

Who Are You Wearing Cat Cohen

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SPEAKERS

Kiri, Cat

K 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 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. Welcome to Who are you wearing? A podcast all about clothes, style and fashion. This week's guest is the ridiculously stylish and hilariously funny, Catherine Cohen. Hopefully, you've been lucky enough to see her live. But if not, her Netflix special is out March 15th, and quite frankly, I'm already jealous that you get to discover her. I think Cat is just amazingly stylish. I'm trying to think of more like superlatives. But I just think she's so cool, and I know it's really uncool to say that, but I do think she's got amazing style, and not just because she's as passionate about sequins as I am. She has this really good blend of eras in her style that seems to sort of cherry pick the best parts of fashion. So roll it all up and create something brand new that feels really modern, but timeless at the same time, and there's sort of like a lovely air of nostalgia running through it. Now this podcast was recorded in April of 2021. So I also think it catches a unique chat and a snapshot to women, myself and Cat who are in the midst of trying to learn to really love our bodies now that they've just changed shape again. There's lots of chat about body image in this episode, and I think lots of people will identify with our chat about having bodies that exists outside of straight sizes, because we have, both our bodies that take serious and ridiculous restriction, just to be at the top sizes of most shops. There is also a great moment in this conversation, where Cat talks about growing up in Texas, and stuffing booze into their boots to go to the rodeo and honestly, I think it can be the most casually cool thing I've ever heard. I've chatted for far too long already. Please enjoy me asking Catherine Cohen, who are you wearing?

C Cat 02:53

There are pictures of me wearing, I had this skirt with little bells on it, and I would wear cowboy boots, a skirt with bells on it, no top, and then I had, I would put like this, I put like necklaces on and I had my little nails painted red, and I would just like sit around my house like, and there's

and I had my little nails painted red, and I would just like sit around my house like, and there's some funny pictures of me like that, and so I've always loved clothes so much. But I think because I'm obviously deeply ashamed of my body as a woman in the world. I think then I became, I ended up becoming kind of a tomboy for a while because I was like what's happening? I was so just like, I couldn't handle how quickly my body was changing, and so I would just wear like gym shorts and big T-shirts even though I loved clothes.

K Kiri 03:30

That's so interesting. So you had this, so you came out like you sashayed out with so much style as a kid, and then, so how long did that manifest before the world was like, you should know that you should be deeply ashamed and hide everything that you have?

C Cat 03:46

Yeah, I have a vivid memory of being like four or five years old, and sitting in the bathtub and being like, saying I love coming home from school. Because I can let my stomach out. I don't have to hold it in. Like I was so, I know, isn't that so sad? So then I feel like, so actually I lived, we lived in London briefly for like a few years when I was younger, and then when we moved back to the States when I was like five or six. I feel like I went full tomboy when I got there, and my whole life has been a journey to return to like the girl in the bell skirt.

K Kiri 04:21

The people around you then, your family, do you have siblings?

C Cat 04:25

Yeah, two younger brothers, shout out, Billy and Charlie, shout out boys.

K Kiri 04:32

Who was, was it, was it your parents dressing you then?

C Cat 04:36

Ah, no, my mom isn't really into clothes. She's kind of like a tomboy too. So I was like the girly girl, and I just kind of, I mean, I'm such a little brat. I just kind of ran, I was kind of in charge of my own situation. I'd love to go shopping.

K Kiri 04:52

That's incredible. So you're like this little kid who's, because my mum is the same. She's not really, apparently she used to be very fashionable when she was younger, but when I knew her

really, apparently she used to be very fashionable when she was younger, but when I knew her, she was sort of just very androgynous and it was what was practical kind of thing.

C Cat 05:04

Totally. Like, I'm the only girl. I'm only, the only daughter, and then my mom, you know, she works full time. She's really athletic. She doesn't really wear makeup. She's been wearing the same clothes for ever. So she kind of didn't know what to do with me, even now, like if I'm ever in high school, like we'd go to the mall, and if I wanted to go into like Abercrombie, Urban Outfitters, or they play loud music, she'd be like, I'll meet you, I'll meet you after and she would like sit in the cafe and like, wait for me to come to her.

K Kiri 05:32

So growing up, then is this like, the girl with the bell skirt, and then the tomboy, were you ever made to wear an item of clothing that you're like, ugh I hate this?

C Cat 05:41

Um, I mean, I think just, the only thing that comes to mind is like how humiliating it is to wear a swimsuit when you hate your body. I mean, classic. Oh, it's just so awful.

K Kiri 05:52

It's that bit when, we started having swimming lessons when we were in primary school. But so you're, we're like, year five and six, what's that, like, I'd say it's sort of 9 up to 11, maybe 12, and even at that age, being like, oh my god, this is about to be the worst thing ever. Every Wednesday afternoon. I can even remember the day, Wednesday afternoon. Because you're like, there's that bit where everyone's getting changed. Everyone's desperately hiding their bodies. It is such a difficult time.

C Cat 06:23

It's funny, because I similarly remember, we had this thing called lap day on Thursdays where the activity was just to run around the track as many laps as you could do, and I was always like, no, Thursday's No.

K Kiri 06:36

So mad isn't it? Because something that particularly happens, I think with women is that we're like really conditioned to hate exercise, and get this really unhealthy relationship with it, that starts preteen and then never really goes away. Unless you're like, I'm sporty and that's my identity, in which case like, enjoy.

C

Cat 06:58

Totally, like even now, you know, whenever I do go to like a workout class. It's like, it's all women, and they're all like thin, and I'm like, what does everyone else do?

K

Kiri 07:12

Did you ever have then, either like an item of clothing or an outfit that you put on, that you never wanted to take off?

C

Cat 07:18

Yeah, I think I've had so many of those throughout the years, they change like, in college I had this like, oh my god, this coat I was obsessed with that was very like, almost like a tribal print. I'm like, is it like, it was probably like inappropriate and I was just like, I thought it was so cool and like hipstery and I was like yeah, now I have this like blue coat from this brand saks potts that I'm obsessed with that I could just wear like every day, and those are the pieces that come to mind. Also my white boots I wear constantly.

K

Kiri 07:51

What about as as a teenager though, or as a kid like, were you like, I found this and this is my cool thing I'll wear to everything.

C

Cat 07:57

Oh yeah. I mean I remember when I got Ugg boots, I got like knockoff Ugg boots, that was very exciting. I got light blue knockoff Ugg boots from like Steve Madden or something. I thought those were like really fucking cool. I also yeah, I remember like, I once when I was in kindergarten got in trouble. I lived in Texas where it was like super hot. But I think because I was self conscious. I wanted to wear like this big sweater every day, and my teachers had to call my mom and be like, she won't take off the sweater on the playground, and it's so hot. Like we're worried about her, and they had to like make me take it off. I know this is turning into like a so sad. But I'm actual, I'm actually doing medium. I'm doing medium right now.

K

Kiri 08:35

When you were growing up as a teenager, what were the trends did you go in for any of them?

C

Cat 08:41

The trends, I think because, so because I grew up in a very conservative like, religious kind of country, clubby community and Houston, I felt no one was very adventurous, was very preppy, and so I would like admire the trends and like I'd want to be punk I'd want to be goth but I

and so I would like damn the trends and like, I'd want to be punk. I'd want to be goth, but I was too, I lacked the confidence because everyone in my circles was so, just like wearing Abercrombie kids and like Ralph Lauren, and blah, blah, blah. So I didn't really experiment with trends in that way. Like I you know, I wanted to dye my hair but I was too scared. Like, I wanted to get a nose piercing but I was too scared. So I kind of just like yeah, I was sort of just like hiding because I was you know, didn't have enough confidence, and it took, you know, years before I felt like I could just wear what I actually liked.

K

Kiri 09:29

That's so interesting. So I wonder if your growing up in that environment is what led you to dislike pastel and like colours now as an adult because you've had your fill?

C

Cat 09:40

Absolutely. But also now I'm just so, I hate that aesthetic. Like when I see the Lilly Pulitzer when I see, when I see a girl in like a maidwell top I'm like, you can do so much better. I'm like, you can express yourself. I hate like this, I'm really repulsed by this sort of fast fashion, direct to consumer, everlane, like let's all wear like these loose white T-shirts. I'm like, what is happening to personal style? I'm on the subway and every ad is like, socks for you, shirts for you, pants and they're all the same. I'm like babe.

K

Kiri 10:18

I wanted to ask you about when you were saying, you were looking at these trends, but not wearing them, and you said, you know, I want to get my hair cut. I want to get piercings, that kind of thing, but I was scared to. Were you scared to because, you were scared of other people's reactions, or were you scared of being like, well, knowing my luck, it will, my hair will fall out, or it will look bad, like, what's the fear coming from?

C

Cat 10:37

I think I was probably scared to call attention to myself. Like I think because boys, I was like so horny, but boys didn't like me, and I think I was afraid of being like mocked if I called attention to myself, I kind of just let like what men think of me, rule my entire life. End of sentence, and even now like, I still catch myself feeling, you know, it's hard not to, it's hard to dress for yourself as opposed to like, for romantic attention. Even though I'm in a relationship, like I still want to look you know, hot as fuck.

K

Kiri 11:15

Yeah, you still want to give them like, that look in your partner's eyes when you like, you know, you've put something on they're like fucking yes, please. That's a great feeling. It's not the only reason I put clothes on, but it is a really nice motivator.

C

Cat 11:29

Especially now like my boyfriend will do this thing. Like if I look really bad or if I like, if I like burp or like fart or like do something disgusting. He'll go, he'll look at me and go fuck. So I'm like stop so when I can make him actually be like, Fuck, it's a good feeling. He's like fuck baby that's so hot when I'm like on the toilet screaming, it's natural.

K

Kiri 11:58

Did you have then, if you're in this kind of like, I guess, country club pastoral world, did you have a rebellious phase as a teenager, or did it take till you were in your 20s?

C

Cat 12:11

Yeah, I mean, I definitely like was getting really drunk. That's kind of how we would, you know, go to parking lots and drink a lot of beer. We'd go to like the Dave Matthews band concert on the hill and like get really fucked up, we'd go to the rodeo, bring flasks in our boots. I mean, it was very kind of what you'd picture of a Texas gal. So that, I rebelled in that way. But otherwise, I was like, you know, a good student, I went to church, I was like, on time, and even in college, like I would party and like had boyfriends and stuff but it wasn't really till I got to New York that I was like, you know, having one night stands acting out being a dumb little slut.

K

Kiri 12:54

So did it show up in your style at all, or was it all in the, like boozing and the, going to the rodeo? I love the phrase going to the rodeo with with bottles in our boots. Its so good.

C

Cat 13:04

Um, no, I think like, in college, I started to express myself more wearing clothes. It's funny. Like, it's that thing too where, you know, you look back at old pictures of yourself, and you're like, I thought I looked so fat and stupid then, I'm like, you look obviously stunning, and I'm trying to, I'm trying to like have that same compassion on myself now. Like, I know, I'll see a picture of myself now and be like, you looked gorgeous. What are you doing? But yeah, it took like, I remember, especially when like the high waisted pants trend happened, like when I first moved to New York. I was like, oh no, like, can you see my like belly or whatever? It's like, no, that actually looks hot. That looks good. Don't overthink it. It looks much better than wearing fucking low rise pants you psycho, I mean, come on.

K

Kiri 14:16

So your style that we see now, which is really, I think sumptuous in terms of like your choices of, yeah, of like texture, and there's, there's like diamonds and there's pearls, and there's really like sort of european princess vibes in there as well, like but yeah, like that sort of, that you

would see years ago in the back of like hello magazine or something. But it is that kind of like with a good streak of like, 90s in there, the best bits of the 90s. When did that start appearing?

C Cat 14:54

Oh my gosh, I think there was an evolution as they say, I think I, I'm trying to think in like, 2014, 2015, when I remember, like, I moved to Brooklyn and I started like, thrifting more and just experimenting more, and I had, I was dating someone who was like, very stylish. So he would be, he was very encouraging of me like trying new things, and he was very, I mean, now this reflects that we didn't really have a great sex life, but he was much more interested in looking like, stylish or interesting than looking like, you know, just fuckable which I think had been my go to before then. So that was influential, and yeah, especially when I started performing more, then it became like, oh, I have this fun thing to dress up for, where you can wear something a little more out there and not feel, you know, crazy.

K Kiri 15:43

Yeah, I think having the excuse of stage is really freeing, isn't it? To be like, oh, it's just my stage wear and then, and also, I can claim it back on tax, and then it's like licence to go wild in the aisles, I think.

C Cat 15:59

Totally, and then you just go out after the show and you're still wearing that and you're like, I've reached my final form.

K Kiri 16:06

I'm like, most of all Pokemon. Yeah, exactly.

C Cat 16:09

Especially like in Edinburgh, I would wear that like sequined thing every night out afterwards, and I was just like, this is the, it was the only thing I wore for an entire month. I was like, this is just what I wear now.

K Kiri 16:20

Also, it reminds me of your style, because there is loads of like 70s in there and like, and like 80s glamour, there's lots of like costume jewellery as well. I feel like, it's quite like, almost like dynasty dallas, you know, just like expensive women basically it's like a really fun version of an expensive woman.

C Cat 16:40

I love that. I'm obsessed with like yeah, cheap costume jewellery. Like big diamonds draped over my neck. I love big headbands with jewels all over them and huge earrings and yeah, I love that and big sunglasses. Oh my God, that's my favourite. Just over the top.

K Kiri 16:54

Yeah. Is it, when you're putting together an outfit, do you count like hair and makeup as part of it as well?

C Cat 17:04

Yes, like if I'm going to do like red lipstick or something that's part of an outfit to me, headband. I wish I was like, I want to be able to do my hair in more interesting ways. I think I need to get some like cool extensions or something. Do like a big ponytail. That'd be fun.

K Kiri 17:20

Oh, amazing. Because you have so much hair. That's the other thing is, like lots of it to manage.

C Cat 17:26

I do, but I can't, for some reason, like I can't get it. The ponytail doesn't look how I want, I want to be like Ariana Grande and mine's not long enough, it kind of stops and it looks just frizzy. But we'll figure it out as a community.

K Kiri 17:38

We all want Ariana Grande's ponytail. I think you have, to me when I think of you, I think of a big winged eyeliner as well as like a staple.

C Cat 17:50

How can I forget, I wear a wing every day, not right now because I'm kind of, kind of morning casual mode. But yeah, it's the easiest thing in the world just to go, it dramatically changes your face like I don't really know a tonne about makeup, but I know like if I go and I do a wing, I'll feel more hot.

K Kiri 18:11

Is that again, do you think that came from seeing like 60s, 70s like looks with that, or did it

come out of the Amy Winehouse era of winged eyeliner?

C Cat 18:20

I'm not sure. I think the combination, I fucking love Amy Winehouse. I mean style icon for sure. I think also, I just thought it like was flattering on my face, and so I was like let's keep it going.

K Kiri 18:32

Is there any trend that you've repeatedly tried to pull off but it's just not happening?

C Cat 18:36

Oh my god. So many. I mean, I'm just thinking of low rise pants a lot. That would never, I would never try at this point. It would not make me feel good. Other trends, I mean, oh you know what, I can't, I really don't like a ripped jean moment. Like that looks really stupid on me. Denim cut offs, I really don't know about for me.

K Kiri 19:03

Really? I would have thought you'd look great in them.

C Cat 19:07

Shorts are hard to find a pair that I feel comfortable in like, I think I need to invest in like maybe getting a pair and having them altered to fit me nicely, because I just like, they don't ever, they're not like comfortable, but I do think denim cut offs are a cool look, but I've never, I've never like, I'm just, I think I'm a little bit too self conscious. You're like my upper, upper thigh where they look like underwear. You know? It looks so good on other people but I'm like, I can't go out like that. Ripped jeans too, with the knees, I'm like no, no. Oh, last one. Leather jackets. I don't know. Whenever I wear a leather jacket. I feel like someone's like spanish teacher like trying to be cool. I don't feel, you know, I used to rent the runway before the pandemic and I did rent one that was a cropped leather jacket with like a furry collar that I thought that I liked, that I have this jacket, that I was trying to make work, and it just looks like sad, like ballroom dancing instructor. I can't, I don't know how to explain it more than that.

K Kiri 20:18

Do you have car boot sales in America?

C Cat 20:22

What is that?

K

Kiri 20:25

It's where you go to like a field or like a sports field. People drive their cars in there, they open their car boot, their car, you know, trunk. They set up a like a table in front of it, and they just sell shit they don't want anymore. Yeah, it is great. It's great. It's like, extreme thrifting, and you can get some really good stuff. But also, there's a certain type of person who sells their stuff there, who wears like a leather jacket and wants to haggle over everything and stinks of rolling tobacco, and when I wear a leather jacket, that's exactly what I look like, I look like I'm selling stuff from the trunk of my car.

C

Cat 21:02

That checks out. We have like, yeah, I don't know, we have like garage sales. But I don't know if I've, I've never driven to a field and gone off.

K

Kiri 21:10

I think you would love a car boot, next time you're in the UK. Yeah, I think you should, you should definitely check one out. I also, I had the perfect leather jacket once because I think that, that is something that you can justify spending money on because it will be there forever. It's 20 quid from Primark and it was real leather and it was amazing and it got stolen at a house party. It's problematic and amazing. Yeah. But when I was a student, it was like, the place. Because you could, if you were a bit smart, you could change it. So you didn't look like you were wearing the same thing as everyone else. Anyway, you could cut stuff up and change the length of it and be, and suddenly you're like, I'm not like those girls. I know it's the same pattern. But actually, I used to do this thing with, when like 50s, like ballgowns, basically you know 50s prom dresses, where if you put a belt around the top of your legs, and then you pull it up over so you get a big puff ball. So that was my thing. So I didn't look like everyone else in Primark.

C

Cat 22:05

That's very cool. I forgot about the prom dress vibe. That was a whole era.

K

Kiri 22:11

It really was. It was Lily Allen, wasn't it? It was, it was trainers and prom dresses was big.

C

Cat 22:15

Oh my god. You know, I just, I have her vibrator. You know, she like made a vibrator. Someone sent me like the Lily Allen vibrator. I realise now that sounds like, I have Lilly Allen's vibrator, I need to give it back to her. But no, I think it's, it's a lot. It's very intense. It's the kind that like

sucks. I don't know if I can say the phrase sucks your clit on this podcast, but that's, feel free to cut it out. It's the kind of, kind of sucks your clit like a vacuum. So it's a bit intense for me. But it's cool colours like pink and orange and like her face is on the box. So shout out to our friend of the pod Lily Allen.

K Kiri 22:53

I love that like the dream one day for for merch, surely is to have your face on the side of a sex toy.

C Cat 23:01

Absolutely.

K Kiri 23:02

Then just send it out to women that you admire. I absolutely love that as a, as a plan.

C Cat 23:07

Like a wink, like I got you girl.

K Kiri 23:12

Do you hold on to clothes, or do you like give them away a lot?

C Cat 23:15

I was trained by my mother to get rid of things frequently. So all either go to Buffalo Exchange or give them to friends or, yeah, I try and always pass them on, unless it's like a totally shitty, sweaty, disgusting T-shirt. I try and like always pass them along to someone who can, you know, get some good use out of it. I used to also, I'm the oldest of like all my cousins. So growing up every few months, I'd like give all my clothes to my cousins and they could wear them and yeah, makes the world go round. But I don't like to, I'm not a hoarder.

K Kiri 23:50

So what's the oldest item of clothing that you've firstly, that you've held on to, and then secondly, that you have? Because I think you must have vintage, I'm sure you have, I've seen you in vintage.



C Cat 24:01

I have this amazing vintage dress. I think it's from like the 60s or 70s and it's floor length pink with like a diamond choker, and then a cut out beneath it. It's, and that's the kind of thing, I think like it's too small right now, but I will keep that because you know, like I'm not ready to part with it, and hopefully it'll fit again at some point. So that's what I have. But beyond that, like, I get rid of stuff so much like the oldest thing I have is probably like this leopard print I got from ASOS like six years ago. Otherwise, I just let shit go.

K Kiri 24:34

That's so impressive.

C Cat 24:35

I think it's important. It makes me sad to have too much stuff in my space.

K Kiri 24:40

Is it because you like acquiring new stuff? Or is it like clutter? Do you feel like it's a reflection of your mind?

C Cat 24:47

I think it's more that if I, if I can't see the clothes that I have, I won't wear them and so it's more fun to go into a closet and like you can see all the options and like what can I put together? But when you're digging through drawers, you're like, I don't know what I have. It's just stressful. Yeah, I sound very zen. I'm not.

K Kiri 25:03

You do. You sound really zen.

C Cat 25:06

I mean, I definitely have, it's also because I literally just cleaned out my apartment last week. So I'm feeling you know better than everyone else in the world.

K Kiri 25:14

Is there, because I think you play so much with your styling in terms of other eras, is there a specific time that you are like, pop me there for the fashion, because that is, that's where I should have been?

C Cat 25:30

Totally. Like Studio 54. Absolutely. Like I watched the doc on Studio 54 a few years ago. It's just like Liza walking in with like, these halston, like silky jumpsuits and like, yes, that's the vibe. That's what I try and recreate on my shows.

K Kiri 25:49

From what I've seen of your shows, as well, it's lots of, the vibe is that it's creative people coming together and being playful, and like confident and comfortable. Because that's what I think as well. When I see a lot that Studio 54 stuff I'm like, that looks comfortable. Like, it looks like you can have a big dinner and then go and like dance.

C Cat 26:07

You want to be able to move, like I always wear, like a romper or a jumpsuit on stage as opposed to, I rarely, sometimes I wear like a mini dress, but I want to be able to like squat, in case the joke calls for it.

K Kiri 26:20

What item of clothing do you put on and you just instantly feel really good in it?

C Cat 26:26

I think that blue Saks Potts coat that I mentioned, I wear it, it's like the coats leather and then it has fur on the collar and in the hands, and it's belted, and it's like, I'll sometimes like go down to the bodega just like naked with my coat on like it's basically a full outfit because I'm just like, I don't want to get dressed. So it doesn't matter what you wear under it because you look, like you could wear like leggings and a shitty T-shirt and you look amazing when you put it on. My big thing, I'm obsessed with coats and boots because like I'll spend a lot of money on them because you wear them every day. Like my tall white boots, my big coat, doesn't matter what's underneath. It's all, it's all there.

K Kiri 27:05

Those tall white boots, that's another like 60s, sort of 70s staple as well isn't it?

C Cat 27:12

Does that mean like patterned leather vibes, like shiny? The pair I have are not. They're like matte leather. I have a pair of PVC gogo boots that are light blue. That are, I think they were you know, \$15 from a costume store. Like I can't really walk in them. Like I can perform in

them. But then I can't go anywhere after so I don't wear those as much.

K Kiri 27:32

I bought a pair of boots. When my podcast did a tour in America, I was trying to find stuff in like, like American patterns and like red, white and blue, and I found these gorgeous, from a costume shop. But they were like 70s platforms. You know, when the platforms got like an arch in its back. It's like great shapes, and they were red, and then I sort of, I realised when I put them on Instagram, I was like, look at my amazing platform knee high boots, and everyone was like, they're from a Wonder Woman outfit.

C Cat 28:03

Oh my god, that's so funny. I bet you rocked them.

K Kiri 28:07

No I was too, Well, I was too like, I can't just like stomp my way into America in Wonder Woman boots. It's just too gross. It's too like, the British are here. Like it's so rank.

C Cat 28:20

I think one of my biggest regrets in this life is that I can't really walk in heels unless they're like a really chunky platform, and I love how heels look but I just, I can't do it.

K Kiri 28:30

Yeah, I had a lot of my teens in stilettos. I can, but I am now, nearly all of my clothes. It's a chunky heel, and I like the way that looks as well.

C Cat 28:44

I can't even, like I was on set once and they gave me these stilettos to wear and I was like, I could barely walk. I was like, This is so embarrassing. What's the secret?

K Kiri 28:53

Well, you have to, I think being drunk helps. I think you have to just relax and lean back is the thing, is like not be afraid of giving it some weight on the stiletto. But your posture helps as well. But ultimately, like any shoe, I realise now that you have to think that much about, can just fuck off.

C

Cat 29:13

Even especially post pandemic. Yeah.

K

Kiri 29:16

Yeah, I'd put some on to do, I can't remember why I was, I maybe had got some new shoes, and I just put them on, and I was washing up in them, and by the end of washing up, I was like, I can't do this. I'm getting cramp in my calves. I used to wear heels every night of the week on stage, and now I can't wash up in them. Yeah, we'll have to build up to it. What's your relationship with shopping like, are you happy to do stuff online, or would you always rather go in, in person and try stuff on?

C

Cat 29:46

I love going in person. I think it's interesting because now I feel like I find more interesting things online that are gonna stand out as opposed to like walking around. I don't know, but then yesterday for the first time I was like in, I went, actually you're going to love this, I went to this place called the face gym. Have you heard of this? It's where they massage your face and it's literal heaven on earth. But this one I went to was inside of Saks Fifth Avenue. So when I walked into the Saks I was like, I'm home like, it's been so long since I've been into a big store. It felt so good. But everything's like so expensive that I had to not look.

K

Kiri 30:27

What is your like, how do you feel about shopping, is it something where, oh, it's a fun thing that I can go and do, or like, is it like, I'm going to be made to feel shit about my body?

C

Cat 30:38

I think if I'm honest, I'm avoiding shopping right now. Because I don't feel good about my body, and I try and only go when I think it's gonna be a positive experience. I've been in too many dressing rooms where I've like, had breakdowns, and I'm like, okay, well just like, I ordered a few things online, like this outfit. It's like stretchy, and then I'm like, okay, just like, try and get back into the normal swing of things, and you know, you can go shopping. When you're back in that place, I bought some new jeans, and I'm like, I'm just gonna wear these and not worry about it, until I like, until life feels a bit more normal. Because it can be bad. Especially when, like, I've always been, like, at my smallest, I'm still like, basically, like, I'm like a 10, 12, which is like, the top of the straight sizes. So even at my, it will be a different thing if I felt like, oh, like I went up a few sizes. Sure. But I'm still like in the realm of normal clothes, like no, if I, if I gain weight, then it's like, oh, now I have to like look into the plus stuff, which, there's more of it now, but there's not a lot. So it sucks.

K

Kiri 31:40

Yeah, it does immediately like, Totally. It immediately like, restricts your choices, and that's, cause I'm heavier than you, but I'm very short, so we're in similar dress sizes. But it's that thing of like, it's tricky enough being asked. I can't imagine what it's like being a size 18, 20, Like, they just don't give a fucking shit.

C Cat 32:04

It's really, yeah, it breaks my heart, and it's frustrating, and I think we're moving in the right direction. But it's not happening fast enough. Yeah, it's just so, it's so crazy. I'm thinking yeah, I'm just like, I've never, even like, at my, even when I was a kid. I don't remember wearing a size smaller than an eight. I'm like, even when I'm like literally starving, starving, starving, so thin. I'm still at the top of the, what people call, you know, the normal sizes.

K Kiri 32:40

What's the best thing that you've ever thrifted or got from a charity shop or anything?

C Cat 32:44

Oh, that's so fun. I have this amazing, I got this jacket in LA. It's a cropped royal blue jacket with black fur on the collar and the arms. It's like a little like, it's very kind of like, politician's wife almost. But, like after hours slut. It's I love it. I don't really wear it because it doesn't, also it doesn't button. So it's kind of this thing that you can't wear if it's warm, and you can't wear if it's cold. So it just looks good in my closet, and I won't get rid of it. So I guess I'm not that. Yeah, that's, that's the item. It's so good, though.

K Kiri 33:22

Do you think about when you're shopping about sustainability or anything like that about, you know, fast fashion and the impact on the world, or is it something that like it's, cause I buy too much stuff, and I'm only starting to be aware now of how bad that is for the world. But it doesn't always necessarily stop me buying more stuff?

C Cat 33:42

It's hard because it's like, yeah, if I had a shit tonne of money, I'd be of course buying like handmade artisanal items. But sometimes you need to get something at Zara, and sometimes that's what your wallet needs and what your career needs. Because you want to look good at the show. So I think it's just yeah, being mindful. But it's, I think it's unrealistic to be like, yeah, I only buy like, vintage designer, whatever. I mean, I do like going to Buffalo Exchange. Have you, have you been there when you were here? It's amazing. There's this one. It's like a resale shop, but they really curate it and like everyone who works there, like is super fashionable and like, usually works in fashion in some capacity, and they're like, really mean and bitchy if you try and sell stuff back to them because they only want like designer shit. But that's a great place where I go and I'm like, oh, I'm doing good, like getting stuff, you know, recycling

amazing fashion. But sometimes you gotta give yourself a break and just get something on ASOS and say, I need a plus size jumpsuit, and I don't have more than \$100, and that's just where I'm at right now.

K Kiri 34:46

Yeah, totally agree. Totally, and you're right. So many of those like really cool vintage or rental places. I just feel like such a cunt in them anyway that I'm like, I just feel, you're making me feel bad for buying something that's meant to make me feel nice.

C Cat 35:01

I've really loved renting the runway, that felt really good. Like, that's the way you can keep so few items in your closet and still get that like new excitement. I'd pay a monthly fee, and then, you know, exchange items whenever I wanted, and it was awesome. But it didn't make sense, obviously, when I was locked in my house for the famous year we've just had.

K Kiri 35:21

So I didn't know, I've heard of it but, so you pay a monthly fee, and then you pick the items and they send it to you?

C Cat 35:31

Yeah, so I think they've changed their model a bit. But the way I did it was, you pay a monthly fee, and then you go on their app, and you're allowed to pick up to four things at once, and then it's amazing, you can keep them for as long as you want, you just swap them out when you want something new. So I could have a coat for three months that I wear all winter, or I could have a dress for one show that I'll then swap out for my next show. So it really is, I mean it's only like, I thought was like 150 bucks a month, it wasn't even that bad considering I would spend that, you know, in a fever dream of a Zara trip,

K Kiri 35:59

Presumably then if you had loads of shows, you could just keep swapping out.

C Cat 36:02

Yeah, or even like, if I was going on a trip like, I remember like, before I went to the UK, I was like, oh, I'm gonna get like a special raincoat that's really chic and like, an outfit for going out, an outfit for a meeting or something, like it was amazing.

K Kiri 36:15

K Kiri 36:15

I would also though panic that like, okay, you're gonna destroy this thing. Like you're gonna get drunk and you're gonna get food down it.

C Cat 36:22

I didn't really, I don't. They clean everything so thoroughly. I think it's fine. My main issue was like, if you're ordering, and it's all these designers you're not familiar with, like, it can be hard to find the right size. So sometimes I would order two, like I'd get two sizes in the same thing just to make sure I could wear it. So it was definitely easier when I was, say it with me, thinner, but you get it. I was like wow, everything looks so good right now.

K Kiri 36:53

Thinking about the future, do you see your style changing as you get older, or do you think what you have now with this like, playful, like princess, load of textures, like vintagey vibe, do you think that's here forever?

C Cat 37:08

Yeah, I think I'm essentially, I already dress like an old lady sometimes. I'm like wearing a huge fur coat and sunglasses. So I think it'll just evolve in that way. I want to be like draped in silks as I age. I think that'll be good. Otherwise, I think I'm set.

K Kiri 37:23

Yeah, cause when I went, when I went to America, in New York in particular, there was some like very glamorous, older ladies that sort of wander round and they're always so turned out. There's always a real sort of like, you're like, that's definitely an actual piece from the 60s that's designer, that still looks immaculate, and there's loads of accessories is the other thing that I saw.

C Cat 37:46

Yeah, there's some, people are really fab especially, especially in the west village. There's lots of like old ladies who have lived here forever, and it's just fun to see the looks everyone's turning.

K Kiri 37:58

Is there an item of clothing you can always see yourself wearing then, when you're this old woman draped in silks?



Cat 38:05

I think it just comes back to like my big fur coat. She'll never disappoint me. You can hide yourself in it, you can, it's just yeah, easy breezy.



Kiri 38:18

You can wear it naked to the shop. Yes, please.



Cat 38:21

I also love like, I love a fun hat like a beret or like a furry headband. I think those will, those will stay with me.



Kiri 38:29

I cannot. I'm really persevering with a beret, but it's not for my perfectly round face.



Cat 38:35

I feel like you look cute. I feel like a beret would look good, I have a round face. I don't know how I feel about hats beyond the beret, title of my memoir beyond the beret, but that's the one I like right now.



Kiri 38:49

How do you wear it though, do you do like on the front and then pull it to the back, or do you do a side thing?



Cat 38:55

I know what you mean, it's an art form, and I do wear it like on the front of my head, hair down, and then it kind of comes just over my ears. So it's not warm per se, but it's warm enough. I know what you mean though, cause sometimes girls will wear it jsut like pinned to the back of their head. I don't get that, I can't connect with it, and I won't stand for it, and that I'm gonna stand up, and that's it.



Kiri 39:20

What trend are you hoping that you never see or have to ride out again?



C Cat 39:25

I think those skinny eyebrows would be hard for me. That'd be a lot of grooming. Also, the pin straight hair was difficult for me.

K Kiri 39:36

Yes. So when everyone was, when GHDs were like the thing on everyone's christmas list, that era you mean?

C Cat 39:42

Yeah its like a flat iron.

K Kiri 39:44

Yes. Yeah.

C Cat 39:45

I mean, I have, I still straighten my hair a lot. Like I have pretty curly hair. This is like blown out. So I like now that people are embracing their natural hair though. It looks so good, and I wouldn't want to go back to like the stick straight situation.

K Kiri 39:59

Yeah, and everyone was just burning their hair so much that the split ends were absolutely real.

C Cat 40:06

So it was a hard time, we've lived through. We've lived through some really hard times.

K Kiri 40:14

Final question for you is, imagine a world if you dare, where you have passed away.

C Cat 40:21

No, I'm immortal.

—

K

Kiri 40:25

Okay, well, you fake your own death for insurance purposes. Okay, and you gotta go through with a funeral anyway. What do you wear in, when you're, you know, what you, what are you gonna wear to be buried in basically?

C

Cat 40:39

I actually just pictured, I was in LA with my friend, and we were like at this open air market, and he picked up this like silk jumpsuit with like, big winged sleeves, and like, it's like satin black and it goes down really low, and he was like, you need this, and it was one of those magical moments where like, I stepped into it, and it zipped up perfectly. Like it was meant to be for me, and he bought it for me, which was so sweet. I think that'd be good to wear for my death.

K

Kiri 41:08

That's really dramatic.

C

Cat 41:10

It was so dramatic. Like, it's so rare that something fits perfectly and it was just like a sign from god, like this vintage silky jumpsuit. I was like, oh, heaven.

K

Kiri 41:19

I feel like we're not gonna see the wings though. So maybe we adapt your coffin so your arms are out to the side so we can, we can appreciate there's lots going on.

C

Cat 41:27

I honestly, I request to be buried in the round. I need a circular coffin. Like kind of, like I'm picturing like a DaVinci like, man, so it makes me spread. That's perfect.

K

Kiri 41:40

Are you gonna wear anything on your feet? Any jewels and accessories?

C

Cat 41:44

Oh, I think bare feet is good for death, and I mean, I shouldn't be, I want to be just buried in diamonds like, I'll just be like on top of crushed diamonds. So that will be the jewellery, and then maybe a red lip and like maybe a bonnet or something funny like as a joke. Winking like isn't this hat stupid like as I, as I go under?

K Kiri 42:10
A beret but only placed on the top? Yeah.

C Cat 42:12
Can you believe they did this to me?

K Kiri 42:16
Do you know what you've just remind me of as well. What I always think about you when I see your style with a winged eyeliner, and the jewels, and the pearls, is Elizabeth Taylor as well.

C Cat 42:23
I love, I love that. So fab. Thank you. Thank you for seeing her in me.

K Kiri 42:30
It's true, and just also so much, because your eyes, you've got beautiful coloured eyes.

C Cat 42:35
Oh, Stop flattering me.

K Kiri 42:37
No its true, it really stands out. So in the same way that her eyes had so much drama, and you were drawn to them. I think you're, you've got like hazel eyes, right? Very unusual, very unusual.

C Cat 42:51
I'm a very unusual girl.

K Kiri 42:56
Yes, comedy's Elizabeth Taylor, I can't believe I tried to really sell the experience of a car boot to her, and I now also want to be buried in the round what a look. But so many accessories to consider. But to be honest, that is my favourite hobby. So buried in the round it is. Thank you

so much for your lovely messages and emails. We love getting them. Um, because it's just nice to hear that the podcast means a lot to you guys, and that you're enjoying it and you're getting something from it. Because you just never know when you make something and just whack it out there. So thank you so much. I want to read this one from Rachel this week who says, Hello, my lovely. I assume that's for me. I recently started listening to your podcast, and I want to thank you. I'm a mum who wears jeans and a top which is not too dirty and not too creased. I'm all for that. I don't have much money, and I've never even thought about what I want my style to be, as I just thought it was out of reach due to a lack of cash and opposed to baby body. But I'd love to thank you for making me think about it. I've realised I'm trying to squeeze into too small clothes, and no wonder I feel bloody awful about the way I look. So I'm really embracing who I am and selling my clothes which are too small as it adds more stress to the situation. I gave myself a small budget and I had a bloody lovely time in my local charity shops finding some lovely items. I love this. She goes on to say I found Lucy and Yak and the cult. That's what I call snipe tights, and I'm going to treat myself to some Docs. Oh my gosh, this is amazing. So frescos tip of changing buttons has me buying so many for the first time in 38 years. I'm excited. So to you Kiri. Thank you very much and I can't wait to see you in your full sparkly self again. Aw, she came and saw me in Chorley. That's so lovely. Oh, and she's attached, the picture is in my dressing room, is in my dressing room, and I'm going to live by it from now on oh my gosh you look amazing. If you see a girl in a ballgown at your next show, it's me. Rachel, what an amazing message to receive. That's the sort of an, a beautiful unintended consequence, but so many of us been just conditioned to just hate the way we look and think that we're only allowed to wear certain things. So I always think about when it comes to putting the guests on, who do I think obviously is stylish but also can have meaningful chats about the way they look and how they think about that when they put outfits together in their clothes and their style and you know, ultimately its a journey. As I mean, you can hear in Cat and I's chat about like, we're on a different journey with our bodies again. So lovely. Thank you so much for that. You can follow us @whoareyouwearingpod on Insta, or you can email us, you can write to us at whoareyouwearingpod@gmail.com Now, I was thinking about which indie business would be a good fit for Catherine Cohen and I've decided to chat about a brand that loves some shiny headwear. I thought that was a good way to go. Loves it probably as much as Cat does actually. Please join me in getting to know Pica Pica Feathers. So Pica Pica Feathers is the brainchild of Vic who started off studying fashion knitwear at Central Saint Martins. It's quite a leap, that, isn't it when you see the amazing stuff she wears, but makes total sense that she'd be in Central Saint Martins with all the cool very stylish people. So she kept having her eye drawn away from knitwear to all things shiny, and so Pica Pica Feathers was born. Pica Pica feathers do an exquisite line in breathtaking shiny statement pieces. That started as a way of Vic celebrating her love of festivals and music colours, and then that's evolved now, and her bejewelled hats can be seen on stages around the world, the heads of brides on their wedding days, and I've even spotted the wind turbine head buns turning heads in a Morrisons and I tip my hat to the lady I saw, absolutely rocking it. All the pieces are handmade to order, meaning you get something unique, that's made to last and without piles of waste and deadstock behind it. She also covers Katherine's other great love, enormous sunglasses. Honestly, I bought a pair for my friend, for her birthday. They are pure Elton John, and if you know anything about me, you'll know that, that's the highest compliment I can send somebody's way. So if you're looking to make your head sparkle in any way, facially, head wise, neck wise, I feel like it not something you want on your shoulders. I think you need a bit of Pica Pica Feathers in your life. Next week I'm trying to somebody who saves lives, is a queer icon, and just casually turns the most banging looks. It's Dr. Ronx. See you then. 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.

