

Stark Raving Sane: On Wardrobe

By Catherine SWEET



\$25 more for size 13

Am I shallow? Or am I as shallow as society seems to think people who appreciate wardrobe are? I wonder why people who like paintings are snobs, people who like sculpture are a little off and those who like wardrobe are shallow valley girls. How strange...

Why is it that wearable art is seen as vain decoration? Can't a cut of leather be likened to a stroke of water-colour? I say yes. It takes talent- it takes vision. Maybe it's the price. Maybe the market is so flooded with \$19.95 Dalmy's flutter-sleeve tank tops that will disintegrate in the first wash that regular folks like you and me see chucking \$500 on a Golce & Gabbana blouse is a frivolously that is totally unparalleled.

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Perhaps it's the plastic Hollywood stars that act like living mannequins at every Gala Whatever or "It's an honour just to be nominated" Awards show. "You look fabulous,

who are you wearing?" I like trying to guess before they answer, but I'm still a rookie at the Spot the Designer game. Joan Rivers can drop dead. I think my passion for wardrobe wouldn't have been so stunted if it wasn't for the intense gagging reflex induced by Mary Hart and her perma-grin. "Here's what J. Lo wore - and here's the \$60 knock-off that you can buy at J. C. Penney." I picture a 40 year-old housewife from Poughkeepsie wearing it to the next New Year's Eve down at the firehall. Shudder.

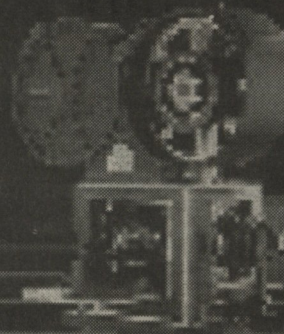
Maybe this is exactly the problem: the alliance between the undeniably false film industry and high-quality, innovative couturiers that are sadly some of the few individuals who can afford to pay.

All the couture aside, I believe there's still something to be said for dressing well on a budget. I'm not partial to a certain "look", it's just the aesthetic of the ensemble. A skinny guy can wear a slim screen-printed tee with worn jeans and stretched-out Airwalks and (to me) carry the same presence as a man in a well-cut pinstripe suit with wingtips- as long as both men put some thought into the outfit.

My preferred look is the classic. I think a perfect look for UPEI this time of year is either the cords-and-turtleneck combo or the skirt-and-tee shirt ensemble. My pick for shoes: Mary Janes. They're youthful and girly but conjure up the naughty Catholic schoolgirl sex appeal. Accessory: super-long scarf. It's a must in the Canadian winters and you can knit them yourself! (Knittin's just not for grammas no more!)

While the price of fashion is restrictive, I can afford my \$45 subscription to In Style magazine and the bank that is my imagination has no spending limit. Maybe it is shallow to think that all my academic aspirations lead to me being able to afford a Marc Jacobs coat. Oh, well. I guess I'm just a small fish in a shallow pond.

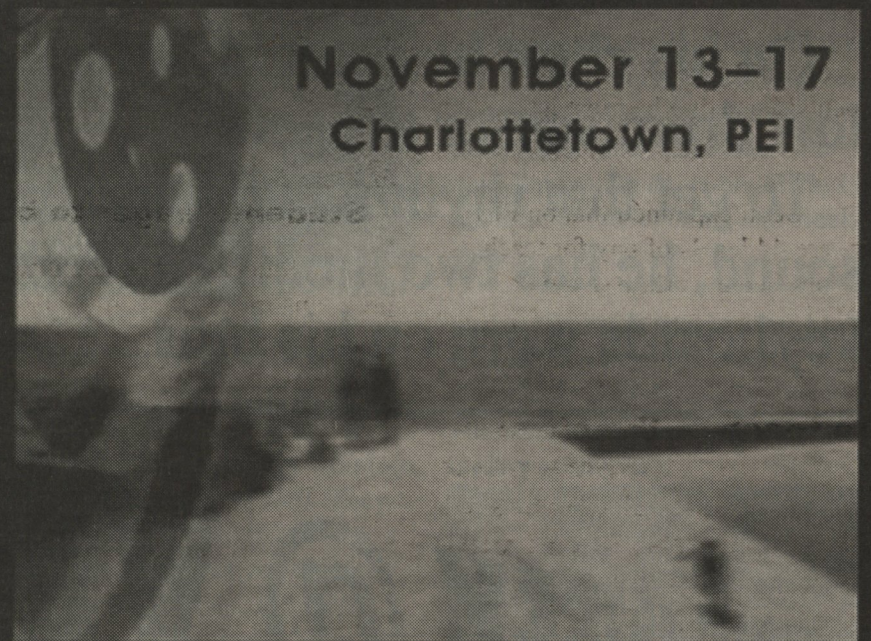
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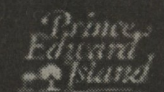
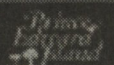


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Culturama 2002: October 25th at The Arts Guild

UPEI's local WUSC (World University Services of Canada) committee has partnered with CUSO and Canada World Youth (CWY) to bring you an evening filled with singing, dancing and good food! The event begins Friday, October 25th at 7p.m. with an all-ages concert featuring the singing talents of Ruth Mathiang, a performance by Acadian dancers, Raggae dancing performed by CWY's Jamaican contingent and more. International cuisine will be on sale until 10pm at which time we'll be clearing the floor in preparation for a 19-years and up dance party that will run until 1am. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the Root Cellar, The Book Emporium, Tweel's Gift Shop, the Volunteer Resource Council, or at the door with all proceeds going to support the three not-for-profit organizations mentioned above. All are welcome and we hope to see you there!