

Who are you wearing Rachel Fairbank

Mon, 8/22 4:56PM 1:01:20

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

wear, buy, bit, people, fucking, shirt, big, pair, picture, nice, hair, mum, shoes, adidas, clothes, hate, vintage, makeup, thinking, teenager

SPEAKERS

Kiri, Rachel



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 the Who Are You Wearing podcast. I'm your clothing obsessed host, Kiri Pritchard McLean and every week I call up a different stylish person and dig into their psyche and their wardrobes. This week's guest is stand up comedian, writer and podcaster Rachel Fairburn. Now, in another life, Rachel and I are half each of the true crime podcast all killer no filler. So this is sort of a strange dynamic for me interviewing a pal I know really well and speak to every single day. My partner asked me about that, actually, he was like, Don't you know what she's gonna say to everything? and I didn't actually, I was really surprised at some of her answers. But you never really know what Rachel Fairburn is about to say, this episode was recorded in May 2021, and heads up. There's a chat in this episode about body dysmorphia. So if you're not feeling up to that today, maybe give it a miss and come back to it when you are. There's also a chat, I have flip flopped on cutting out because I, I keep going back and forward on this. Basically, I think I sound like a maniac. It's about my paranoia of rifling through rails outside charity shops, and about buying phones from Cex. But want you all to know, I'm aware of how unaware and delusional that I sound. But ultimately, I think it's quite funny. So it's staying in, and I think it's a really good example of where Rachel and I forget that we're doing a podcast. I mean, if you've listened to all killer no filler that's very much our raison d'etre. But we're just having a chat so you can see how honest and open we're both being, which I think is an interesting part of the chat. Because it's, it's really, when you interview someone that you know really well. It slips so quickly into them not being guarded or sort of media trained. Not that either of us are clearly, as you would be in other chats, so I think it's very refreshing and open. It's a really fun episode as well, where Rachel's love of iconic men shines through making her the iconic woman that she is today. So please enjoy me asking Rachel Fairburn, who are you wearing?



Rachel 03:15

I remember the first time I really, really wanted something was my friend from school Andrea had been to Menorca on holiday, and she came back and she had a jumper that had Garfield on it. But you know, when it was that shit Garfield and it was a luminous, like a fake Garfield, and I just remember thinking, wow, I wish I could go to Menorca and have one of those jumpers, and I was obsessed with it, and I just really, really wanted one and I started to get into, like I was really into Count Duckula, and I remember my mum bought me a T-shirt from Castlefield in Manchester, they have this like fair on a bank holiday and we went and she bought me this T-shirt with Duckula on, again, like a fake one. But it had that kind of print, you know that kind of colour to it where it's a bit illuminous and all the rest of it, and I just remember going, ah, this is the best T-shirt in the world. This is the best thing I've ever got, and then I'd have to say after that the next thing I really wanted was a pair of Adidas gazelles, and I remember my mum surprised me with them. It was, they were Adidas gazelles but, you know when parents do that thing of like, because we weren't, you know very well off. They'd get you sort of nearly the thing that, that was the thing you wanted. Do you know what I mean? Yeah, so it'd be like Yeah, so like I've got you Adidas gazelles which I've still got actually, still fit me, that actual pair, I bought you these and now I'm thinking, oh these are great, but they're not really the ones that I wanted. But they're still cool. Thanks. Also my granddad you know, he was, he used to buy me all kinds of stuff from the flea market like, I've still got some T-shirts and stuff that he bought me and accessories, he used to buy me like really cool belts like he'd be like, oh bought this for you, so I've got like a belt with two horses heads on and stuff like that and he always used to bring me like handbags, he had a really good eye for it. Because he, if anything that was garish he'd just buy me and bring it back. So yeah, he used to, he used to get me some stuff as well. But yeah, I'd definitely say it was probably the, those T shirts or the Adidas gazelles that I coveted the most.

K

Kiri 05:33

Well did you have a strong sense of style as a kid then, like in primary school or, or as a teenager, did you have it nailed, did you like experimenting with clothes and stuff?

R

Rachel 05:44

Yeah, I did. Yeah. Cuz I always liked what I liked as well and I wore I wanted to wear, I didn't really care what people thought and I didn't really, even when I was really young, I didn't follow trends and such, so when it was, I remember in the school Christmas party when I was about 8, we went to the market and I picked this dress that was like gold lame, on the top and velvet on the bottom, and it looked like a dress for Bev Callard basically, and it wasn't fashionable. It wasn't like, you know, like my friends wouldn't been wearing it. But I loved it, and I wanted it. I remember going through this phase of like, I just liked anything with cartoon characters, and I still do, like even when some kids would wear it, and it'd be a bit, I don't know, you could get picked on for it like, oh, look at you, you've got Mickey Mouse on your T-shirt, are you a baby? You know, that kind of stuff. I never gave a shit about that. I loved it, and I remember seeing a lad at my school had some Simpsons trainers. I just remember being spun out by it. Because I'd never seen the Simpsons because we didn't have Sky. But also I was, I was like, wow, I can't believe he's got Bart Simpson on his shoes. Where do you get shoes like that? I couldn't believe it. But it was, it was a kid that went to Florida on holiday, you know that kid, but yeah, I've always, I've always worn what I've wanted to wear, and I've never, I went through that

awkward phase of being, you're a new teen and you start getting a bit, oh don't look at me. But I think that's especially when you're a girl and your body's changing. I remember being a bit, about everything.

K

Kiri 07:19

So who was, who was dressing you then because I know you, you're obviously very close to your mum, and you've got a sister who's younger than you. But you were mainly brought up by your grandparents. So where was the, was it a mix of all those influences?

R

Rachel 07:35

Yeah, definitely. So my mum always, my mum's got a really good sense of style, actually. But she'd always buy the clothes, and then, you know, I'd get dressed at my grandparents, I was pretty much left to my own devices to dress myself. It was never, there was always clothes there. So it's like you get ready, which is pretty much the same way. So my nephew, he's obsessed with clothes. He loves it. He calls it his clobber, and he takes real pride in it, and he's 8 now actually seven or eight. He loves, he's always been like this. He loves getting dressed, and also, he loves women's clothes as well. So he's quite a laddie lad. But he's always been like, if my sister's got something, he'll go, oh, that's nice, or like, if you bought something, he'll want to see what you bought. He's really into clothes, but he's left to his own devices. So it's like, he will just get dressed. So his clothes are all there and he'll choose what he's wearing. So it's pretty much like that. It's like you know, my mum would buy the clothes and I just, yeah, just be left to me own devices really. The only thing was, it was like, if anything looked like it was, you know, getting a bit dishevelled, that'd be it, like my gran would be like you're not wearing that. You're not showing us up. There was a lot that that went on, and if my granddad, as I say, thought you looked scruffy, it'd be like, no, you're, that's, that top looks filthy, take it and go and get changed, you know that kind of thing. My gran had this thing of like, she always thought she would be shown up if you went out in a T-shirt that a hole under the armpit or something, that nobody was going to see, so there was always that, it was like always be smart kind of thing.

K

Kiri 09:23

That makes so much sense because before this podcast I was thinking about, I always think about like how would I describe someone who didn't know you? How would I describe your style, and it's sort of to me it's like vintage glamorous, but always polished, always well turned out and that must be where that, I never see you with like rips in your jeans or anything like that or dirty trainers it's always like, everything's got like a level of finish to it.

R

Rachel 09:46

Yeah I can't. Trainers. I'm obsessed with, I love trainers but I wash them quite a lot, and I just hate it when I see people that, I mean your gym trainers fine, doesn't matter what they look like, they're for activity, but just clean your trainers, you know, have a bit of pride in yourself. I mean, I'm not going to say the person but there's a comedian who we both know who wears

the fucking worst shoes known to man, who wears toms, right, and, as well, I just think sometimes you're going on stage, how do you expect these people to have any fucking respect for you, if you can't be asked getting dressed? You know, like, I can't. I always notice people's shoes as well, and I think it's quite rare actually, that you do you see someone with filthy shoes on. But when you do, it's like, oh, you are so slovenly. You know if you can't be bothered, and it's always people with money as well, always people, with money that have grubby, dirty clothes and shoes on.

K

Kiri 10:54

So growing up, then, were you ever, I know you're dressing yourself. You're just cracking on with it, the clothes that you've got, but were you ever made to wear an item of clothing that you hated?

R

Rachel 11:03

Oh, god, my mum went through this phase. Now she used to buy really nice clothes and bear in mind there was six years difference between me and my sister. I am the oldest right, and it's just me and my sister, six years difference. There was a shop in Prestwich called Mon Amie, which used to sell really nice, used to sell like French Connection kids clothes and stuff like that. So every so often, she would go to Mon Amie and buy some clothes for me and my sister, bought the same fucking outfit. So there's pictures of me and my sister on holiday, we'll be in Cornwall or something, wearing the same clothes, but I'm older, and it looks ridiculous. Like I remember there was, there was one that had spotted leggings. I've got picture of this, my spotty leggings, and like a baseball jacket type thing, and a T-shirt. It's the exact same outfit. We looked ridiculous. So I hated it. It's like, it's not like we're twins or whatever. I really hated it when my mum used to do that, and I don't know why she did it, it's very unlike, in fact it's the kind of thing that someone would do, and my mum would be like, what a tosser. So out of character, so stuff like that. But also I remember going to my cousin's wedding, when I was about 10, and they put me in this polka dot frock, and there's a difference between a dress and a frock isn't there, and this was a frock, and I hated it, and I remember I had like a, I had a Princess Diana 20 ? on, and I just felt, I don't know, I felt like old even as a kid, I was like, oh, this isn't me. So I'd say that, that dress was fucking awful. Yeah, it's got to be that. Well, did you have a favourite item of clothing or favourite outfit that as a kid you never wanted to take off, or as a teenager, did you get something, and you were like, yeah, this is me? There's been a few and some of them, because I've never grown since I was 10. I have certain things like I got when Jurassic Park came out. I loved it went to the cinema about eight times to see it, couldn't believe it. I was like, this is the best film ever, and I got obsessed with it, and that summer, it was the best because it was like everything was Jurassic Park. So I remember getting, my mum bought me a T-shirt, and it's got a velociraptor on it, and it's official merch may I stress, Jurassic Park, and it says have a nice day. Still got it, I still wear it, and it's brilliant, and this is what pisses me off, right, So I've still, I love that T-shirt so much, and I've still got it, and I, a bloke in a pub said to me, ages ago he went, he was working down a bar, he said, oh that T-shirt, I had that as a kid, and I was like, Yeah, this is mine from when I was a kid, and he didn't believe me, and I keep on trying to explain that I've had this T-shirt since I was a kid and people go well, how is it still, you know, how's it, it's washed very well. It's like yeah, cuz I look after my shit, do you know what I mean? So I keep trying to explain about this T-shirt. But I love it, it's here. It's one of my favourites. But I remember getting, so I mean we weren't

poor growing up, but you know, there wasn't spare money knocking about and I remember when kickers were in fashion. I really wanted the black paint leather kickers that had the heel right? They were the shoe, and I remember going to Shoe in Manchester with my mum and my gran and they'd, it was my birthday, they clubbed together to get me these shoes, and I got them, and so this was in year, year seven at school. I wore those shoes all the way through school. I had them till year 11. It was just, I think it was a case of like, well, the shoes are still fine. So you don't need new shoes. Do they still fit you? they've not fallen to bits. You've looked after them, and it was weird because I used to, I got a bit paranoid about it. thinking, god I've had these shoes like all the way through school, nobody ever said anything. But also it was the same with a pair of trainers. I remember buying a pair of Nike Air Max when I was about 11. Saving up all my birthday and christmas money and I bought these trainers, I've still got them and I wore them all the way through school. Yeah. Also I did have the same school blazer all the way through school as well because I never grew, because my mum bought it, and it's still too big for me, I've still got it. Unbelievable.

K

Kiri 15:33

What a economically sympathetic child you are to not grow.

R

Rachel 15:39

I know! I don't think I've ever been appreciated for that.

K

Kiri 15:42

So when you were a teenager then, what were the big, what are the big fashion trends, did you go in for any of them?

R

Rachel 15:50

Oh, it was indie. It was, because I was into Britpop, was into Oasis. All that kind of thing, Pulp. I used to wear Adidas jackets. I used to wear, went through a phase of trying to dress like Jarvis Cocker so I'd wear like really long leather jackets, and, you know, pointy shirts and stuff. Yeah, it was just generally, like I'd wear Oasis, I've still got my Oasis T-shirt, I'd wear an Oasis t shirt all the time, and I used to have all like, the hair all floppy. In fact there's a picture of me on Instagram, where I looked like Jimmy Carr, as several people have pointed out and I can't deny it. I looked like Jimmy Carr when I was a teenager, with my Oasis T-shirt on and stuff like that. Yeah, it was definitely. It was indie, it was the Britpop thing, which I don't think I've really grown out of, I still go through phases of, you know, maybe dressing a little bit like that. But yeah, every picture of me as a teenager is, I've got like that, you know, they'll be, I'll be wearing like the, that baseball top that a lot of people have with the black sleeves and the white front, and I've got my hair all sort of, what's the word for like a long Bob looking sulky, and corduroy trousers. I used to wear cords a lot and vintage T-shirts and stuff like that. So yeah. That I'd say it was, that was definitely my big, that was what I was, it'd be like you, so you know when you start to, your a teenager and you're at school and people know what you're into. It'd be like, oh, Rachel's into indie. That was, that was definitely my thing.

K

Kiri 17:30

Do you know what, I was thinking about that era in Britpop. The big icons that you would try and emulate tended to be men as well. There wasn't loads of, and the women who were sort of paving the way. They were the girlfriends of those people. Do you know what I mean, like it wouldn't be the men who were the icons. So it's quite interesting to negotiate that as a teenage girl.

R

Rachel 17:51

So yeah, I mean, the bands like sleeper, so I used to have the front of my hair dyed blonde, like a blonde fringe, and the rest of my hair was dyed red. Now that was because I liked, I didn't really like the band, but Louise Wener from sleeper was, you know, an indie icon, and I liked her hair and liked her style so I had my hair done like hers and then the bloody Spice Girls came out. So I just had hair like Jerry Halliwell which I was really pissed off about. I remember getting on the bus coming home from school once and a bloke said to me oh, it's ginger spice, and I went yeah, well I had this before her actually, and it was the most pointless argument I've ever had. So then I just, instead of being this indie thing, I just had hair like Jerri spice as dads call her, that Jerri spice. So yeah, that was a, but yeah, I was definitely like, I was definitely more influenced by your Gallagher's and your Cockers and your Albans to be fair, also I was a, I was a very, I went, it was weird when I was a teenager because I went through a really skinny phase. So it was, you know, easier to be a bit indie and then I got quite chubby when I was about 14 to 16, and so then that sort of changed my style a bit so it'd be more like baggy T-shirts and you know, that kind of stuff like covering up a bit. But yeah, I mean, when I was just into my teens, when I was you know, when you're, when you're a skinny teenager before puberty really kicks in? I used to really enjoy the the Jarvis Cocker phase.

K

Kiri 19:33

Isn't that so funny that as a girl often the time that your body is most suitable for fashion is when you're pre pubescent.

R

Rachel 19:41

Yeah, I know. Its depressing.

K

Kiri 19:45

Did you have when you were a teenager, did you go through a rebellious stage, and if you did, did it show up in what you were wearing?

R

Rachel 19:52

Only not, not with my family, with school I did. I went through a really, like I hated school

because I always found it boring and I used to, so my school, it was a catholic school, they had some fucking weird rules that when you look back on it, you're like, what, what is wrong with you people? So you could only wear white tights. If you're in year seven and eight. When you got to year nine, you're allowed to wear black tights.

K

Kiri 20:19

I wonder if they think oh, they'll start their period in year nine. So it's more distressing in white tights.

R

Rachel 20:26

But it's just such a fucking weird thing to think about. So I used to rebel, my black tights, and you'd get sent home. It was insane. Insane, and I remember I got, I bought a pair of sketcher, oh god purple sketchers. Awful shoe. Awful, and I had that, they were sort of a velvety thing and purple, and I just used to be a nuisance and just wear them to school, and the amount of times that I'd get, you know, told off and they'd phone my mum and my mum would be like, well, is it affecting her ability to learn? No, well, fine. Just she's not coming home. So I just sort of do these rebellious things, and like, I'd always have my tie really short, and like my shirt was always out. But yeah, come on, tell me to tuck my shirt in, and then I'd wear, like you weren't allowed to wear makeup. So I'd wear like, I always used to wear glitter eyeshadow. Like silver gel thing. I think I got it free with like sugar magazine or something. I always used to wear that. I remember going to school in jellies ones as well. Like, I remember seeing, who did I see, it must have been sort of some Britpop person with, or it might have been the front of a pulp album, you know, the jellies with the heel? I've got a pair of them and remember wearing them to school. Getting like, Yeah, I'm wearing these, what of it? I'll do what I want. But I think then the problem was because I did it so often, people just got used to it and it didn't have any effect anymore. So the most rebellious thing I could do then was just conform.

K

Kiri 22:03

What age do you think, the style that we see now, which is this, to me is like this vintage inspired, nearly everything is picking from an era that isn't now, and I don't mean you're out of fashion. I mean, it's kind of timeless, and there's always an edge of glamour, even when you're in your like, PE kit as you call it or you know, go in the gym or just you know in, Yeah. But there's always like an edge of glamour I think, so that kind of style, that Rachael Fairburn style, when did that start appearing?

R

Rachel 22:34

Maybe when I was a couple of years into standup maybe, because you get, I think you get to know yourself a bit more as a, as a person when you're doing comedy, and then you feel a bit more comfortable about yourself don't you, so I think probably, when I was a couple years into standup because I, now I always wear what I want for gig, and I used to dress quite neutrally for comedy, like I'd just wear you know, jeans and a, jeans and a nice T-shirt, jeans and a nice top, and, you know, a nice pair of shoes, and then I think because you find your persona as a

comedian, and also that thing of like, I was stuck in shit jobs as well, stuck behind a desk in a library, not very happy, and because, you know, I used to just wear whatever for work because I really didn't care. You know gigging in the evening, was when it would be like, I'm going to wear something nice, or I'm going to, you know, because I could say you're going on stage, I really fucking hate seeing comedians that just, you know, I don't like, if they're dressing casual, great, but make sure that your clothes are clean and nice, its when a comedian walks on the stage and just they can't be asked. It's like, I don't, I think it's very disrespectful to the audience and to yourself. So I think probably it would be for using a stand up that I started to just really wear what I wanted, and also doing all killer. We wear what we want for that, and I think that's had an influence.

K

Kiri 24:11

I think sometimes as well the nature of stand up is, you know, a couple of years in is probably, if not earlier, when you do a photo shoot, you know, because people want an impression of you before doing a show, and then you have to really think, hold on. I've seen these pictures in comedy clubs, they reuse the ones they like, so they've had two kids, two divorces and you know, are six stone heavier but you're still using the same old picture. So you've got to, you've got to really think about how you look because it will be for a long time. So I think have doing photo shoots really makes you think a lot about your clothes and what they say about you.

R

Rachel 24:45

Yeah, definitely. So when I, I went through a phase as well because when I started doing comedy, I was very different to how I am now. I used to do one liners a lot, which I can't fucking write now. I find it so difficult write them. But that's what I used to do, I just used to do like joke, joke, joke, and then I used to, because people said my humour was quite dark. I went through a bit of a phase of dressing a bit strange, like a bit, bit weird like I'd wear sort of nice dresses and a hairband to do that thing of like, caught you off guard. You know, I might dress like this, but aren't I dark. I did that for a bit and my first pictures that I had, I fucking hated. They're still, you know, dotting around, probably the photographer to be honest with you. Yeah, you're right though you really have to think about what you pick. Because also we get sick of seeing our pictures, then we do a show and you've had brilliant pictures taken, and you know, it's always really exciting putting them out there and thinking, because I hate having my picture taken anyway. But when someone like Kayla who does our photographs, she really nails it. But then obviously, we didn't have Edinburgh last year. So for two years, fucking sick of seeing the same picture of me. I'm like, I need to get some new ones done. Because I think about other comedians as well, there's certain comedians that I'm like, can you for my benefit, have some new pictures done? Because I'm sick to death of fucking seeing the same picture. I mean, some people have the same picture for 15 years, haven't they? It's mad. Yeah, it is strange. But also what are, because we, because we do tours and then we do all killer and we try and keep our photos up to date. It is just a slow timeline. Like it, you know, one of those, like a Instagram reel of me ageing, and my weight fluctuates. I'm not sure I'm happy with that being so well documented. It's, with me it's haircuts that I'm like, and it's quite short hair, and every time I see the picture with short hair, I was, maybe I'll have that done again, and then I think yeah, but I never keep it. So now my pictures look out of date. You know what I mean? Yeah, it's such a difficult thing to get right. But it's awful like having to look through those contact sheets of like, I don't want to look at myself. What I do because I you know, I've got issues around having

my picture taken anyway, but I always get Kayla, our photographer to just pick the one she likes and send me the ones that she thinks and then I pick out of those ones because I trust her, because I can't bear to look at fucking 100 photographs of myself. No thank you.

K

Kiri 27:26

Yeah, and when you say that you're not saying it in the flippant way that everyone doesn't like photos like it is, it is a big problem for you as well, isn't it?

R

Rachel 27:34

Oh god yeah, like I'm not, I'm not a friend talking about I got diagnosed with Body Dysmorphia about seven years ago now, and it was a relief because I thought am I fucking mad. So basically, I look at myself and I don't see the, the image that, I don't see the true image, and don't get me wrong. Sometimes it's better and sometimes it's worse, but my absolute worst fucking nightmare is either watching a show back that I've done. I'm much better with things like Instagram live because it's like I'm in control of that. It's like I'm doing it but when I see, the worst one is like if, if you do the frog and bucket in Manchester and you're on that stage, sometimes you can, it's been filmed and you can see yourself on the screen at the top. It's like, oh fucking hell. I don't need this when I'm doing this. But also then people are like well, how do you do stand up when that's how you feel? It's like, well, you can either get on with your fuckin life and do what you want, or you can lie in bed crying because you don't like what you see in the mirror. So man up is what I'm saying.

K

Kiri 28:43

Someone said it.

R

Rachel 28:47

Welcome to the Joe Rogan podcast.

K

Kiri 28:55

So when you're putting together a look or an outfit, right, do you think about makeup and hair as part of it, or is that something separate?

R

Rachel 29:03

Oh, well, to be honest with you, I just do the same makeup all the time, I've done the same makeup since I was a teenager, I'm going to be one of those women when I get to like 60, who's still wearing the same makeup. You know you see women wearing 80s makeup now and they're like 70 odd. That's gonna be me. I always wear catseye eyeliner. I don't really wear lipstick or anything. I like to just have a bit of volume in my hair. I never plan hairstyles I don't, I

just have it as it is. It's either up or down. But makeup I, in fact I hate it but what I've, what I've learned now is you when you film something or you're doing something and someone does your makeup? I hate having my makeup done. So what I tend to do is turn up with my eyes done, because that's the bit that I like to do myself and everything else. I'm not really asked about, I just don't feel myself if I haven't got my eyeliner on. It's weird actually, because I think people are so used to seeing me with the eyeliner on when I don't have it on people go. Oh, you look different, its because I've not got my eyeliner on. But it's just you know eyeliner, false eyelashes, and that's it. I don't, yeah, I never really plan I keep my makeup the same.

K

Kiri 30:22

Yeah it's hard. I've had my makeup done the last couple of days and stuff, and the first one nailed it, and I was really like, Oh, can I have this, this and this, and then the other one was, it was just a bit quieter in there. The atmosphere is a bit weird, and like, the makeup was still nice, but I was like, I just got into that weird stage where, have you ever had it where your hair's being cut, and you can see them fucking it up, but you can't see the cut. So they're like, shall we go short with the fringe, and in your head you're like, I'd rather kill myself. But you're like, Yeah, let's do it. I trust you, and you're thinking, I don't trust you at all, and I got into that stage. So every time she was like, do you want liner on the, on the waterline? I was like, oh, yeah, if you think so, and in my head, I was like, no, don't have that looks awful on you, and yeah, I just got to the point where I was like, I was like, well in for a penny in for a pound. So she's like, you know, do you want me to draw an open wound on your cheek, and I'm like oh yeah that's great, so like, I wanted massive lashes, and I went from what I would consider a day lash. You know, I wanted colour, and I went for like, neutral. So I ended up having like a face that was nice, like gorgeously done, but I'm like, not me at all. I would have gone for a big colour.

R

Rachel 31:30

It knocks your confidence as well, a little bit. I think it's like, when you don't look like yourself, you don't feel like yourself, and then I think it affects everything from your performance to just you know, like, when you just want to go, Oh, get this off my face, that kind of thing. It's a really difficult thing to get right, and it's, it's, I mean, these makeup artists are fucking brilliant. You know, I mean, they're so good. But yeah, sometimes it is, I remember having my hair cut, at Tony and guy in Manchester years ago, and it was the fucking worst haircut I've ever had in my life, and I don't say this lightly. I looked, my hair looked like ? henley, and I came out of there, and I burst into tears, and I was like, you it's that thing of like when you go home and you think, well it's alright, my mum will say, that it's not that bad, and my gran'll say it's not that bad. I got home and they were like, oh, oh dear what's happened there? I was like, brilliant. This is it. I'm gonna have to kill myself now. I could see her doing it, like you say the girl doing it, I was like, This is not what I asked for. But please go ahead and ruin my life.

K

Kiri 32:35

Yeah, its like a slow motion car crash on your own face or head? I don't really see you going with like trends, you just sort of like plough, your own furrow, and if stuffs going on that you're like, oh, yeah, I like that, you'll, you'll get it. But are there any trends over the years that you've

tried to pull off and it's just not happening?

R

Rachel 32:57

It's definitely, I haven't, you know, I go through my own phases and my own trends. So at the moment, I'm obsessed with like western things. Like I want, I want a really good cowboy shirt, or I want a really, you know, cowboy boots don't suit me usually either. Apart from the ones you bought me that are leopard print, I find it really difficult to get a good pair of cowboy boots. I tried, I went through a little bit of a rockabilly type phase, and that didn't really suit me I don't think, I went through that phase of, remember when everyone was doing their hair like wartime with the, I did that as well, and I started wearing little cardigans, and then one day I was like, what the fuck am I doing? Like this is not me.

K

Kiri 33:43

So like a 50s pinup victory roll thing?

R

Rachel 33:48

That's it like the pinup, type thing, and I hated it, and I was like, why am I doing this? But it wasn't sort of, it's always like a vintage trend that I've gone along with. I just think anything that makes you look like you're a ghost. You know when, it's too vintage? Yeah. It's like, you look like you've got a fancy dress party.

K

Kiri 34:09

It tips into cosplay, doesn't it when it's like, everything's from the same era stuff? Yeah. Because also I think about that, you know, people are like oh, it's sort of in the 1940s, I'm like, yeah, but I bet people in the 40s out of necessity were wearing stuff from the 20s, so like what you're being is like, bang on trend, wealthy person, whereas most people would wear things from every era.

R

Rachel 34:30

Exactly as well, and also I always think like when you see how tiny people were, especially women like in the 1940s, have you tried when you get shoes from, my gran used to have shoes that she'd kept from like, the war, she can't get her fucking feet into them because they were so tiny, like, tiny little slim feet and stuff. Also, everyone was fucking starving as well, weren't they? You know what I mean, they didn't have, they were on rations. So when people do go, oh, it's actually from the 40s. I'm like, is it?

K

Kiri 35:25

What is your oldest item of clothing you've had for the longest time now, and then what's your

oldest vintage item of clothing?

R

Rachel 35:32

I think my Jurassic Park T-shirt is probably the thing that I've had the longest or maybe those Nike Mac's that I bought as a kid, like I bought them when I was 10. So they're, I've still got them. Yeah I've still got them here. They're at mum's house in Manchester. So they're probably in fact, they're probably fucking worth a few quid now. I'll probably make my money back on those. Also, I've got a pair of, fucking hell, I've got a pair of Nike Air Jordans as well, from when I was a lot younger, they're probably worth a few quid as well. So it's, it's always things like shoes that I've kept. One of the oldest things that have got is something I don't wear, its, I've got one of my granddad's ties that he used to wear when you were dressed up and it's like, I think it must be from the 50s or something. It's like silver, with like pink pattern on, it seems very flamboyant. My granddad he had, like he had a gold tooth on his false teeth and all that kind of stuff, he fancied himself a bit. So I'd probably say, probably that or, its probably jewellery. I've got, I've got a gold buckle ring that my granddad used to wear, and that was his dad's. So that's probably Victorian, I would say?

K

Kiri 36:45

Is there an era that you wish you existed in just for the fashion, that you could have thought I'll slot right in here?

R

Rachel 36:52

I, see this is quite a recent thing for me, because I never used to like the style. But 80s, I'm really into 80s and not like you know, not like wham fashion, I fucking hate that shit with you know, the big slogan T-shirts and all that kind of stuff or adamant. I'm talking like Dallas, or Secretary with the shoulder pads and big gold earrings and stuff like that, dynasty, yes, that's what I mean, dynasty, that sort of era, I think I would love you know, like, not that I could ever pull off what she wears, but sort of Grace Joan's style.

K

Kiri 37:32

When I think of you, I think of you in like, your hair and makeup is 60s to me. Yeah, and then some of the shapes you go for are 70s in the like flares, and you know, like, and then and some of the prints, but then 80s, it's the like, extra element of the 80s. It's that there's like, there's size to stuff and there's shiny stuff and like, everything's like yeah, really wealthy, it's like, boom, bust fashion. So I think you'd just like cherry pick a little bit from everywhere.

R

Rachel 38:03

Yeah, definitely. Definitely, and like, as I say, I hate 80s makeup as well, hate it, but I keep my makeup 60s, and then everything else is 70s or 80s. You're quite right. To bit from those three areas. I'll tell you what I do hate. I absolutely hate 1920s fashion. You know, people go on

about, oh, I love the flapper dresses, I'm like it's dog shit. I hate it. I don't know what it is. It just reminds me of like, bad greetings cards, and you know, you know when you buy something from like the works and it's got like a notebook and it's got a flapper girl on the front. I hate that kind of stuff. It doesn't, it doesn't evoke any sort of feeling in there apart from, I'm not into it.

K

Kiri 38:47

Yeah, but I also think that you're like, that'd be the same *raison d'être* that people would be like, I hate the 60s, you know, when you see a greeting card, and it'll be like someone doing a peace sign and be like, groovy baby, like, that's not the 60s is it? That's the greeting card.

R

Rachel 39:03

I totally agree. But I just can't, you know, people have these Great Gatsby parties, and it's always people that can't read, and have never read The Great Gatsby that have these Great Gatsby parties right, and it's like, I hate them just Oh, no, I just don't like it. It's too, yeah it's just not my bag that, not my bag at all.

K

Kiri 39:29

Have you got a bit of clothing that you put on and you just instantly feel amazing in it, and it doesn't have to be glamorous, amazing. It can be just like you know what this pair of tracksuit bottoms, I just feel like oh yes. I'm all fine for the day?

R

Rachel 39:44

I have to say when I, I love a full, I love a full tracksuit and I love to wear the same brand sportswear. I will never mix. Adidas and Nike, it just doesn't happen, so I find a classic Adidas T-shirt, the classic leggings with the black, with the white stripe, and a pair of like Stan Smith's, or just a plain white Adidas trainer. That's, I love that, like it feels crisp and clean, and it's comfortable. But also it looks cool. So when I wear something like that, I always feel like you know or if I've got like, a Nike T-shirt, Nike leggings and a nice pair of Nike Air Max. It's clean, it's uniform. No one's gonna talk about your outfit, but they might think that looks smart at the same time. It's that, I like that. Do you know what I think I just realised, I never really see you in these days is jeans. I never really see you in a pair of jeans. Is it because it's quite hard to shop for because you're petite? Yeah, really difficult to get a pair of jeans that fit properly. Because I haven't got, I haven't, even on small, I don't have short legs so, and then I just feel really uncomfortable in them. It's so difficult to get a good pair of jeans and I don't like feeling all bunched up you know I like to feel free. So I'm much more of a legging person but if I do wear a Jean has to be skinny jean. Oh, fucking hell, the bootleg, the divorced millionaire man jean. No, thank you, or as my friend Mitchell once said, I was talking to him about jeans. This is when I worked at a library. Mitchell is a gay man who, he can be vicious. So I was saying Do you know what I might get, are bootleg jeans bad, what if I bought a pair of bootleg jeans? I was having a

hard time, and he said, yes. You'd look great in those if you want to look like an apologetic mother at a barbecue. I was like, perfect. I'll leave it. The misogyny coursing through the veins of that statement. I know. But we all know what it means though.

K

Kiri 42:07

Yeah, absolutely. Yeah. What's your, we've never spoken about this really, although we do share a lot of stuff back and forth. What's your relationship with shopping like? I know we both buy stuff online because we'll send each other like, oh, I think you'd look good in this. What about, are you someone who likes to be in the shop and try it on or is it something you can spend a day browsing?

R

Rachel 42:31

No, absolutely not. I hate, I have not in many years gone out to a shop with purpose. So I messaged you today and I went to the Westfield Shopping Centre in Stratford, I got there and I was like, well, I've made a mistake. I don't want to be here. This is fucking awful. Why does anyone come to a shopping centre? The only time I go into a shop is to kill time, anything, so I always shop to like, I'll have an idea of something I want, and then I'll look online, usually on Etsy now, that's my go to. I mean, charity shops. Yes, please love a charity shop. I will purposefully go to a charity shop. Who are these people that, oh, let's go out for the day. We'll make a day of it. We'll go to the shops. We don't know what we're looking for. We have no idea. We're going to look in all the shops and buy things that we don't really want, and then we're going to sit down and have a Nando's on a car park. I hate it.

K

Kiri 43:32

So is it that you, because I don't mind shopping, if I'm like got an hour to kill before something in town, and I'm not going for something. Whereas if I have to go, you need a new pair of jeans or you need a white shirt or something. It's my fucking hell because I find it so hard to find stuff that fits me.

R

Rachel 43:50

I think, you know, especially with the High Street and stuff like that, nothing really fits me because I'm small. So if you go to a high street shop, you're trying a pair of jeans, and then you're like what the fuck is this, and then you go in another shop and then they'll be too big and you think, you're like what's wrong with me? So it's nothing wrong with you, the clothes are just shit mate. So I just think it can be a really depressing experience where it's a lot easier to buy something online, try it on at home and be like, well it doesn't fit. But you know, at home, I don't need to get depressed about it. See, I never take anything back either. If I don't like something, I either give it away or take it to a charity shop. I don't ever, I never return anything.

K

Kiri 44:28

I know you find joy from car boots and charity shops like I do. What's the best thing you've ever got from a place like that, item of clothing wise?

R Rachel 44:40

So both these things were from Cornwall. So they have a big car boot there in Hale rugby club, and it's brilliant, right, and I've got, and I've still got them somewhere. They're like a pair of grey boots that were probably from the early 80s Like ankle boots with like gold studs on them, and like a bit of elastic on the thing and they fitted perfect. They looked cool, and the woman that I bought them off. I was like, Oh, how much are these, she was like Â£1.50 I used to love those boots, please look after them, and I was like, I will, and I have, and I did. They were amazing. Still got them somewhere, and the other one was in a little village called Newlin and there's a little charity shop there, and I remember driving past, this was on holiday with my family, and there was a silver jumper with sequins on the front of it. Like Lorex hanging up outside. I was like, oh, fucking hell, get me out of this car because I need to go and get that jumper, and I went to the shop and it's hanging outside. So I was like, How much is this please, and she was like, Oh 50p. I was like, what, and it's the best jumper, it's, I'll send you a picture of it, it's amazing. Still got it, best thing I've ever bought.

K Kiri 45:59

Recently, our attitudes to shopping and buying stuff has, I mean, we've both always done vintage and we've always done charity shops and secondhand and I don't think that'll ever change. Do you ever think like, I have a little bit of it where I'm like, if someone recognises me, like leafing through the 50p rail outside a charity shop, what does that look like, do you know what I mean, like I know that's really mad thing to say. But, and not like, oh, I don't want anyone to realise I'm doing this, but I don't want them to be like has she been cancelled? Do you know what I mean, like its all gone downhill, she said a racial slur on a game show somewhere, and now she's the bones of her ass.

R Rachel 46:41

That sounds very specific. Sounds like that's happened. It's been nice knowing you, mate.

K Kiri 46:50

But you know what it is, is I think, I think this all the time, there's certain things that like, people always think you're richer than you are if you're doing television and radio, and I do have more money than I've ever had in my life now, I'm not, I'm not pretending that I'm you know, like, I'm not working tax credits or anything like that. But, so there's a few things that I do, some of it's ethically, some of it's because I'm tight and some of it's because I'm convenient. So I always get my iPhones from Cex because I think phones have such a big impact on the planet, and it's loads cheaper, but I'm also like, well you can't, and it does, it's a weird thing you never know

where people recognise you from, so the other day I was getting, literally yesterday, I was getting my boiler fixed and the guy was like, did you do Roast Battle and I was like for fucks sake!

R

Rachel 47:33

Oh my god, I didn't know anyone watched that!

K

Kiri 47:36

Exactly. I was like you're the only person who watches that. He's like, oh I love it. I always watch Roast Battle me, and I was like right okay. Such a weird thing for someone to recognise me for, never Live at the Apollo it's always like, was you on like you know something that nobody watched? Yeah, so I'm always like, do you know what, I say to my partner, I'm like, I'm two strong television appearances away from not being able to buy my phones from Cex, do you know what I mean, if you saw like, not that I'm as famous as they are. But like, if you saw like Shane Richie in Cex you'd be like, Oh, fucking hell, what's happened there?

R

Rachel 48:11

I've no shame, but also, I think because, I think because I'm a northern working class woman, people won't be shocked to see me still rifling through a 50p rail. I think that's exactly where they'd want me to be. I think they'd be shocked if they saw me in the bloody groucho club. That is where it would be the issue. People are, what the fuck are you doing in here? You should be down there, looking through the 50p rail. So I don't mind that kind of thing. Sometimes I do, because we, I mean, I get recognised most for the podcast. So, and it's usually off women around the same age as me. It's always in the pub, which is where I think people do expect to see me. I can't think of anywhere. Yeah, as I say, I think the only place that people would be surprised, if it was somewhere very, very upmarket, or very glamorous, because I'm not, I'm not really into that kind of stuff, or I mean, Cex, I cannot go in that shop. It fucking stinks. It's an abomination that place, I wouldn't go in there anyway. It's the same thing with Cex that I have about butcher shops. I can't go in a butcher shop because I can't stand the smell. It makes me gag, and I have like, I'll be like, I'll wait outside. I do the same thing about Cex, its like it smells of boys, but not in a nice way in here, and I'm gonna stay outside.

K

Kiri 49:32

I know exactly what it smells of, like damp clothes and wank.

R

Rachel 49:35

Oh it stinks, I don't, I can smell it now. Its such a, it's an attack on the senses that shop.

K

Kiri 10:17

NH 49:42

I think your approach to buying and shopping has changed in the last couple of years, and is that something you're conscious of and you're trying to foster more and think about, I guess, is it an environmental thing that you're thinking about or money thing or both?

R Rachel 49:56

I have to admit, I don't think about the environment as much as I should do. I get fucked off about packaging, and unnecessary plastic, and I try, you know, I don't buy plastic water bottles anymore, I take my own thing with me and I try not to be wasteful with stuff, and I'm more like that around food, I think than I am, clothing. I do have this thing now where, and I think it's because, you know, for the first time, I'd say in my life, I'm financially stable. I'm not working in a library, I'm not rooting around in the bottom of the handbag for a bus fare. So when I get something now, I always really think about it, and also, I'd rather have something that's good quality than shit. Anything, I tend to buy things that I know are going to last now, where I don't tend to buy the fast fashion anymore. Yeah, there'll be a thing that I'll see if I'm out and about and think I'm just gonna get that, but it has to be stuff that I think is worth the money. Also buying sort of jewellery now, I'm more likely to buy stuff from an independent person on Instagram, than I am to go into a shop and buy something I just wouldn't do it, I'm more likely to buy vintage or sort of handmade or, you know, that kind of thing. So in that respect, it's definitely changed. I mean, don't get me wrong, I still do buy the odd thing off Amazon. But that's because I'm a lazy bastard. But I think less and less that I do stuff like that now. Thinking about the future now, and you, and clothes, and style and fashion. Do you think your style will change as you get older, or do you think that this is sort of it, this will look great when I'm 70? I think I'll probably stay, like my makeup. I think this will probably stay, but I look forward to as I get older, not giving, even giving less of a fuck. So I think I'll probably, I'll probably still wear, you know, a tracksuit when I'm 80, not in a Jimmy Saville way, in a cool I've retired to Florida and I'm a third divorce kind of way. I think I'll probably still wear, the thing is though it's weird because as you get older, the vintage you wear can sometimes catch you up in age can't it? Like the Golden Girls. I think I'd look a bit golden girly and I think I'm looking forward to maybe having a an actual blue rinse. You know, being like a proper, I want to be a glamorous old lady. You know who, with long nails and a bit narled and wise, still smoking. So yeah, I think, I think it'll change but I think I'll always be a bit, I'll always like big patterns. I'll always like big prints and I'll always, you know, like clashing things so I think yeah, I think that's what I'll be like when I'm older.

K Kiri 52:56

Is there an item of clothing you can always see yourself wearing then, that's gonna see through all that?

R Rachel 53:01

Oh, good question. It's got to be my trainers, you know, it's got to be trainers, or there's something, it's jumpers that I've got that are like mohair and gold and stuff like that. They're definitely, I was like, I've got a really mad jumper that is too hot to wear, it's the weather's never right, and I got it from a vintage shop in Edinburgh. It's like sort of mohair and it's got a

monkey on it, and a parrot and it's insane and every time I go to wear it, it's like this is too fucking hot or it's raining and you think this is going to be itchy. So it's just never been the right weather for it. But hopefully when I get old you know and I'm like, maybe I've, you know, I've lost a bit of muscle mass as I'm older maybe it'll be nice to wear cause it'd be nice and warm, but also you know a bit quirky, so maybe that, that jumper.

K Kiri 53:52

Yeah, when you're out on the, on the veranda at night at benidorm. Exactly. Oh fetch us my jumper, Exactly. Perfect.

R Rachel 53:57

Are there any like styles or trends that you're hoping that you, that never come back that we never see again? Handkerchief tops, mentioned them, low rise jeans fuck off. I think it's just like you say you've mentioned so many times that era, the Girls Aloud, Justin Timberlake, Britney Spears sort of mid 2000s, its fucking shit. I always equate it with Oasis changing their logo as well. They changed it from the classical Oasis style to the sort of mid noughties dogshit one and it just fitted in with everything else. It was like, Oh, this is shit now as well is it? There's some stuff that I think, you know, Liam Gallagher is well dressed. But even him in the mid noughties struggled a bit, like what's he doing?

K Kiri 54:49

I'm waiting for that to come back around again, because they're on 90s grunge at the moment so it's not going away that sort of like noughties.

R Rachel 54:55

What about those awful belts and things that, that were from that time as well, it should be illegal for those to come back.

K Kiri 55:03

Those peasant skirts I think is the most people are referring to them. Yeah a peasant skirt, one of those awful belts, just yeah really bad, also no one looked like they, even the most expensive stuff looked really cheap then, really cheap, everything looked like it came from Select.

R Rachel 55:27

Everything had like, it'd have like a, it was all leather and like a turquoise stone that kind of crap. Ugh no, anything from them.

K Kiri 55:38
Producer Joe has just text me a picture, handkerchief tops are back already mate.

R Rachel 55:43
Oh for fucks sake! Unbelievable!

K Kiri 55:47
Final question, now I know you don't want to be buried, we've had this conversation a few times.


R Rachel 55:53
Yes well this has taken a turn. Is this how it ends?

K Kiri 55:57
This is how it ends, yeah no I asked you how you want to be killed, so before you're cremated what, what would you wear to be you know, like in the casket?

R Rachel 56:12
See this is a difficult one. I think nightwear like a nice pair of pyjamas because you go for a big sleep. So I reckon it's got a be, I think a nice pair of cotton pyjamas also I'm a firm believer in getting me cremated as soon as possible because I don't like the idea of bodies just hanging around like, you know sort of, some cultures like I think, is it Jewish people, I think they bury people the next day,

K Kiri 56:40
Muslims as well, I think it's both?

R Rachel 56:44
You know what, put me in a nice pair of cotton pyjamas, make sure that I have a nice pair of big knickers on underneath, and a bra. I like to be dressed, tip me into that furnace, and let's have it done.



K Kiri 56:58

Rachel Fairburn there, one of the few people who can fit into clothes that she had as a teenager. Although looking back on what I wore, I think it's best that I can't. I can't wait to be sat next to Rachel in a nursing home. In our tracksuits being unpleasant about everyone else's visiting family. Truly, I will have self actualized at that moment. I really hope you enjoyed that chat between us, and thanks again for your emails and your messages, I'm glad with everything going on that you're finding some joy in this little corner of the internet. If you want to send me a message, you can do it on Instagram. Follow @whoareyouwearingpod and we also chuck up pictures there of the guests that we have on, or you can email us, you can write to us at whoareyouwearingpod@gmail.com. I really genuinely love your emails. So do whack them in. Now I feel like I have nailed the guest inspired indie business this week. Because when I think of HRH RF, which is what I call Rachel Fairburn. I think of 80s fashion, big old earrings and a little sort of shoulder cape. She's got a feather one she wears a lot. Well prepare to marvel at a gorgeous indie that does a mean line in all of those things. The shoulder capes, big earrings, 80s fashion, it is All the Discos. Now you might have seen me post about them recently because I met Steph and the brains behind it in person at my Norwich tour date, and she kindly gave me some earrings and a cape. This feels like at the point I should be like, this isn't a sponsored post because it isn't, I don't think Steph ever anticipated that I would talk about the company on the podcast, and I'm not doing it because she gave me those things. In fact, I got her tickets to my show. Look at me feeling so guilty about this. I just don't want anyone to accuse me of being dishonest, and she very kindly was like, I've got you something in return. So she got me a Welsh flag themed cape that's like glittery. They're the ones that she's started to repurpose out of old foil curtains. Oh my gosh, it's a thing of beauty, if you go on my Instagram, you'll see it, it is a thing of beauty. So ridiculously kind as well, and I've got some of her earrings anyway. She basically just does this incredible line of 80s inspired accessories. So Steph hand makes everything whilst listening to 80s bangers, and she could even tell you what she was listening to when she made your item, amazing. She has a keen eye on sustainability and using waste. So materials are long lasting and waste is used and repurposed as the Capes which are made from old foil curtains that had seen better days that she planned to use and we were chatting about it at the show. She said I planned to use them at pop up fairs, and then it didn't happen because of COVID and I was like, they're all just sat here not doing anything. So she made these amazing capes. Oh god, I love it so much. So she uses remnants and discontinued fabrics. So just not adding any new stuff to the planet. But you'd never know, you'd never know to look at her stuff. It's pure statement joy, and just as her mission statement says, they probably bring of bit disco magic to the everyday. So check out All the Discos on Instagram and their website and do what I did, and discover the cufflinks section and tick off a Christmas present for my fellow already. That's what I've done in March, incredible. Thank you so much for listening. I really hope you're enjoying it. I mean, I think you are, I get loads of nice messages but you just never know, you just whack something out there on the internet and you don't know, do you, so I really, really hope you're enjoying it and getting something from it. Because we're nearing the end of this series now which is making me feel a bit sad but thank you for spreading the word and I hope you'll join me as I chat to an incredibly stylish fundraiser, broadcaster, drummer and weatherman next week. The Fabulous Owain Wyn Evans. 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.