

# Who Are You Wearing? With Jo Brand

**Kiri 00:00**

Hello, I'm stand up comedian Kiri Pritchard McLean here to tell you that I'm on tour with my brand new show home truths. I'm going all over the country, wherever will have me. I'm touring right through the spring and then because some of you lovely lot have bought so many tickets, I'm now getting to talk for the whole of autumn as well. If you would like to get tickets, they're all available on my website. Or you can go to [littlewander.co.uk](http://littlewander.co.uk) and get tickets there. I can't wait to see you. And I don't want to brag, but I've got one hell of an outfit. Hello, and welcome to the final episode in this series of Who Are You Wearing? I'm Kiri Pritchard McLean. I am a comedian that loves clothes, almost as much as I love to ask iconically outfitted people where they got them from. My final guest this series is such a gem of a woman, it is the delightful Jo brand - hilarious as well. I should, like don't leave out hilarious because she's so so funny. Now, I want to say off the bat, that Jo is such an open book in ways that I think other folks who have been as famous as she has for as long as she has, are just aren't, she's always been so kind and so warm when I've met her on TV records, and I honestly just can't speak highly enough when it comes to her. I think she and Jenny Eclair in particular just shouldered so much shit to make it much easier for female comics like myself to come in the shadows, standing on the shoulders of giants, I think the phrase is, and the fact that she just wears it all so lightly, is just great. When it comes to Jo's style, we're going to track her through many incarnations through the years of big lazy punk, being a hippie who has a bra bought for them, incredible stuff, and catching a pair of pants on stage, iconic. Now, this conversation was recorded in April of 2022. It goes everywhere. So there is lots of chats about, you know, full on stuff, mental health, weight loss, homophobia, sexual harassment, basically, all the lived experiences you expect to come from an ex mental health nurse turned stand up comedian. I honestly think you guys are gonna love this episode. As much as I loved recording it. I'm hanging off her every word. Please enjoy me asking Jo Brand who are you wearing?

**Jo 02:58**

Well, I certainly remember what I felt like putting on clothes that please somebody else. And I was probably about four or five. And we lived for a while, and I don't know why my mom and dad moved there, But we lived in one of those modern closes that was a bit like sort of Stepford Wifey, and we knew all the other families in it. And my dad had a friend called Roy. I remember I had this, it was quite a new sort of summer dress on it was sort of white with little flowers on, not my choice, and I bumped into him outside our house, and he said to me, oh, Jo, you look so pretty today. And I said and I do regret it. Yes, I do, don't !! And that was like a massive source of amusements, my family for you know, for years because of course he went and told my mum and dad always said they had a good laugh about it. But it also made me feel uncomfortable. I kind of didn't like him doing that. I mean, I don't think I thought he was pervy before, but it kind of came across, even at very young age, as a bit pervy to be honest, I don't know whether that instilled itself into my unconscious. This I've from then on had to look like some kind of drug addled punk. But you know it, you know, I've never liked, it's weird, really, isn't it? I've never really liked kind of pretty things or I don't know, I think going hand in hand with that when I was about 17 I lost absolutely loads of weight. I went on a boiled egg diet for three weeks, I know it was grim, well grim for everyone around me. I lost, I probably lost about three stone. And this guy that we

were really friendly with who was a real laugh, who, I used to work in a wine bar and he used to work in a place sort of opposite, just started really perving up to me after I lost all the weight. Whereas like before, I'd kind of been one of the lads, you know, and I had a laugh with him, and he sort of asked me out on a date, and I was like, "what the fuck do you think you're doing?" You know, I want to be your mate and have a laugh. I don't want you, like he did really treat me differently. So another little thing inside my head won't right, put that weight all back on, you know, because? Because it just didn't suit me to have, to have people like him. You know?

**Kiri** 05:35

Yeah. So. So this is happening, like quite a young age then. So. So did you have did that, that little interaction at four? Did that echo through how you would dress moving forward? Like did you have a strong sense of style of, of how you wanted to look?

**Jo** 05:52

Well, I think because I was the middle child of two brothers, I didn't really because we had a mainly rural upbringing. So a lot of the time we were falling in ponds, or being chased by wasps, or going fishing or whatever it was. And so nothing nice would ever last 10 minutes, you know, so just kind of got used to, just sort of wearing a version of what they were wearing, really. And, you know, my mom was kind of a very sort of strong feminist and all through my childhood, I wasn't really allowed to, to have or to do girly things like everyone else. So wasn't allowed to have a Barbie when everyone else had one. And wasn't allowed to read Jackie magazine, which was, I don't know if you ever saw that. But it's Yeah. Named, named after Jacqueline Wilson rather bizarrely, because she worked in the office when she was 16. But yeah, it's weird, isn't it? Yeah. So I had to have Bunty, which was like Enid Blyton's version of reality. Four girls at private school called the Four Mary's even frumpier than I did, it was appalling. But that's what I was allowed. So I kind of got the message over the years, you know, and I think that really influenced the way that I look.

**Kiri** 07:22

Yeah, I'm the youngest of three and two boys. And so I grew up on a farm. So it sounds, everything was kind of practical, and a bit utilitarian. And nothing. Yeah, I'd have like one outfit for best and the rest, everything was for the farm because it would just get wrecked immediately.

**Jo** 07:39

Yeah, that sounds familiar. Yeah, absolutely.

**Kiri** 07:42

Well who was dressing you then? Was it? Was it mum or was it hand me downs? Or is it a bit of, or were you picking out what you wanted to wear?

**Jo** 07:48

Well, it was it was me, but I was wearing quite a lot my brother's things as well like T-shirts and jumpers, you know, we're fairly sort of interchangeable at that age. So yeah, when we all turn around, you couldn't tell the difference.

**Kiri 08:03**

And were you ever made to wear something then, an item of clothing as a kid that you hated?

**Jo 08:08**

I think it was like a dress that my mom had bought for some occasion. But it had kind of, I suppose it was like quite quite sort of 60s, the sort of thing Twiggy hoho would, would wear, it had kind of geometric shapes on it. I just really didn't like it. And I didn't think it suited me and by that point, I just, I was just starting to feel much more comfortable as a graph. So it was all that stuff that goes with it, which is like whatever the occasion was, I can't remember now but I think it was something to do with the local church or something. Because my best friend's dad was the vicar which is unfortunate. It was all that kind of like, Oh, don't spill anything on this and did you know what I mean? That thing that you have to be mindful of. Now it's again don't bend over okay in case someone sees your nicks. You know it's just like, please it's so, even to this day I find dressing up, for example, for TV or, you know for, I don't really go to any awards ceremonies, because I can't, I can't bear the way you're sort of scrutinised as a kind of you know, public figure. When I went to the baftas and, and I actually won one for Getting On which was brilliant. I just, I don't know why I looked at social media about it, but I had like a tartan kind of long floaty thing on, someone had said "Jo Brown was wearing tartan. Dear oh dear." That's the sort of thing I don't like. Do you know what I mean? Yeah, I just sort of in many ways when I was on the circuit, I just wore black leggings and a black T-shirt. And I really noticed another thing as well with with like a, you know, a lot of female comics that were around at the time, and there were only a handful of them really, if they made an effort and dressed up, the heckling was all about how they looked and how, you know, show us your tits and all that sort of thing, whereas I kind of got old lesbian. And I just prefer that because it was easier to deal with.

**Kiri 10:29**

Yeah, that's so interesting, that it's, especially as like, not that I'm saying that those women were dressing to please men, but they're certainly falling into the, you know, if you're dressing to be deemed more sexually attractive, that's more like accepted by society, and they're being punished for it. By having their sensuality, like weaponized against them. It's just this impossible minefield of, you know, there's no way that you could have looked without getting abuse, basically.

**Jo 10:59**

Absolutely. And all accompanied by the headline women aren't funny, you know, which, which was why I think a lot of blokes in the audience, their default position was to comment on their attractiveness, not on what they were saying, which was really frustrating.

**Kiri 11:17**

Yeah, well, also, because if you're making a roomful of people laugh, the kind of person who would take issue with that, and wouldn't even know why that they found that, you know, especially if they're one of the religious pillars of their religious belief system is that women aren't funny is then, all you've got to go on is people's appearance, isn't it? It's so important.

**Jo 11:33**

Totally. And I think that is, maybe, you know, it's, it's also what a lot of men who size up women in public go on as well, because they don't know them. And that, you know, I mean, I know, it's such a tedious kind of feminist trope, but like objectifying women, by their appearance is such a shallow and awful thing to do, in my opinion. And to be honest, I suppose I've learned over the years that I'd rather look shit than look lovely. Because I've compared my experiences. In many ways, too. I have had some really, really brilliant friends who were absolutely gorgeous. And I didn't like the way that they're, that they had to negotiate their way through all that, it was kind of, in a way it was, I wanted to be noticed, because of what I said, you know, not what I look like. And that was hard for a woman, then, and I think, in some ways, it still is, in a way. But it's much more sort of democratic than it was, I suppose much better.

**Kiri 12:36**

Yeah, I think even I've haven't been doing comedy that long. You know, I've been doing it like 11, 12 years. But I've noticed change from the, like the female comics, I know are much more happy to be very glamorous on stage. And it's sort of the people in the audience are seen to be dicks if they make a comment about it was when I started, you know, the advice you get? Well, you're, you're inviting it. If you dress like that, what do you think people are gonna say? Whereas there's a lot, Yeah, a lot less of that now. And also, I mean, I feel like I have to say it, but like, the way, the way you're talking, right, like, oh, well, the reason I'm talking to you is that I always think that you look great. But the way you're talking about yourself is like that, that's not what you present. But from my, I always think you look absolutely cracking, that's why we're having the chat. I just feel like I needed to say it.

**Jo 13:24**

Oh, that's lovely of you to say and that is all down to a wardrobe person called Karen Jackson. Because she does extra slides. And she also does, Have I Got News For You. and what happens with with those shows is that, I mean, I can, I can remember in the very old days, like doing Friday Night Live and that, you know, that then sort of obviously looking at me and thinking, 'Oh God, we've allowed her to dress herself. And she looks like Robert Smith from the cure.' So over the years, you know, when, when you kind of move along a level or whatever, you get people that choose things for you. And to be honest, what Karen chooses is not what I would choose myself, because I wouldn't choose anything that was that posh or that nice? I would just, I've got this friend and I totally agree with her when she sees a T-shirt she likes. And it's a normally a black one. She buys five of them. And then she buys five skirts or five, you know, jeans or whatever it is. And then that's all she wears. And I really understand that because it makes life so simple. But, you know, I can remember sorts of, you know, little sort of discussions that I kind of overheard about the way that I looked and couldn't they make me get, you know, be a bit more, I don't know what they were, what they were after. Feminine, pretty, you know like, like people would say to me oh, you should wear lots of different colours and I was thinking, oh christ all right then. I mean if you choose it, alright I'll wear it unless it looks absolutely ridiculous, which on occasions things have. I remember some quiz show on ITV, they gave me a pair of like five inch heels. And I just said, and then they expected me to go down the stairs in them. And I just said there is no way that I'm going to get to the bottom of the stairs without having to go to A&E cause you know its, so it's those sort of things. So really, you know, a lot of the stuff I wear, I love Karen and, and I know that what she picks for me does look nice because my daughters say it does and they don't often

say that sort of thing. No, so they're not when they see me what with, what I've got on now, obviously. But yeah, so you know, it's kind of yeah, down to her really.

**Kiri 16:06**

Was there an item of clothing or an outfit that you never wanted to take off as a kid?

**Jo 16:13**

Well, I, it was a, it was an anorak, would you believe, it was bright red, and it was sort of a padded thing. And I just really, really liked it. And it has a hood. And I love hoods as well. I am a hoodie by nature, because I just used to, I suppose when you know, when I was younger, I kind of liked hanging around with my brothers and and mucking about and I didn't really want people to sort of focus on the fact that I was the girl, because I just wanted to be sort of look like them a bit and just go and do all the things that they did really. I was always hopeless at school at needlework and all the feminine things they made us do when we were at school, I wanted to do woodwork, you know, and yeah, all the exciting things.

**Kiri 17:02**

Did you, did you associate being a boy or certainly being unrecognisable as a girl did it represent a sort of a freedom then, to just crack on and do what you wanted and do the things you're interested in?

**Jo 17:11**

I wanted to ask you, when you were growing up as a teenager, what were the big trends that were going on? And did you dabble in them? Or were you still off doing your own thing? Totally. And I think that's what it was all about, really, it just sort of shoved who you are and what you look like and how you're supposed to be totally to one side. Um, it's very interesting, actually. So my mum has a photo of herself with, with like eight of her friends when she's probably about 19. And they've all got exactly the same style kind of full 50s dresses on really similar shoes and identical kind of hair, that they're like a sort of a unit, you know, like it's sort of all in uniform, and they do look amazing, but God achieving that look, I don't really know how she did it. She didn't keep it up for very long. Not in the later years, thankfully. Well, the big trends were first of all, there was I'm afraid to say there was like a skinhead sort of trend when I was at school, first of all. My mate Paula was very invested in that. So she had like a tonic suit. Like monkey boots. I love monkey boots, by the way, I think, I think they're great. Yeah, and sort of spiky short hair. And she looks amazing. And I sort of did a version of that, you know, it's the same that I did with punk really, I didn't, I couldn't be bothered to go the whole hog I just did a version of it that was easy to achieve.

**Kiri 18:46**

I always think that about punk there's, to do it well. I'm like God, you must spend about four hours getting ready. You know, when you see people with like, an enormous like, you know, they've just got the head and the middle and it's about a foot high. And straighten that with you know, and then lacquer it in place. And then just there's so much going on with attaching yourself to different bits of yourself. It's like that is a high effort look.

**Jo 19:09**

It really is, so rather than stick, you know, like kind of safety pin through my nose. I just like to put one on my earring. So it kind of nodded to punk but didn't involve the same possible septicemia the other one did so yeah. And then later on in life, I'm afraid I went kind of hippie ish, really. So it was all like loons which were like, you know, very flared jeans. Laura Ashley skirts. No bra. In fact to the to the point that my, one of my best friend's mums actually bought me two bras because she was worried about the row divers heading down.

**Kiri 20:01**

That's such a, I think, an inadvertent compliment to your chest. Is that sort of outside intervention?

**Jo 20:10**

Absolutely. I was quite embarrassed, actually. Because she said, Oh, you go and go and put it on. And we've still, we can all see what it looks like. And I was like, Oh my God, this was supposed to be what it's like. Not exactly. But so what it must be like such as being in Miss World or being in a swimsuit competition.

**Kiri 20:30**

Stepping back from that, it's such a strange thing to do to give, like a young woman, like go, here go and put this bra on because I decided I'm gonna police your tits, then come downstairs and show us how your tits look better.

**Jo 20:42**

I know, thankfully, the brothers who are a bit older, they're a fisherman, and fisherman, I don't know if you knew many, but they're quite rowdy, and, and vocal. Yeah, thankfully, they weren't there. So I think she would have invited them to have a look at that. So that was a relief.

**Kiri 21:01**

Did you have a rebellious phase when you were growing up? And if so, did it show up in your clothes?

**Jo 21:07**

Yeah, well that was the point at which I was doing kind of the hippie thing, and I didn't really wear shoes either, very often. And that's obviously where my feet got tough. Yeah, yeah. Used to walk around town with no shoes on.

**Kiri 21:20**

Oh my gosh, really? Yeah. You got any glass or dog poo or?

**Jo 21:25**

Never got any dog poo or any glass, I don't know why, obviously, it is so dainty, as I managed to trip in between it all but yeah, my parents really hated my look then, because it was just scruffy. And you know, and that all culminated in my dad burning all my clothes. So yeah, yeah. Well, very briefly, I had a boyfriend that they, that they didn't like, and I wasn't really working at school and lalalala all the rest of it. And that was because they moved me to a different school I didn't want to go to, so anyway, it all culminated and my dad who was never you know, someone to take things kind of in a relaxed fashion.

Just really lost his temper one day with me having stayed out late or something or other, I can't remember when it was, and just went in the garden, put all my, got all my clothes out of my wardrobe, my drawers everything, put them on the lawn, pour petrol over them, then set fire to the whole lot. Yeah. What? I know.

**Kiri 22:38**

That is unreal. How did you react?

**Jo 22:44**

Well, I was wasn't best pleased. Shall we say, because I kind of felt comfortable in those clothes. And then rather interestingly, my mom went to M&S and got me a sort of respectable set of like pinafore dresses and cardigans and stuff like that. You know, so, but thankfully, not long after that, they chucked me out of home, so I didn't have to bother anymore with all clothes stuff.

**Kiri 23:14**

I can't believe you're saying thankfully. That's, well, that's absolutely wild. It just seems to me from having this chat. Like, since you've been a kid, it's been this negotiation of how you want to be and how the world expects or demands you to be, does it, does it feel like that from your experience as well?

**Jo 23:33**

Yeah I suppose it does. You know, and I particularly like comparing it to my daughter these days. But my oldest daughter Maisie is, she's a singer songwriter. She's had like an odd couple of, she's not, they're not odd. I mean, she's the old couple of singles out. She looks very different from me, and she dresses beautifully, and she loves shopping. And you know, I brought up this alien, fashion wise, and I think she looks gorgeous, but I just couldn't be bothered myself to spend the time because, you know, I know. I just get clothes. In shops, I just don't like it particularly I can't bear shopping for clothes. So I'm always buying stuff online that doesn't fit but I can't be asked to send it back. So I just wear it anyway. Now I'm really, I'm really the antithesis of what people's expectations are of kind of, you know, one end of the spectrum of women, shall I say, I'm kind of right the other end.

**Kiri 25:08**

The style that we associate you with now, baggy and Dr. Martens and lots of black you know that like, iconic because there's pictures of you. The comedy club that I used to work in, called the frog and bucket and they have all press shots of everybody up from you know all over and there's some really, I think you've got stripey trousers on.

**Jo 25:29**

And I love those trousers.

**Kiri 25:32**

Amazing, amazing. But like that sort of like that look, there's definitely, it's not exactly the same today. But it's not hugely, how you dress now, it's not hugely removed in my eyes, you can see the journey. So with that style, when did that start showing up?

**Jo 25:47**

Well, I think that was, that was again, when I kind of wore those clothes. You know, from when I kind of went to university and then started working as a nurse. And that was frowned upon when I was a nurse because as a mental health nurse, you wear your own clothes to work. And I managed by nefarious means to get hold of a report about myself. And one of the sentences in it was Jo, Jo brand will never be promoted because she dresses too Oxfam. And I know, that's what the senior, Yeah, I know. So, I couldn't obviously complain about it, because I wasn't even supposed to be saying it so, and then at one point, one of the senior nursing officers said to me, you know, you've, you've got to dress a bit more professionally at work. And she actually said that, she said, Have you thought about a twin set? and, what? like pearls as well? And it really, really, really pissed me off that did because I thought I was good at my job. I was in charge at the department. They don't have any complaints about the way I looked, alright, I didn't, you know, I didn't wear kind of grown up clothes. I wore sort of, you know, like, I had one sort of parachute suit that used to wear to work, which is like grey, it's lovely. And I thought it looked fine. So anyway, I went to her office and resigned and said, I'm you know, it's not fair. You're not judging me on my work at all. You're just judging me on my appearance. And I'm not going to put up with that. And I'm walking back to the the emergency clinic where I worked, I was thinking, Oh, shit, what have I done? And weirdly, I just kind of went home that night and sort of slept on it and thought, What should I do? Should I take it back? And then the next morning she came down and said, I'm very sorry about what I said. And we, we want you to stay. So that's a little victory.

**Kiri 28:02**

Yeah, absolutely. Yeah. Can I ask it? So working on this, Well, I can see how the, your colleagues or people around you righted, did, did, did patients have any kind of reaction to what you're wearing?

**Jo 28:16**

No, not really. I mean, because I think, you know, it was a weird place southeast London in the in the 80s. And it was a real brilliant kind of cultural mix. And people sort of pretty much wore what they like, so nobody cares, quite honestly. And I think in many ways, it actually made you less intimidating. If you just look my everyone else did. Really.

**Kiri 28:42**

Can I ask, do you think of makeup and hair as part of your outfit as well?

**Jo 28:47**

Yeah, I do. Really. I mean, particularly like when I was when I first started out, I used to wear very bright red lipstick and have like massive hair. And I think that was just to kind of just a contrast to what people's expectations were, in a way because they used to look at my clothes. And think, you know, well, well, let's face it in those days, what I was wearing, people would just shout at me, you're a lesbian, you know, like, that was an insult. I didn't care because it was wrong, you know. But it was just a sort of, it was to kind of counteract that in a way and just piss them off. I suppose. It's like the thing with cakes but people used to go, oh god you just go on about cakes all the time. I did that deliberately, because, you know, at the time on sort of, you'd see ads of people eating cakes, and they were all like six and a half stone. Well, I can tell you that if you eat a lot of cakes, you don't weigh six and a half stone so I just used to enjoy doing that to kind of wind people up really I suppose.



**Kiri 29:56**

That's great. You have changed as well because like, like I said, there's early pictures that it's, it's huge. It's amazing. It's like structural. What made you change the colour and scale down?

**Jo 30:10**

Well, I scaled down because really I like my hair really short. And the reason that I dyed it red? Well, I've basically had a lot of problems with hair dye, I dyed it like back in the 80s, I think. No, it would have been no, it would have been Yeah, late 80s, dyed it without testing, doing a patch test, patch tests of the wimps, and ended up in hospital for a week. So I went to the hair, the guy that cuts my hair, and he said, Well, you know, we can make something up that slight a bit sort of haemorrhage that won't send you to A&E. And so it to some extent, and he sort of said, well would you want to try red? And I'm like, Yeah, all right, then, you know, I didn't think about it very much. And so ever since then they just make the same mixture up for me. So it's the same every time.

**Kiri 31:09**

I thought it's because it's quite punk. I think red hair is quite a punk thing to have. But it turns out is because it's, you have a severe reaction to anything else.

**Jo 31:17**

Absolutely. Yeah, I'm sure I could get other colours in it. But you know, my mottos are, can't be asked, that's my main motto. Fuck, it's only a benefit, which people will be outraged by, but, you know, it used to kind of helped me a bit if I was doing a gig that was a bit scared of the people that I'd never met before who for a charity. And, you know, I thought well, I'm not getting paid. So I've got a bit more licence to be a bit shit. I know that's all fine. But the morals of a copper is what when I'm working but anyway.

**Kiri 31:57**

Again, get them on T-shirts.

**Jo 31:59**

Exactly. Absolutely.

**Kiri 32:02**

I can see you starting out to do a fundraiser with fuck its there'll be a benefit on a T-shirt!

**Jo 32:06**

You see, that is a great idea. That is a great idea. Yes, I'm gonna market one to you. But can I just say, but I do, I love the way you dress. I think, I think it's so brilliantly kind of a mix of different things like showbiz and in your face. You know? And fuck you basically as well. Good for you. Because I think a lot of women do feel that they've got to adhere to some sort of code.

**Kiri 32:46**

I wanted to ask you, have you got an item of clothing that you put on that you instantly feel fantastic in?

**Jo 32:51**

Well, yeah, I actually got it really recently. I feel fantastic in it for the wrong reasons. It's like one of those big fluffy hoodie, things that looks like you're wearing a sheep. And it's kind of like half blanket, half, you know, half garment. And just, I'm afraid that I started smoking again during lockdown because I'm so stressed on my life. And so, I used to, I can't smoke in the house, obviously. So just used to, like, put that on and go out in the garden and, and it would be just like having a big hug while you're having a fag. Sorry, I shouldn't be saying any of this. I know it's taking heroin these days isn't smoking but yeah.

**Kiri 33:40**

I think if all you did was take up smoking during the pandemic. I think you're absolutely fine if that was your coping mechanism, having a nice big hoodie and a cig I think it's absolutely fine.

**Jo 33:51**

It was lovely. Still is.

**Kiri 33:55**

I do, yeah, I bet it reeks though, No offence. If that's your smoking hoodie.

**Jo 33:59**

Well, no, because I've also rediscovered Patchouli Do you know, Do you remember that from the 70s? No. Well, it was a very strong perfume that hippies used to use. And the main reason they used it was because they didn't have to, have to wash so often because it absolutely trumped everything. And I remember this friend of mine. This is like years ago, taking her bike to be mended. And the, when she went to collect it, the guy said, Oh God, your bike saddle. Smells amazing. She's like, what is he talking about? And basically it's because she, few days before she had worn the same nicks for a bit longer than she should have done just squared and with patchouli. I should do a series on women and they're awful short cuts.

**Kiri 35:03**

I know what you mean about patchouli oil when you go in Yeah, like hippie shops it smells.

**Jo 35:07**

Yeah that just sticky smell you know? Yeah, I do like that. Yeah, Yes. Brilliant. So, sorry about that story.

**Kiri 35:16**

No, it's brilliant. It's also my judgement is all on the guy who's smelling the seat saddle and no one else.

**Jo 35:22**

Abso bloody lutely. Totally. What was that all about? I know, I know.

**Kiri 35:29**

Little perk of the job. They're terrified.

**Jo 35:32**

Yeah, let's not think about that. Oh god that could be taken to so many... Well, I have to tell you people do ask women to send them their pants, don't they? Do you know what I mean? Yeah. Have you ever had any male pants thrown at you?

**Kiri 35:47**

No, I haven't, you know what when I was skint in university though I got, I was in university when that first credit crunch was in 2009 I got made redundant. And because I used to pay for my own uni I was absolutely fucked for money, because I was, that my job went and I couldn't get my wages. It took me about 18 months to get my wages and I was just living hand to mouth paying for everything. So I tried to sell my dirty knickers on the internet to try and make some money and I tried to sell my eggs as well.

**Jo 36:13**

Your eggs? what? Not the ones in the fridge?

**Kiri 36:16**

The ones in me, Yeah.

**Jo 36:20**

You've got to be, you know, you've got to think outside the box. I admire you for that. Thank you. Did you sell any of your nicks?

**Kiri 36:29**

No one wanted them. Which is the worst thing!

**Jo 36:32**

Oh I'm sorry to hear that. I don't know why. I think you were obviously advertising, were you advertising on exchange and mart or something?

**Kiri 36:39**

No genuinely I was on, because I couldn't afford anything, I was on gumtree which is like a free list. It's not where the money is Jo.

**Jo 36:46**

No. fair dos, aw what a shame. what a shame. I actually, Well, I'm glad Yeah, it's you have to be imaginative, don't you in those circumstances? I mean, I did, I got blokes threw a pair of his pants at me once when I was on stage. Yeah, in Belfast. Who knows why, but anyway, they came straight towards me so I put my hands up and caught them and they were blue Y fronts and the worst, light blue, and the worst thing about them was that they were still warm.

**Kiri 37:24**

He's not brought a stunt pair, those, he's whipped them off hasn't he?

**Jo 37:28**

He's whipped them off, absolutely, from the bal, and he threw them from the balcony as well.

**Kiri 37:32**

Oh my god. Oh, well. That is so shilling. What's your relationship? Like with shopping? You said you do it online? Is ever in person, or do you just feel and you dread it? Or you'd like in and out? Are you efficient?

**Jo 37:49**

It's not, No, I'm not very efficient. But I also get bored really quickly. So whereas some people would go along loads of racks of clothes, I do half for one and I just want to go to the cafe, you know, or, or go and look in a bookshop or something like that. So no, I can't remember the last time I went clothes shopping. I think I probably, it can't be that long ago. Maybe it was Trinny and Susannah, they made me go shopping with them. It was awful. Yeah.

**Kiri 38:21**

I remember that. Yeah. So do you do it online then?

**Jo 38:27**

I either do it online, or I, I have the lovely Karen Jackson, who, so Karen Jackson does like smart clothes that I wear to gigs, you know? And on telly, and then all my other stuff. Yeah, I'm ashamed to say it's pretty much online. I mean, obviously that has its pitfalls, because things are very different sizes aren't there. So sometimes I'll, I'll get a black T-shirt. It's like a tent, which I'm very pleased about because I love tenty things, or I'll get one that's a bit too fitted for comfort and probably more suitable for 12 year old boy. But you know, this is just the kind of stuff you have to put up with.

**Kiri 39:10**

I wanted to ask you, do you see your style, changing again, or evolving forward more as you get older? Or do you think this is it, This is the look?

**Jo 39:22**

I think I'll sort of stay where I am probably, unless I get to the stage where I can't put trousers on anymore in which case I'll just leave them off and pick a T-shirt. But I mean, I must say like, I think I mentioned, did I mention Miriam Margolyes earlier? I love the way she dresses because she, she just has a version of the same thing all the time, you know, which is kind of summery dresses that just suit her. And I think she looks great. And so I probably will keep on You know, wearing a version of what I wear really, I quite like the idea of being in an old people's home with a black T-shirt and leggings on. Because it's not exactly the style of the day is it really in residential places? But slogan T-shirts is like yeah, that's sitting in my mind. I might get a few of them. If I go off, I'm not dead yet maybe. In fact, the only one that I've ever got that I really, really wear a lot is a, is a T-shirt that says angry feminist killjoy. Ultimately, like the angry bitter feminist killjoy which I, which I really liked, because I like to do that thing of where that's what people actually probably think I am, you know, and so it's kinda like the double bluff thing, but yeah, anyway, they probably just think, how's someone persuaded her to wear that?

**Kiri 41:02**

Oh, Jo can't read.

**Jo 41:06**

Illiterate I knew it.

**Kiri 41:09**

So is there an item of clothing you can always see yourself wearing, whether that's like black leggings or an actual particular thing that you own?

**Jo 41:17**

I, I've got a jumper that I've hung on to for years, which I knitted at university when I was depressed. So I think I'd probably take that with me. And just, you know, it looks awful, because it's so old and holey now, but I made it myself and I, the only other thing that I've really knitted is I knitted a hat for Tom Allen during lockdown. And it's awful but he very sweetly wears it from time to time, so yeah.

**Kiri 41:52**

Are there any trends in fashion that you're hoping never come back? That you're happy to see the back of?

**Jo 42:00**

Well, I would say anything that restricts women's movement too much. So, I mean, I think, I think big shoes are probably a no no for me, like massive ones. You know, like Sex in the City type shoes. Because I just think, well, first of all, you can't run away. You know, if, if something happens like if you're walking home in those, and there's a stretch that you're doing on your own, you hear footsteps behind you. Well, you could do what happened in that film, single, white female and take one off and smack someone in the eye with it and try and take their eye out. But you know, it's those sorts of things. And I think things which restricts women's movement are like, corsets. I hope they never come back again. Back at the moment. Yeah. Oh, that's true. On the outside, though. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. 18 now girdles, then what are they called? Shapewear, but they're not quite as, they don't actually squeeze your vital organs out of your navel quite in the way that, that they used to. Yeah, anything tight and anything, you know, that's just me being sort of personally resentful that I never achieved six and a half stone even when I was two. So you know, yeah.

**Kiri 43:29**

I think you're so right. That's, you know what, that's something that I don't know, I haven't made the link before. But the the restriction of women and also how vulnerable it makes them. Like, if you can't, like you say run, if you can't breathe, to, you know, to literally express yourself or speak or, you know, there's wiggle dresses that are so tight, and it's like, you can't get away from people you couldn't even get away from a conversation you didn't like, but again, it's all about restricting women, isn't it?

**Jo 43:57**

I think it is really and I kind of understand why women that have beautiful bodies and look lovely, want to look like that and I'm not kind of you know, I'm not one of those kind of feminist so you know, we've all got to wear jeans and tameing this shit, although people think I am, but I'm really not. But there again on the other hand, it's not a choice that I'd make. But also I think it says something about society that women are kind of encouraged down that road. I mean, if you look at my daughter's on tiktok quite a lot, you know, it's kind of interesting how people want to, want to be seen really.

**Kiri 44:40**

Final question. It could be seen as quite a sad one, but I'm, I'm taking it as celebratory. So what would you like to be buried in?

**Jo 44:49**

Oh, crikey. Well. Something hilarious, a clowns outfit or like a really ornate wedding dress which never wore, what else? Bikini, that would piss them off. Yeah. Princess diet. Oh yes, that'd be marvellous as well or just a coat made of worm food.

**Kiri 45:25**

I think that's technically your body.

**Jo 45:28**

Yes, no, you're right. I actually don't need to put anything more attractive on top although it would cheer the worms up if I had a few bags of chips round my neck, they must get bored. Anyway. Yeah, so yeah, not, not bothered something that might entertain. People if I got dug up by the foxes slightly prematurely.

**Kiri 45:50**

Or if your name gets drawn into any crimes and you get exhumed?

**Jo 45:54**

Yes, exactly. And I am planning that when I'm older.

**Kiri 45:58**

That was Jo brand. Let me tell you, there is nothing like hearing whatever your comedy icons saying that she likes how you dress to really put a spring in your step. Oh my god, what a, what a lovely thing to say. Sure. Aren't compliments. Nice. That's a dumb thing to say. But I've started trying to when I'm out and about if I see someone with a great outfit, I'll always try and compliment them. I was in, I was in Liverpool the other day and I was going to the food section in the M&S and you walk through the main shop, and there was a girl on the shop floor. They had such a great outfit on she had like this, A line leather skirt. And she looked like she was being bollocked by someone that she worked with. I just stopped and went. I'm so sorry. I've got to say it's such a good outfit. And then I actually, now I don't know if they were because her sort of, she looked at a senior and the senior went, yeah it is a really good outfit, isn't it? And I was like, Yes, it is absolutely brilliant. So that, to hear that from Jo. Absolutely amazing. On another note, can we please find the man that was sniffing the bike seats and have him retrospectively arrested? It's one of those chilling things I've ever heard. You know what I keep thinking

about from this episode. I've been thinking about it for ages now. It's a really fun one for me, but I guess it's something a bit sad, its when Jo is talking about being dressed for TV and still feeling like she's pleasing other people. I suppose it just struck a chord in me about how much I might be doing that and, and then you wonder, well does it ever really go away? Or is it just lesser and greater degrees of pleasing other people? Maybe that's part of being a woman or you know, being a visible woman? Yeah, I just think it's really interesting. Basically, I won't be happy till we see Jo on stage in a smoking hoodie with a cigarette stinking of patchouli oil. That's, that's like a perfect form or? Well, I mean, I just definitely think that there's room for more angry liberal feminist killjoy T shirts on panel shows, or at least extra slice babes. Pair it with those stripy clown trousers? Yes, please. We're going to be putting up pictures that Jo sends us of these items on our Instagram. So go and have a little look over there we are @whoareyouwearingpod. You can also give us an email if you want to say anything, maybe suggest some guests for next series. I'm sorry, I haven't got to your messages this week. It's been a COVIDy time over here. So you can email us whoareyouwearingpodcast@gmail.com. Now then, small business, every week I bang on about one. This is a business I have mentioned before in passing, but I thought, they're so relevant to this episode because well, I had them written down next to Jo's name for ages. And then when we were chatting and I keep thinking about those stripy trousers that Jo was such, was such a good look. I was like, I wonder if I could get some made for her by someone who can like make them in the right material and get into her size and so she can be back in a stripy clown trousers. And I was like, I know who I would get to make them and it's who I get to make lots of stuff for me. It is the amazing Twin Made, Twin because it's one half of some twins. The amazing Charlotte, Welsh based as well so you know absolutely love it. Now, how to describe what Twin Made does. I mentioned what Charlotte does on the episode with Sophie Hagen. So, in my instance, I've sent her clothes that I really love and be like, I love the cut of this and how it fits. Can you make a pattern? And she has been like, Yes, I can. And then how she's gone like right okay, need three metres of material for this and then I'll find a bit of deadstock or offcut that I really like and be like, just post it down and she'll make stuff. Similarly, I've sat like an old woman on hoards of deadstock material over the years vowing one day that I'm gonna get, get to grips with the sewing machine. I ended up sending it down to her and she's made some amazing stuff with it. The woman is a living breathing craft machine/skip rat, and I mean that in the nicest possible way because she's just able to make something out of nothing. And this is the whole thing is like, she's like I'll give anything a go, she's made some amazing stuff for me, both of my brothers, one loves heavy metal has loads of band T-shirts. The other one is a like ex semi professional rugby player. And they both had like all these T-shirts that they loved, but didn't want to get rid of. And she's made them into amazing T-shirt quilts for me, which are such good presents. And they're so great. And both my brothers adore those to the point where my heavy metal loving brother dropped off another bag of stuff. And he's like, Oh, if you see your friend again, can I have another blanket? So she's so brilliant. And she'd never made one before. I was like, could you do this? And she was like, I'll give it a go. And the item she's made is absolutely gorgeous. At the moment, if you see me on tour and see me talk about the bumbag on stage. She is the incredible woman who's knocking up those for me and she sent me some prototypes. Basically anything creative that you can think of, go and hit her up because also she runs amazing craft workshops. So like make your own dungarees, and just all sorts, Oh yeah, make your own neon signs. And she does a thing called crappy craft club where people just meet up and do like rubbish crafts. But oh god, she's absolutely brilliant. I've bought loads, I've bought an amazing denim jacket off of her and the, I think everything is so competitively priced. She's made me dungarees, from offcuts of material and everything I wear of hers.

People are like where did you get that from? Because I had those curtains when I was growing up, one of my favourite pairs of dungarees. So I really want you to go and check out Twin Made, if you're not familiar with her work already. She's just a brilliant woman. And I think if you're looking for confidence, with like crafting and making, starting with her workshops will be absolutely brilliant. I mean, she has mentioned to me, let me teach you how to use a sewing machine. And one day when I got some time and I'm in South Wales, I'm going to take her up on it. Or I might just like pay her to come to my house. It sounds like such a swinger thing doesn't it? Come to my house and teach me. I do mean just on the sewing machine. But that is the amazing Twin Made please go and check them out. This is it. This is the last one in the series. Oh god it's flown by, I really appreciate you listening and sharing it and talking about it. I've got some gorgeous guests lined up for next series. But as I said, get in contact if you've got any suggestions. And thank you so much for the messages about doing a style icon episode. We're going to put one together. Me and my bril producer. So thank you so much for listening. Oh also thank you. I've said it before but thank you so much to all the people who come and say you listen to it when I'm on tour and I meet you afterwards it means so much. Oh, I'm sad to leave you I don't know when we're back, probably when it's raining. I will see you soon. Bye. Who Are You Wearing is produced by Joe southerd the artwork is by Mary Phillips and the music is by Annie glass. This has been a Little Wander production.