KLINTON NOPPIS

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
MERCHANDISE MARKETING & MANAGEMENT
EDITORIAL WRITING
&
DESIGN
Software Used: Adobe Photoshop & InDesign

Goal: The creation of a visually appealing magazine cover that offers the reader an exciting preview of what’s inside the magazine, creatively embodies the theme of the issue and entices readers to take interest in the magazine’s contents.
Hey Babe, Take A Walk On The Wild Side

ROCKSTARS THROUGHOUT HISTORY HAVE ALWAYS UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKEUP AS A TOOL FOR CREATING AN ICONIC IMAGE. MAKEUP FOR MEN HAS NOW MADE IT'S WAY FROM THE STAGE TO THE HIGH STREET. WHATEVER DRUMBEAT YOU MARCH TO, THIS GQ STYLE EDIT HAS ALL THE INSPIRATION YOU NEED TO UNLEASH YOUR INNER CROWD-SURFER

BY KLINTON NORRIS

When Ziggy Stardust crash-landed on Earth in summer of 1972, David Bowie unleashed an untamed version of flamboyant masculinity into the world that would have a profound effect on the fashion and music industries forever. His alien alter-ego, dressed head to toe in asymmetric Kansai Yamamoto catsuits, platform boots and a crimson mullet coiffure, shocked the world and took rock n' roll where it had never gone before: an androgynous trip to Mars. To complete his transformation into the outlandish character that would come to define his career, Bowie would use colored pigment powders he sourced from a theatre shop in Rome to paint his face in shades of pearl, pink and gold. Former Velvet Underground front man Lou Reed dropped his iconic solo album, Transformer later that year and took to the stage in ghostly white face paint and black lipstick.

Soon after, legions of fans began doing the same, becoming superstars in the reflections of their bathroom mirrors and strutting the conservative streets of London like they’d lost their way to the mothership. Historically speaking, men in makeup isn’t a new phenomenon. With roots in ancient Egypt and commonplace until the French Revolution in 1789, makeup was worn by the upper class as a symbol of rank and wealth. The glam rock scene of the late 70s and early 80s changed the game completely, with painted and powdered performers like Marc Bolan. Men in makeup was no longer a sign of conformity and distinction, but of rebellion and asserting one’s individuality. The New Romantic movement of 80s London saw the rise of such bands as Culture Club, Duran Duran and Spandau Ballet, who accented their frilly Victorian blouses and wild hairstyles with bright eyeshadow and winged eyeliner.
When choosing which products to use, it's important to edit your selection to your personal style. The full-faced Boy George look is not for the faint of heart, nor for those short on time in the morning. Instead, opt for a semi-matte black nail varnish and a subtle swipe of black eyeliner, smudged on the lower lash line for a touch of effortless cool. For an easy transition into a night-out look, metallic liquid or cream eyeshadows placed in the inner corner of the eye add a glam rock touch and glint in the glow of the neon lights of whatever nocturnal venues you may frequent.

For the brave, a paint stick in white or metallic shades is a must-have for dramatic stage-worthy looks, especially if the desired effect is more “Detroit Rock City” than “Karma Chameleon”. Whether you choose to adopt the signature cat claw nail stripes à la Aerosmith’s Stephen Tyler or the slept-in eyeliner of The Killer’s Brandon Flowers, men’s makeup options are only continuing to grow with no signs of pause. The only limit is your imagination, but when in doubt, just do as Mick says and “Paint It Black”.

Since then, musicians like Marilyn Manson and KISS have turned to cosmetics to visually supplement their musical style, both as an artistic statement and as an effective marketing tool. No matter the reason, men around the world are turning to cosmetics as a form of self-expression and the numbers don’t lie. By 2024, the male grooming market is projected to reach £81.2 billion, with the introduction of new men’s makeup and skincare products coming from top luxury brands such as Tom Ford, Chanel and Charlotte Tilbury.
KLINTON WEARS
T-SHIRT VINTAGE
JEANS FRAME
BELT CELINE BY HEDI SLIMANE
BOOTS RICK OWENS
ARE YOU MAN ENOUGH TO WEAR HEELS? AS PLATFORM BOOTS STOMP THEIR WAY OFF THE STAGE AND ONTO THE STREETS, OUR STYLE DIRECTOR FILLS US IN ON ALL THE NECK-BREAKING DETAILS OF THIS SEASON’S MOST HAZARDOUS TREND.

BY KLINTON NORRIS

Standing out in a crowd has never been an intentional part of my personality. As a child, I was shy, walked on my toes and had an affinity for capes. I was often asked by adults if I wanted to be Superman, but no. I preferred Dracula. There was something very appealing to me in wearing head-to-toe black, swishing around a castle and waiting for night to fall so that I could go out and rule the darkness in full Victorian fashion. As a teenager, I was still shy but I began to try and conform to what was deemed acceptable to others. Not that any of that worked. On the contrary, my interest in the worlds of fashion and art grew out of that internal need to express myself. I would buy books and documentaries about creative people who interested me, like the legendary performance artist Leigh Bowery, often to the shock and horror of my family, who couldn’t quite fathom why any man would want to wear a frilly blouse and a merkin or pierce their own cheeks with safety pins.

My taste for all things twisted, dark and defiant led me to another Bowery admirer, the prince of darkness himself: Rick Owens. Since my early twenties, I started collecting Rick Owens pieces, starting out with a few of his semi-sheer cotton t-shirts and eventually branching out into outerwear and footwear (as budget allowed). At the time, Rick was seen as a men’s footwear pioneer, having put men in high-heeled boots as early in his career as his fourth catwalk show in 2004. Since then, he’s released countless versions of outré kicks for men (vintage examples in my own wardrobe include some pony skin wedges from 2009 and a pair of chunky-heeled ankle boots from 2011) but for his autumn 2019 collection, Owens upped the volume. The collection was a glam rock homage to Larry Legaspi, the all-but-forgotten New York City-based designer who was responsible for the iconic look of the bands KISS and LaBelle in the 1970s.
Set to a pounding cover of the ABBA hit “Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!” reworked by Swedish rock band The Leather Nun, models stomped out onto the runway, guided by a large industrial spotlight. The clothes were hard to make out in the darkness but the silhouette of what was soon to become the most polarizing men’s shoe of recent years was in clear sight. Needless to say, the Rick Owens KISS boot was an instant success and continues to be adapted season after season in various color ways and styles.

Given the KISS boot’s often sold-out status and rapid ascent to street-style fame, other menswear brands have been quick to introduce their own versions of heels for men, no doubt attempting to stake their claim in the changing tide of fashion that is currently shifting to gender-less styling. Men today aren’t as afraid to shop in the women’s department or accessorize with pearls and handbags. Designer and certified icon, Marc Jacobs (a card-carrying member of the KISS boot club) has been wearing skirts, dresses and sparkly jewels for over a decade now. Fashion-loving stars like Harry Styles and Luka Sabbat are often seen sporting colorful nail polish and high heeled boots, strutting their stuff for the flashbulbs and giving us mere mortals all the courage we need to raid the more intimidating corner of the Selfridges shoe floor. Well, almost all the courage we need. After all, you’re not 5 years old anymore, sneaking a discreet sashay in your mum’s Manolo’s when no one’s looking. Most frightening of all, these are definitely not your mum’s Manolo’s.

Being the loyal Rick Owens disciple that I am, I had no option but to purchase a pair of KISS boots and experience the pain and pleasure for myself. I wondered for a long time if they would suit my lifestyle but, like many others, pandemic-era thinking made me consider how I would feel if I hadn’t bought them instead. Still, I had my fair share of doubts. Could I walk in them without stumbling like a baby giraffe? Would I fall flat on my face?

Even my personal style icon, Daphne Guinness has taken her fair share of tumbles, falling off her signature heel-less Noritaka Tatehana platforms but nonetheless defiantly refusing to wear flat shoes. I’m no stranger to extreme sartorial choices but, so far, none of them have affected the way I physically get from one place to the next. Even my previous high heeled purchases wouldn’t pose this much of a challenge.

When they arrived, any feelings of doubt quickly subsided. Taking them out of the rather substantial Rick Owens shoe box and holding them in my hands, I realized that these weren’t just boots. They were symbols of liberation. After much consideration and attempting to style the boots with different pants and tops, I opted for a head-to-toe Rick outfit (which is often the only way to go with a statement Rick Owens piece) and took the new kicks for a test drive. If I could drive in them at all, that is. After having my doubts about my ability to operate a motor vehicle whilst incapacitated by five inch stilts, I decided it may be best to slip into my usual Dr. Marten’s 1460 boots until I’ve reached my destination. Surely this story would be better served by reporting the stares and gasps from passers-by than a cringe-worthy account of a police officer wondering how my platform shoes became wedged in the accelerator, causing me to drive through traffic rather than with it.

Needless to say, wearing high heels demands more of you than flat shoes, especially for men. Not only does it mostly prohibit running, driving and grace-ful composure, but it demands a certain confidence of the wearer. Walking in the KISS boots wasn’t particularly difficult, just a new sensation. After a few wobbly minutes, I found that they became increasingly simple to navigate, provided that uneven pavement and slippery surfaces are avoided. In fact, there were more positive attributes to wearing them than drawbacks. My posture was temporarily improved, I was suddenly much taller and I felt that I had magically adopted a nonchalant swagger that reminded me to embrace my inner rockstar with every noisy stomp I took.

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Strutting around Dallas, Texas, you could make the reasonable assumption that most of the population of the semi-conservative city I currently call home have yet to see a man in such extreme footwear in the flesh. The reactions varied in discretion but were surprisingly positive. Most onlookers gawked at me discreetly while others made their observations known. A middle-aged woman in Neiman Marcus walked over to me from across the sales floor and politely asked to take a photo of me. One teenaged boy in a shop stared at me for several minutes, shifting his focus up and down and scanning me from head to toe, mouth agape in confusion. Surprisingly, the overwhelming amount of positive responses was from straight men, mostly telling me they wish they had the courage could pull them off themselves and asking me how I manage to walk in them all day. Men old enough to be my father would shout "rock on" from across the street, no doubt experiencing flashbacks of the mosh pits at the KISS concerts of their youth. To date, there has only been one disapproving comment spoken aloud. Whilst wearing a different variation of the KISS boot (I now have three), featuring a matte black toecap and glittering Swarovski-encrusted heel, and walking to my car from having dinner with friends, I could faintly hear the voice of a 10-year-old boy exclaiming, "What kind of man wears shoes like that?!". You win some, you lose some.

It seems my experiment with the extreme footwear trend has paid off. My wallet is drained from stocking up on stacked heels but at least I can experience the power trip that comes along with grazing the clouds. Not only are platform shoes more comfortable than I imagined, they also have the power to transform one into a more confident, daring version of oneself. Once you get the hang of taking extra care on stairways, that is. I’ve yet to fall flat on my face, but as it is inevitable to occur at some point, I will rise to my feet and carry on with the same defiant conviction as my style hero, Daphne, when that day comes. I suppose I’d rather crash to the ground looking like Gene Simmons in all his glam-goth glory than as just another face in the crowd.

To sum up the feeling perfectly, Rick Owens himself once said, “As the suit gave Marlene Dietrich extra allure, high heels on a guy give him a reckless virility. If there’s an icy hauteur to a boxy black suit on a woman, there’s a good-natured middle finger to heels on a guy, as if to say, ‘I dare you to blink at me, motherfucker’”. As for me, I’d consider the confidence boost an exceptional gift with purchase.
FASHION STYLING
Men’s Fashion Editorial

**Software Used:** Adobe Photoshop & InDesign

**Goal:** The creative showcasing of men’s designer fashion through the use of styling, photography and storytelling to communicate the fantasy element of fashion in a unique and intriguing context.
DALLAS CITY HALL

GOOD RECORDS DALLAS

FAIR PARK

KALITA HUMPHREYS THEATER

STYLING THE SHOOT
OPPOSITE PAGE:
TOP JOHN GALLIANO
LEATHER TROUSERS GARETH PUGH
BRIEFS CALVIN KLEIN
HAT (THROUGHOUT) STYLIST'S OWN

THIS PAGE:
SHIRT TOPMAN
TROUSERS TOPMAN
BRIEFS TOM FORD
NECKLACE JUDY BLAME
BOOTS (THROUGHOUT) DR. MARTENS
HAT (THROUGHOUT) STYLIST'S OWN
T-SHIRT
VIVIENNE WESTWOOD
BRIEFS
JOHN GALLIANO
TROUSERS
STYLIST'S OWN

MOHAIR JUMPER SAINT LAURENT
WOOL JUMPER GIVENCHY
TROUSERS DICKIES
BRIEFS DIESEL
WOOL JUMPER
GIVENCHY
TROUSERS
DICKIES
BRIEFS
DIESEL

SHIRT TOPMAN
LEATHER WAISTCOAT GARETH PUGH
LEATHER TROUSERS GARETH PUGH
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