of linens and shirts and those big skirts. And obviously Breakfast at Tiffany's. And which film is it wear she wears the black turtleneck and she goes to a jazz club and she does a dance routine in it.

Kate: Oh God I love that! I love it! Oh I could watch that. And you know they kind of pulled her into that scene. She was really nervous about it, didn't think she could pull it off, it was like come on. Like I think what is it? I mean she's so modern, she was always just so modern and unique. I don't know why, I think it's also the short hair, the little fringe, just the whole thing, oh God her vibe, yes please.

Kiri: She's amazing. Also my partner thinks the most perfect picture of any woman ever. Have you seen it? I think she's in like a lovely trench coat and she's bent down in the supermarket shopping looking for some cans or something and she's got her pet deer with her, a baby deer.

Kate: [Laughs] No.

Kiri: And he's like 'It's the most perfect image of a woman I've ever seen in my life' [laughs].

Kate: Oh my God what does that say about him?

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Kiri: Audrey Hepburn shopping with a baby deer.

Kate: Oh my God. Do you know that's...

Kiri: Well, weird that he ended up with me.

Kate: [Laughs] Got good taste, he's got good taste evidently.

Kiri: So do you have in your house Christmas day outfits? Like a special outfit that you buy for the day? You'll wear it again since but a special outfit that you put on for Christmas day?

Kate: That is a good question. I get outfits for everybody else. But I normally wear a dress that I hadn't worn before. So this Christmas I wore one of my new quilt dresses for the first time, obviously, just showing it off to my family who'd actually seen me making it. But I like to wear something fresh and new that I've made, I've converted from something but yeah I do dress up. We have to dress up on Christmas day don't we?

Kiri: Yeah I think so. Make the effort for Santa.

Kate: [Laughs] He really cares, he does.

Kiri: National treasure Tom Allen is up next. And his choice is, well they're as timeless and classic as you would expect. Also I finally get to tell a story about Clarridges that I've been dying to talk about [laughs].

Tom: Fred Astaire, since I was a teenager I've always loved, particularly him in the film Top Hat. The way he wears white tie and tails which I do think is the most elegant outfit on a man and on anybody. But there's something about him wearing it, just looks very, I don't know it just looks very sharp. And in the interwar period they had very high starched detachable collars they'd wear which I always thought is a very, I don't know why it just looks very elegant to me. And similarly he wears a dinner jacket at other points and looks wonderful. And even just an

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ordinary, maybe a jacket, a sports jacket. He also looks great in the film *Easter Parade* with Judy Garland and um every moment, I've always had an obsession with silk top hats. Occasionally I'll go to someone like George Banks from the film *Mary Poppins*. Or other times it will be more like someone like Tom Ford.

Kiri: Oh yeah lovely.

Tom: Or even Yves Saint Laurent.

Kiri: Oh yes! Oh my gosh so many. We haven't had anyone on whose talked about that kind of like love of I guess classic high end tailoring as well.

Tom: Oh yeah, it's very interesting, I don't know huge amounts but I've never been to one of the classic sort of Saville Row places to have anything made, I'm a bit scared of them actually. But there's something about the way that the parameters of them, the way that they're created that how they've evolved as outfits, I think it's very becoming on, particularly if you're a slightly slight stature which I am and perhaps would like to be slightly broader, then tailoring can help. But maybe I'm just lying to myself, maybe I should just embrace being a small shouldered man. I don't know.

Kiri: [Laughs]

Tom: But I like the costume of it as well. I like formality because it feels like it's theatre and it's dressing up.

Kiri: Do you like it when you go to a restaurant when there's lots of, you know when they'll sort of come over and they'll sort of interfere with the food or put on a mini show?

Tom: Yes.

Kiri: You know when you've got to pour broth over something.

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Tom: Oh I love that.

Kiri: Or you know like set fire to something.

Tom: Once upon a time I took a friend of mine out for a thank you dinner and they had a crepe suzette station which I think both of us would enjoy actually Kiri.

Kiri: [Laughs]

Tom: Mainly because they flambe basically a pancake in front of you and the whole restaurant was filled with flames and I loved it, it was great. And then at the end you're just sort of presented with just a flat pancake with a bit of syrup on it but.

Kiri: [Laughs]

Tom: [Laughs] In the moment it's incredible. Yeah I love all that. I love a dessert performance I think is very wonderful.

Kiri: I got taken for lunch at Clarridges, very posh.

Tom: [Draws breath] Very posh.

Kiri: And yeah apparently there's not many places in the UK do it. Have you seen it when they, you're meant to do it with brandy but I think they did it with wine. Oh yeah they did it with wine, this is so funny. So you know where you heat up tongs and you clamp it round and then you get ice and you basically chop off the cork with the glass around it.

Tom: Yes! That happened when I went to a fancy restaurant with my mum and dad a couple of Christmases ago, oh no he didn't do that, he did it slightly differently. He lit a candle underneath it and then took it out. And the theatre of that sommelier business was really, and he decanted it and then he put the cork, he took the cork out of the bottle and put spikes in either end of it and

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then put it on a chain round the neck of the decanter. The whole paraphernalia was so stunning.

Kiri: Love it.

Tom: Yeah really kind of, and quite French in its way.

Kiri: Really French yeah. And they cut it off and they put it in wax.

Tom: Oh.

Kiri: And you're meant to do it with brandy traditionally.

Tom: Oh.

Kiri: And they do it in Europe a bit more. But this was sort of Clarridges being like 'We're going to do it with wine as a fun thing.' And then so we had some of the wine and it was corked [laughs].

Tom: Oh no had to send it back...

Kiri: Yeah but they just came back and opened it normally, they were like 'We're not doing that again' [laughs].

Tom: [Laughs]

Kiri: Do you have Christmas day outfits in your house?

Tom: One might have a Christmas day outfit but then if one receives something new, one immediately wants to change. Well one year I tried to wear a rollneck underneath a Prince of Wales suit that I'd recently bought in a sale and I was very excited about it but what I didn't take into account is that my mother, sorry Greta Thunberg loves to have the heating on to approximately what I can only describe as I don't know, nuclear reactor.

Kiri: [Laughs] Old people's home.

Tom: Old people's home levels of heating. So I was like and obviously I put myself in charge of making the dinner

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because obviously I have to be controlling. And so that was a veritable nightmare, it was a nightmare. And nobody wanted to lay the table so I had to also lay the table but essentially it's whatever is new. Like for example this jumper was new last Christmas, so I wore it then. And it's a thin knit which is perfect for the Equatorial climate of my mum and dad's house.

Kiri: [Laughs].

Tom: [Laughs]

Kiri: Now if you follow Tom on social media, which of course you do. You will have seen that his top hat dreams have come true. Oh my gosh I don't think I've ever seen a happier face than him in his little top hat. It's so lovely.

Michelle de Swarte has got some flawless style icons for us now. And a Christmas outfit to inspire us all.

Michelle: Tracee Ellis Ross is always bringing big mwah style.

Kiri: Yeah.

Michelle: Yeah. And also Karen Binns, do you know that? She's a style icon as well. I love Lil' Kim because she's just sort of like she was so kind of like hip-hop fabulous and now it's runway fabulous, do you know what I mean?

Kiri: Mm.

Michelle: I kind of love that.

Kiri: All brilliant answers.

Michelle: Mm.

Kiri: Do you celebrate Christmas in your house?

Michelle: I mean I'm Jewish right but I'll celebrate Christmas like yeah it's a couple of weeks off work innit?

Kiri: [Laughs]

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Michelle: And that's worth celebrating.

Kiri: So the actual day, I'm trying to think of the equivalent would it be Chanukah?

Michelle: Yes.

Kiri: Do you dress up, do you get like an outfit for it that you get in advance? Or do you have one that you wear every year?

Michelle: For Christmas yeah and it's called tracksuit.

Kiri: [Laughs]

Michelle: Or pyjamas. Where are you going? Who are you dressing up for?

Kiri: [Laughs] You don't want to throw on a sequin while you're making the pigs in blankets?

Michelle: If I wash my fanny you're welcome Christmas, you're welcome.

Kiri: [Laughs] I've washed my fanny, you are welcome. Get it on a t-shirt. Pop icon Ian H Watkins, his style icon references are as dripping in popstar homages as you would expect.

Ian: Kylie [laughs].

Kiri: Yes!

Ian: Yeah Kylie you know and bird nest Kylie with you know the half hat on her head that. Through to Five Star through to Take That. And I loved Davie Bowie. But I wouldn't say something in particular but you know there's a mash over the years.

Kiri: Yeah and always influenced by music then as well.

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Ian: Yeah pretty much so yeah. And it's sad to think that our style influenced a whole generation of bad clothes [laughs].

Kiri: No I love it, you are basically, you are what makes Hunsnet great now on Instagram, I absolutely love it. And I want to ask, do you have like Christmas day outfits in your house? So like an outfit you'll buy ready for Christmas that's something a bit sort of jazzy.

Ian: I don't know about jazzy but we've opted for the comfy. So we all have matching onesies, so reindeer onesies [laughs].

Kiri: So cute! So lovely.

Ian: Yeah me and my boys.

Kiri: Matching onesies. It's too adorable, with twins, oh my gosh so cute. We're luxuriating in some stunning tailoring now with Susan Calman who has a superb Instagram recommendation for you.

Susan: Katharine Hepburn who is just wonderful in every single way. And probably Marlene Dietrich so very old school I think would be. And the only other person I would say is Cate Blanchett just because...

Kiri: Yes.

Susan: ...she'd extraordinary and to find her ability to wear everything beautifully, wonderful. I don't know if you've noticed Kiri but I've got a very specific type there.

Kiri: [Laughs]

Susan: So powerful women in trousers. I think Katherine Hepburn, I always remember seeing her in Bringing Up Baby I think it was or the Philadelphia Story and thinking my goodness she's just so amazing. So if there was one it would be Katherine I think.

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Kiri: It's that really timeless elegant masculine look, it's just so. And I also feel like there's only ever at any point 12 people in the world who can pull that off and then no one else gets to graduate until one of them does [laughs].

Susan: [Laughs] It is unfortunately the case. It is the case at the moment I follow an Instagram account called Dyke Blanchett which is just photographs of Cate Blanchett in suits and I love it more than anything because it's just Cate Blanchett in suits. Because I find her just also how she comes across just effortless. And I think that's what you were saying about Katherine Hepburn, it's the effortless nature with which she carries herself and the different clothes that she wears. I just find it just stunning.

Kiri: I'm about to go and follow that Instagram account as well.

Susan: Dyke Blanchett

Kiri: It's very good that yeah.

Susan: There are quite a lot of lesbian fan accounts I'll be honest, make sure you follow the right one.

Kiri: Shocking.

Susan: [Laughs]

Kiri: Do you celebrate Christmas?

Susan: Yes.

Kiri: Do you have Christmas day outfits in your house?

Susan: Here's another story. When I was younger my dad was an oncologist and on Christmas morning we would open our presents and then we would get into kind of smart clothing and we would go up to the wards because dad wanted us to go and visit the patients who might not have anyone else visiting them. So on Christmas day we

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would always dress very smartly. And by that I mean we would have a skirt and a blouse, perhaps a velvet knickerbocker something like that.

Kiri: [Laughs]

Susan: So we always had a Christmas day outfit. We were always dressed up for Christmas day. It's my dad's birthday on Christmas day, so it's always nice and special. Now the family, 20 come around to my house. Yes I know.

Kiri: [Laughs]

Susan: 20 Calmans in the one house it's quite the delight.

Kiri: [Laughs]

Susan: And I have very much relaxed things because we spent so long on Christmas day in the full thing that now I'm quite relaxed but certainly when we were younger you had a Christmas outfit and it was always new from probably BHS.

Kiri: Love it.

Susan: Usually BHS because Marks and Spencer's was probably not quite right at that time. And we would all, me and my sister probably matching, let's be honest, why not. And we would get dressed up for it, yeah we would because it was a special day in our household. Whereas now I simply have to get through it.

Kiri: [Laughs] Dyke Blanchett, enjoy. Oh my gosh imagining little Susan Calman dressed up in a hospital in velvet knickerbockers is making me weep, it's just too cute. And we're keeping it cute as Amrou Al-Kadhi talks about their icons and because it's the time of giving we get Glamrou's influences too.

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Amrou: Prince and David Bowie, sort of men who just sort of play with gender and wear makeup and just have really kind of gender fluid clothing. Yeah I think them definitely.

Kiri: Do you think Glamrou has a different set of style icons?

Amrou: Yeah definitely. Glamrou is really interested in kind of traditional Arab beauty. You know looking at kind of historical Egyptian icons. Looking at my mother, so she's a bit more kind of a classic Arab beauty. Whereas as Amrou I'm quite interested in really contemporary sort of gender bendy clothes whereas Glamrou yeah, she's a little bit more sort of I'd say traditional in a way if that makes sense.

Kiri: Yeah that's amazing. And I wanted to ask you, did you celebrate Christmas in your house or do you?

Amrou: No we didn't but I actually do go to different friends' houses at Christmas. I mean it doesn't really mean a great deal to me to be honest. But it's obviously on steroids in this country.

Kiri: [Laughs] It is. So what were your big occasions was it Eid that you celebrated growing up?

Amrou: Yes, yeah, yeah, Eid, the end of Ramadan, Eid al-Adha was the main celebrations. And then sort of several Eids throughout the year as well.

Kiri: So did you then, for the end of Ramadan did your family do a new special outfit that would be bought that you would get to wear then?

Amrou: Yeah they did. I mean you kind of see this in a lot of Arab families but like external presentation is really, really important. You know sort of the community seeing you well dressed and your family looking expensive and even if you have money or don't have money, that kind of pressure on sort of social performativity and status was

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definitely very key for my mum who is a very, very glamorous woman. And so I would get put in really kind of crisp shirts and really manly. I actually have a twin brother so we would often get paired up in really similar outfits.

[Interim Music]

Kiri: Welcome back. Anyone else endlessly following new Insta accounts from these chats? Rhys Nicholson is up next and they've got a fictional character as their icon and you know what? It is hard to argue with it.

Rhys: The Talented Mr Ripley.

Kiri: Oh my God what an amazing answer.

Rhys: First of all I was very horny for that murderous sociopath. Like it came out just at kind of the right time for me. Because everyone's really hot in it and they're in the South of France and they're in Italy and it's kind of in the 50s and people are gay but not really gay but it's cool, he murders him on a boat. But that era of fashion is really I love like that kind of Europe in the 50s kind of where a lot of like wealthy, like people just kind of socialised, like the wealthier upper class of that era because they're very like high waisted pants and I love those things at the moment, they're coming back the men's polo shirts with like a big wide collar.

Kiri: Oh lovely.

Rhys: Do you know the ones that I mean like?

Kiri: Yeah.

Rhys: Yeah just that and the suits. Just sports jackets. Yeah. So The Talented Mr Ripley is probably. And like John Waters, like the filmmaker.

Kiri: Mm.

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Rhys: I remember reading, I read Tina Fey's book a long time ago which has some blind spots in it but very much like 30 Rock which continues to be my favourite television show but when you watch it now you're like eww, is that Alac Baldwin in blackface? Eww that's not good.

Kiri: [Laughs]

Rhys: But there's a piece of advice in it where she says 'Don't wear what you see on runways, wear what you see fashion designers wear'. And I think that is such an incredible piece of advice. Because when you see a fashion designer walk down a runway, they're usually wearing a very simple outfit that is just very classically and nicely cut and then they're staying next to someone with like an eggshell balancing on the side of their head.

Kiri: [Laughs]

Rhys: And you're like yeah I should dress more like the person without the eggshell on their head. Yeah it's that kind of classic style I think is probably the best. But with like a queer bent to it. Like you know a full face of makeup and a full contour.

Kiri: [Laughs] The best accessory to sort of a 1950s sports jacket yeah.

Rhys: Yeah. Yeah [laughs].

Kiri: I hadn't thought about how well dressed John Waters was, it's completely passed me by he always looks absolutely incredible, so thanks for reminding me.

Rhys: People that dress for their body and I thin John Waters is an example of someone, like he dresses the way that he looks not this kind of idea of what he looks like. I think that's something that I try and do all the time.

Kiri: Oh that's astute.

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Rhys: Does that make sense?

Kiri: Yeah absolutely. Do you have Christmas day outfits in your house?

Rhys: There's a whole Australian kind of subculture of clothes which are like Christmasy Hawaiian shirts and dads wear them.

Kiri: Oh wow!

Rhys: Like kind of do you know what I mean? And they're getting more fun because I think I feel like the gay man, we've taken a hold of the "Hawaiian shirt" at the moment. Like take a wander around Zara at the moment and as a man in my, as soon as I turned 30 my closet just filled up with Zara shirts. Like the amount of, when we were allowed to go to parties I would go to and every one of my gay friends are wearing very close to if not the same. There was a time it was actually last Christmas I went to a Christmas party with some friends and three of us were wearing the same Zara Hawaiiany top. So I think that's the kind of thing, we dress very summery because it is like the heat of summer.

Kiri: OK. Yeah I hadn't even thought about that even if you wanted to feel sort of cosy by the fireside it is an absolute burning heat outside [laughs].

Rhys: It's like people are mostly in swimmers, like in swimming trunks in a pool, that's kind of what Christmas day is.

Kiri: Hilarious that I'm sat here nodding along to the idea of dressing in a classic style like a fashion designer while I'm literally sat here in a cocktail of sequins and leopard print. I was not expecting a Hawaiian shirt in there from Rhys though, they're full of surprises. Now I never thought I'd have one but my favourite medical professional is up next. It's Dr Ronx and their answer

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about style icons, I think speaks to a part of all of our souls I reckon.

Dr Ronx I would have to say all of the boys from ASOS [laughs].

Kiri: [Laughs]

Dr Ronx When I was younger I loved Grace Jones but at the moment I just go on ASOS and I'm like 'Oh I like what they're wearing, I'm gonna wear that'. There will be someone on the front page wearing this outfit as we speak.

Kiri: [Laughs] You're like those people who see a mannequin in the window and like 'Yeah all of that please' [laughs].

Dr Ronx Yes please [laughs].

Kiri: Do you celebrate Christmas in your house?

Dr Ronx No. Well? I'm at work or volunteering. For me the importance is the period and kind of what it means as opposed to just sitting down and getting fat eating turkey. So yes, yes, I'm aware of it [laughs].

Kiri: Yeah, yeah. So do you have a special outfit for Christmas day, will you go extra?

Dr Ronx I've got like a little two piece, a Christmas themed suit.

Kiri: Yes.

Dr Ronx I know, I know [laughs]. I wore it to the Great Ormond Street children's party a couple of years ago and I just bought today a Christmas V-neck which has got like all sorts of like patterns and stuff on it. Just for like if I do something and it's around Christmas.

Kiri: Of course Dr Ronx is volunteering and of course they're doing it in a suit that's extra. Speaking of extra Rachel Fairburn has an inspirational list of women that she

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draws from and then forgets about all the men she likes, classic Fairburn.

Rachel: Women from soap operas like you know your Pat Gilroys, your Liz McDonalds and you know Elizabeth Taylor, she's up there. But I'd definitely say women in northern soaps or women in sort of like when I was a kid I used to think, when you see sort of Bette Gilroy in all her leopard print and all her gold jewellery I used to think, wow she must be really rich.

Kiri: [Laughs]

Rachel: And then obviously as you get a bit older you're like oh no this is cheap tat, I can get this meself. So I'd say I'm going to go for Bette Lynch, Bette Gilroy, whichever one you want to use. Even Rita, Rita is a bit of a snappy dresser.

Kiri: I think Rita is really overlooked.

Rachel: Yeah.

Kiri: When she went through that stage of dressing like that sort of era of Michael Jackson so it was like boxy military jackets in a strong primary colour, I loved it.

Rachel: [Laughs] Yes. Absolutely...

Kiri: She looked like she was running sort of a communist country.

Rachel: Yeah [laughs].

Kiri: In these like purple boxy jackets with all these gold like massive buttons and be like 'Is that a medal Rita for bravery on your left shoulder?'

Rachel: Yeah [Laughs] It's mad innit? And I think as well Liz McDonald sort of treads the line between classy and tarty really well.

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Kiri: Yeah.

Rachel: Princess Diana is up there as a style icon. But only in later years for me. Because when I was a kid I used to think she looked like an older woman. But now as I've caught up in age I'm like, actually she was in really cool clothes and like really well put together. But the Princess Diana 20 denier tight, that can stay where it is.

Kiri: [Laughs]

Rachel: And do you know what? I've said that to several people and they know I mean.

Kiri: Yeah.

Rachel: If you say a Princess Diana 20 denier they're like 'Oh yeah, yeah I know what you mean'.

Kiri: [Laughs] Also I would say with you as well, if I may, Elizabeth Taylor is who came to mind. You went through an Elton John stage as well?

Rachel: Oh fuckin' hell, Elton of course. I can't believe I forgot Elton. So this is it, so it's basically it's anyone who is a bit flamboyant, a bit tacky. Elton John, even if he's wearing just a t-shirt, it's always like a Versace t-shirt.

Kiri: Yeah.

Rachel: Or there's always something on it that's a bit of pizazz, so yeah Elton's up there.

Kiri: I've talked about that with other people as well that like I'd love to move into the stage I'm in. Like I'm in a tracksuit but it is Gucci and it is like...

Rachel: Yes!

Kiri: ...it looks incredibly comfortable and it is raw silk [laughs].

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Rachel: Yes exactly or you've got a pair of like what look like white pumps on but they're Alexander McQueen.

Kiri: Yeah.

Rachel: I love it. Yeah you're wearing a pair of white trainers that cost 800 quid.

Kiri: [Laughs] Yeah exactly. Like those red slip-ons the Pope wears and they're like 600 quid and you're like what for?

Rachel: [Laughs] The Pope. The Pope wears red slip-ons?

Kiri: Yeah red slip-ons that are Prada and they're 600 quid a pop and he never wears the same one twice.

Rachel: Fuck off.

Kiri: I think it's the old Pope, the old Pope.

Rachel: Fuckin' hell.

Kiri: Yeah, yeah true.

Rachel: Anyway let's not get into Catholicism it's not the right, this is not the time. Fuck me.

Kiri: Do you have in your house Christmas day outfits that you would wear like for the day? Like as in not just only wear it on the day but like do you go, growing up would your mum or your grandparents, would they buy you an outfit to wear and you'd sort of sit on it and wait for it and then put it on, on the day.

Rachel: I'd always get clothes for Christmas but it would be open them on Christmas day and then you'd wear them on Christmas day. So as a kid it would be either something they'd picked but as you got a bit older it might be you've asked for something and you unwrap it. You know you might have asked for an Adidas t-shirt or a jacket or something and you'd get that on Christmas day and that's what you'd wear. But yeah certainly as a kid you're

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always dressed up on Christmas day. I have this thing which is definitely from my grandparents that don't be slovenly. Always wash your face, brush your teeth, get changed, don't sit around in your pyjamas, when you need to wear something nice. Like my granddad sometimes used to go, he used to go to the flea market every Thursday but occasionally he'd dress up in a suit and go on his bike. And you're like, he's getting his pension what's he doing? But my gran was really glamorous and there'd be times I'd come downstairs, because literally my grandparents I'd come downstairs and granddad would like 'Have you had a wash?' I'd be like 'Yeah' and he'd go 'Well you've dried a funny colour, go upstairs and wash yourself again.' So I had this sort of thing in me that I can't bear to see people in, I don't like seeing people in clothes that they've slept in past eight in the morning, like get fucking changed, you stink.

Kiri: [Laughs] Do you know what I really respect Rachel's grandad popping on a suit to go to the flea market. And you know what? I would be on that team but I've bought this 'I washed my fanny you're welcome' t-shirt now so a bit awkward. Next up we've got Owain Wyn Evans and he's going to talk us through his suited style icons.

Owain: When I'm watching RuPaul's Drag Race and I see RuPaul walk out doing the kind of first reveal of himself in the workroom and I like see these gorgeous patterned suits and like oh my gosh what I look, I love it. People like that have inspired me to like take it one step further and think not so much about 'Oh is this too much?' But actually, no you know what? This is good. If you want to have a look you have to have a look. So I'd say anyone who throws on a nice suit and really wears it with confidence.

Kiri: Yeah and the suit is such an interesting thing isn't it because it's a symbol of power but it's also a symbol of sort of like sombre responsibility. And what I love is now

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people aren't seeing suits as that. That men and women but men in particular are really leaning into the fact that it can be a real form of expression and really fun and you can have fun with your textures and your colours and your patterns.

Owain: Yeah.

Kiri: And I just think, my partner is obsessed with very glamorous suits.

Owain: So when I first started doing the weather, I've got to be honest, I did not have what I would consider a look. And my sense of style as Aaron my husband often pointed out to me was questionable. So I was like suddenly having to be on TV and suddenly having to be smart you know? Because ten years before then I worked on a kids TV programme and I was very much into, and it's a bit embarrassing actually, I was very much into like disposable fashion where I'd buy something, maybe wear it once or twice on TV and then never wear it again. And then when I got the weather gig I was obviously then presented with a situation in which I have to look smart you know, and the old look just didn't cut it. So I would buy suits and I used to spend a lot of money on suits initially where I would go to kind of the more high end, High Street kind of designer places. And spend 600 quid or a grand on a suit. And I never do that anymore because I never felt like they actually fitted me as well, even when they would tailor them for me. I've made the choice now and it's a conscious decision to always wear a three piece suit when I'm like doing TV things. So it's just something that I like doing I guess.

Kiri: I love it. Do you have in your house like Christmas day outfits? So a brand new set of clothes that you wear on the day that's something a bit special?

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Owain: Yes. I have a few suit carriers upstairs that I have like nice kind of velvety jackets or something that's a little bit more patterned or something with a bit of glitter in it, in the beading perhaps. And I normally boringly wear them to things like award ceremonies that I might be hosting or something. But I've got to be honest Kiri, every now and then I get them out just when I fire the disco lights up in the living room and I just think it's a good time to get a nice jacket on. So they're upstairs, I'll put them on.

Kiri: [Laughs] I love it. That is the ultimate dressing for yourself is popping a disco ball on and a nice velvet smoking jacket.

Owain: Totally. And you know having a nice little cocktail in hand and then putting Girls Aloud's greatest hits on, there is nothing better.

Kiri: I absolutely adore the mental imagine of Owain bopping around his living room, sex on the beach in one hand, disco ball in the other, three piece statement suit on, Girls Allowed blasting. Yes please. Da'Shaun Harrison takes a dedication to the grid to a whole new level for Christmas.

Da'Shaun: My like current style icon is Cardi B, I love everything she does. I think her style is amazing.

Kiri: Yeah didn't she slam homophobes today over something? Yeah just great.

Da'Shaun: Did she? I love her [laughs].

Kiri: She's just always amazing. Oh can I ask, do you celebrate Christmas in your home.

Da'Shaun: Yes. Yes. I love it.

Kiri: Oh great, do you have Christmas day outfits in your house? Like a certain thing you'll wear or you'll buy specially?

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Da'Shaun: Absolutely. Absolutely. So just for this past Christmas I literally bought a sweater just for Christmas, like I don't know when I'll ever wear it again but I bought a sweater and put together an entire outfit to post on Instagram.

Kiri: [Laughs] That is the most like gorgeous.

Da'Shaun: Like I didn't go anywhere. I just like took a picture in the house and then got back on the couch.

Kiri: I love that. When it's just for the 'gram that's when you really care.

Da'Shaun: Exactly, exactly [laughs].

Kiri: Now we've got a dear friend and style icon, it's Suzi Ruffell and I don't think any of us are going to be surprised that she has a soft spot for a woman in a suit.

Suzi: Not what she wore all the time but certain photos of Marlene Dietrich.

Kiri: Mm-hmm.

Suzi: I'll be like yeah great. Diane Keaton in a suit.

Kiri: Love it.

Suzi: Yeah there's a great moment in, I mean this isn't style icons, this is more like moments if you will. But there's a great moment in a film that I think is quite problematic now, what is it called? Oh my God what is wrong with me? It's Hugh Grant, I was about to say Hefner [laughs].

Kiri: [Laughs]

Suzi: Different film. Hugh Grant, Julia Roberts. She's the famous actress.

Kiri: Oh Notting Hill.

Suzi: Notting Hill. Yeah there's a moment in that where she's doing press?

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Kiri: Yes.

Suzi: And he says that he's from Horse and Hound that's like the gag, and she's wearing a double breasted suit with a tie. So any time a woman is in a suit and a tie I feel very inspired.

Kiri: [Laughs]

Suzi: To immediately go home and put on a suit and a tie.

Kiri: I can see because some people have mentioned their style icons and there hasn't necessarily been any trickledown but it's literally inspiration for you. It's muses that then influence you.

Suzi: Well that's the thing because I'm not sure that I am super stylish or whether I'm just very good at copying people.

Kiri: [Laughs]

Suzi: Because some days when I don't know what to wear there's an Instagram account called Tomboy Looks and I'll go through it and just go, yeah that. And I'll just go through my wardrobe and go I've got that, I can make that work.

Kiri: Oh no I think that's inspiration.

Suzi: Is this where you end the podcast and go 'Sorry this had to be about someone who actually has their own style, not someone that's very good at stealing'.

Kiri: I meant to put Tom Allen, yeah there's been a mistake here.

Suzi: So yeah do you want me to just put you through to Tom? Wait a second [laughs].

Kiri: [Laughs] No that's really interesting. And also because there aren't loads I guess, loads of visible women playing with gendered clothing in that way. So of course you've

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got to zone in on those Instagram accounts because you know if I want to see a nice shiny dress I just Google any red carpet ever and that will inspire me to pick something but with your style and the play between like masculine and feminine, that's an usual area to operate in so of course you have to be a bit more picky about your icons. Of course it's moments not icons.

Suzi: [Laughs]

Kiri: I feel like I know the answer to this question. In your house do you have Christmas day outfits? So like something nice that you bought for the day, that you'll wear afterwards but special new set for the day?

Suzi: For Christmas?

Kiri: For Christmas day yeah.

Suzi: Specifically for Christmas day?

Kiri: Yeah.

Suzi: No I'd just wear a nice shirt.

Kiri: I would have thought you would have been, I could just see Roly in like a...

Suzi: What like a Christmas jumper situation?

Kiri: Not Christmas jumper. I could just see Roly having like a nice new shirt do you know what I mean for Christmas day for best. It's almost like a Sunday best.

Suzi: Do you know what? I would say that Roly, that's my dad listener, he would have maybe a nice new shirt to go out on Christmas Eve. Christmas Eve is the day that all the Ruffells get together.

Kiri: Love it.

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Suzi: Certainly traditionally that would be what we would do. And we'd all go to the same pub where they would make a fortune [laughs].

Kiri: [Laughs]

Suzi: And everyone would get quite dressy and quite sparkly.

Kiri: OK all right.

Suzi: But Christmas day would be more like at like three o'clock my dad's like 'I'm going to go to bed for a bit, this is enough'.

Kiri: [Laughs]

Suzi: And you can only do that in long johns so.

Kiri: Yeah that's true [laughs].

Suzi: So maybe new long johns, sure.

Kiri: No one thought the Horse and Hound was gonna get a mention in this podcast, did they? Who got that in the sweepstake? Also, imagine a pub full of well-dressed Ruffells on Christmas Eve, absolute heaven. Our final guest is another comedy queen, it's Cat Cohen and she's got some solid advice when it comes to not arousing your family.

Have you got a style icon?

Cat: Cher in the '70s.

Kiri: Yes!

Cat: Like get that drippy fringy sequin. I mean you and I have very similar taste and sensibilities so I feel like you get it. And also like Kate Bush is a big one. And the '70s look is very in right now as well, I walked by the Gucci window the other day on 5th Ave and I was like OK we're back in my favourite time.

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Kiri: I feel like definitely for me '70s as well. Having like a big bum and big boobs...

Cat: Mm-hmm.

Kiri: The shapes of the '70s of flattering, I think.

Cat: Totally. I'm all about like bring it in at the waist, give me a low neckline, don't put me in, whenever I go on a shoot or something I'm like I will not wear a sack.

Kiri: [Laughs]

Cat: That is my hell.

Kiri: Yeah.

Cat: I will not wear a shift dress, I will not like that makes me want to die. A cap sleeve is a violence is what I'll say.

Kiri: [Laughs]

Cat: I don't mind like a strapless or like a tank top but I can't have a sleeveless, I need like a three quarters or like a long.

Kiri: Yeah I totally agree. The capped sleeve is the worse, it just cuts you off at the worst possible angle.

Cat: I know.

Kiri: And ugh yeah it is. I can't wear anything, you've got quite big knockers as well.

Cat: Thank you [laughs].

Kiri: So I'm terrible with a high neck, like a turtleneck.

Cat: Oh totally. No, no, no I can't do that. I, even a turtleneck I kind of feel like I'm playing the part, I'm like in a play or something when I'm wearing a turtleneck. I'm like oh look at me pretending to be someone who wears turtlenecks. I prefer to have it like bare. And I really do

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have a nice long neck which we all have to admit so I kind of like to showcase her.

Kiri: Mm-hmm, yeah why not?

Cat: [Laughs] Why not?

Kiri: Do you have in your house like specific outfits for Christmas day? Like you will get an outfit bought and you will not put it on until December 25th. You can wear it again afterwards but like it's a special outfit.

Cat: No Christmas day doesn't necessarily excite me. I'm usually in Texas with my extended family and the outfit isn't really going to be out and about and be seen. So I'll just kind of wear whatever I'm in the mood to wear.

Kiri: So is it more of a comfort thing?

Cat: It's definitely a comfort but it's also you know I know there will be photos but they're not going to be necessarily photos for me, more family photos. So I want to look good but I don't want to like make anyone feel too aroused.

Kiri: Sure yeah absolutely.

Cat: [Laughs]

Kiri: Yeah you don't want to make the buffet awkward.

Cat: I don't want to arouse my extended family if I wore a perfect outfit on Christmas day.

Kiri: [Laughs]

Cat: [Laughs]

[Outro Music]

Kiri: Start with Cher, end with Cher, that's my motto. I hope you've enjoyed this wee bonus episode. Do you know what it's been

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so nice for me to just listen to it all and remember how much I just love talking about clothes with gorgeous people. We are back with our third series in 2023 and boy do we have some belting guests lined up. I recorded some of them and we've got a load more booked in. I think it might be our best series ever. Anyway, Nadolig Llawen, blwyddyn Newydd Dda, Merry Christmas and a happy New Year everybody. Here's to 2023. Filled with outfits that we love ourselves in. Bye.

[Outro Music with a Christmas Twist]

Kiri: Who Are You Wearing is produced by Jo Southerd. The artwork is by Mari Phillips and the music is by Ani Glass. This has been a Little Wander Production.

[End of Podcast]