



Style Tip of the Month

THE Fall *Must Have* List!

I'm sure you've already seen them; everyone's top 10, 12, whatever the number, list of all things fabulous for fall. Well, seeing as how you depend on Style on Demand's fashion forward and "Oh So Informative" style and decorative advice, I thought that I would publish THE LIST-- sure to have you looking fabulous and positively chic for fall. Now, some of the items listed are probably repeats from the various fashion magazines out there, but I thought that I would add a few extras to my list (I can't have you out there looking like everyone else)!

1. Anything RED

Whether a pair of hot, red suede platform pumps (ala Steve Madden), a red patent clutch purse, a firecracker red swing coat, or that "come hither" red lipstick (worn by my best bud, Miranda), red is THE color for fall. Splashes of this sexy hue should be chic, not cheap. Think – Little Red Riding Hood – NOT, The Red Light District!
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2. Booties

Get your *booties* in gear and nab yourself a jazzy pair of this season's hottest ankle boots. There are tons of great styles out there from Neiman's to 9-West. Black is always a sure bet, but a pair of plum, brown, or navy is a good alternative as well. These look great with slacks, but you can also pull them off with a cute trapeze dress and leggings (sounds crazy, but looks great)!

3. Gold Chain Jewelry

As Mr. T would say, "I PITY THE FOOL!" who doesn't have some chunky, gold jewelry on her list of fall's *must haves*. Now, you don't have to go overboard like the previously referenced A TEAM star,

September 2006

but a chunky gold chain or bracelet is super fab for fall. I've spotted some PHAT (ok – pull out your hip hop dictionaries), gold chains in a variety of spots; Nordstrom's, Forever 21 and even at a variety of top shops on Harwin Street in Houston. Now, if you can afford Cartier, then you GO GIRL! But, if not, you can pick up some other great finds at these stores and many more.

4. A Crisp, White Button Down Shirt

How many times do I have to tell you that a crisp, white shirt is THE wardrobe staple? Seeing as how all of you already have one because as good little fashionistas, you've heeded to my past advice, that's one less thing that you have to buy for fall – right? If not (I forgive you), head on down to any Marshall's or reputable department store and pick you up a couple.

5. Leggings

Who would have thought that *leggings*, of all things, would have made their way back around on the fashion merry go round? When I first heard of this trend, I was like, "No way in h***, you're getting me into a pair of those things". My thighs are a few inches bigger than the flashdance days. But after seeing all of the fabulous pairings out there with this popular 80's accessory, as well as the thought of how comfortable wearing them would be, I can't wait to step out in a new pair (key word here – NEW – not the ones that you wore in modern dance class in college – or high school)! Now please don't go out and spend a fortune on a pair of leggings – I've seen some great ones at Wal-Mart, Capezio (capeziodance.com) and Off 5th Avenue, all under \$30.

6. An "It" Sweater

As a Houstonian, I don't get the chance to wear many warm weather clothes, so when I do have the opportunity, I want to wear something that stands out. One thing that I try to buy each year is an elegant new sweater. Last year I found my favorite sweater of all times at Loehman's – a pearl beaded, cashmere sweater by Cynthia Steffe for \$30 – I get excited just thinking about it now! I'm

always accused of wearing clothes that “do things”. And by “doing things”, I’m sure my co-worker, who gave me this *compliment??* meant, clothes that make a *statement* – and if she didn’t mean that, I’ll assume she did anyway. So whether it’s beaded, monogrammed, ruffled or whatever – My new addition to the list of fall’s *must haves* is a hot new “IT” sweater. And because I’m always looking for a way to save some dinero, why not take an existing sweater that you have and add some beads, ribbon, lace, etc. Be creative or call me for some ideas. And when someone compliments you on your sweater “doing things”, you can take all the credit for it!

7. A Bold Watch

You might be thinking – “Red is NOT my color and I will never be seen wearing black booties”, but you still want to make a statement for fall; Why not try a bold watch in red or some other neat color or design. My good friend Sally McMullin, owner of *Chic Sister, which specializes in personal organization*, just gave me the absolute coolest watch from ThinkNeves.com. I am so against little small dainty watches for myself and always opt for big, in-your-face styles. Now, that’s not to say that you won’t ever see me with a girly watch on; I have a few, but I prefer big or bright, men’s inspired timepieces. Swatch, ThinkNeves.com (referenced previously), and Anne Klein watches have some neat styles. For a personalized and inexpensive option, take a watch face that you already have or buy one of those \$10 airport gift shop specials; remove the band and replace it with a small strip of colorful taffeta or ribbon, rope or another piece of fabric – how cute would that be!

8. Fur (or Fur Accessories)

I’m sure I’ll hear from the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) folks for this one, but oh well - I LOVE FUR! Now I haven’t made it to baller status yet and purchased my full length sable, but I did pick up a really tough mink wrap from Century 21 in NYC last year, that I can’t wait to rock this fall (Houston weather permitting). There is something about fur that says refinement. So if you’re like me

and haven’t made it to full length status yet, or if you’re already on top of the food chain and sport your fox, mink or chinchilla without apology (you GO GIRL!), FUR for FALL (hey – I like that – FUR for FALL) is the way to go! If a coat or wrap isn’t your style, there are several other options out there including fur trimmed gloves, handbags, collars and boots. So, if you’re into a little accent or a full blown Siberian get-up; adding a touch of fur to your fall *must haves* list will allow you to stand out and be noticed!

Now, if the thought of wearing one of nature’s furry little friends appalls you, there are plenty of real looking, faux alternatives out there that will allow you to look just as chic.

9. SIGNATURE SCENT

Ever since I was little girl, I have been obsessed with fragrance. I grew up around women who not only looked the part, but smelled the part as well. My grandmother adored Opium by Yves St. Laurent, my mother’s signature scent was Oscar by Oscar de la Renta and my great grandmother wore Estee by Estee Lauder so long that she even smelled of the scent when she didn’t even have it on! Whatever the scent, each of my style icons always smelled fabulous and wore their scents as if they were wearing a well tailored suit. There is something about smelling those scents now that evoke the fondest of memories. So, as you’re out there shopping for your finest gear for fall, add one of the timeless classic scents such as Chanel #9, Youth Dew or Fracas or some of the new hip scents such as Missoni, Bond #9 or Ralph Lauren Hot (three of my favorites!) to your shopping list. We all love to look the part, but why not go one extra step and *smell* the part as well!

10. And the final *must have* for fall.....

CONFIDENCE!

Whether you wear these items for fall or choose to wear what you already have in your closet, the best accessory for any season is confidence. You could have on a \$2500 Gucci suit (which I want by the way... but I digress), but without that confident, “I think I’m all that and a bag

of baked Cheetoes” attitude, you might as well have on some sweat pants with rollers in your hair. Clothes are fun, but they should never make you who you are. So my fabulously stylish readers – put yourself on a fresh new air of confidence and strut your stuff. That’s one style accessory that will never go out of style! Happy Fall, everyone!

SOD’s websites of the month:

www.asos.com

Find many of these fabulous finds and more!

www.alight.com

Plus Size Women’s Wear (sizes 14-28)

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