

Voices of Style

As 2021 comes to a close, we celebrate the creatives
and luminaries who drove culture forward

by CHARLOTTE COLLINS, JENNIFER FERRISE, and ALISON SYRETT



Michaela Coel

If the actress's riveting performance in HBO's *I May Destroy You* didn't make you a stan, then her Emmy win for the series (which she also wrote and directed) will. Dressed in a neon Christopher John Rogers gown, Coel delivered a stirring acceptance speech about facing your demons and turning them into meaningful art. "Write the tale that scares you, that makes you feel uncertain, that isn't comfortable," she told the audience. "I dare you."

The Game Changers

THESE FUTURE-FACING DESIGNERS ARE SPARKING CONVERSATIONS ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY, EQUAL REPRESENTATION, AND WHAT QUALIFIES AS HIGH FASHION. (OH, YEAH, AND MAKING IRRESISTIBLY GOOD CLOTHES.)



Piccioli (right) with Zendaya at her September birthday celebration in Venice.

Telfar Clemens

The rabid demand for Clemens's vegan leather Shopping Bag (aka the "Bushwick Birkin") in 2020 pushed his Telfar brand, which he launched in 2005, to an entirely new level. But this year the streetwear virtuoso solidified his industry status thanks to collaborations with major brands like Converse and Ugg. "I think it's cool that people are discovering me now," says Clemens. "I've been doing what I wanted to do with passion and creativity for the last 15 years, and I'm happy it's starting to move out of a fashion space and affecting more people."

Pierpaolo Piccioli

Beloved for his lively and optimistic approach to designing, the Valentino creative director has repeatedly delivered the kind of fashion we want coming out of a global pandemic: bold, beautiful styles that make us dream about getting dressed up. The cherry on top? Seeing his vibrant creations in the wild on everyone from Zendaya to a posse of A-list fans at the Met Gala (Whoopi Goldberg, Carey Mulligan, and Normani, to name a few).



Becca McCharen-Tran

The pioneering founder of inclusive label Chromat on the state of diversity in fashion.

What positive changes have you seen in the industry lately, and what work still needs to be done? When I started Chromat in 2010, it was difficult to find plus-size, disabled, and trans models—even models of color—at agencies, so it's great to see that diverse casting is the bare minimum at this point. Now the conversation has shifted to who is behind the camera and behind the scenes. It's imperative to include decision-makers [with different perspectives].

Your recent collaboration with Black trans-femme filmmaker and artist Tourmaline offers swimwear with something for everyone [pictured above]. How did the collection come together?

Bathing suits have been a huge focus for Chromat because of the power that a single garment has over how people feel about themselves. We want to turn something fraught with insecurity into a piece that celebrates all body types. [For this collection] we focused on swim skirts, monokinis, shorts, and swim bottoms with soft package pouches, and matching bikini tops for girls who don't tuck, trans femmes, nonbinary people, women, men, and everyone embracing Collective Opulence Celebrating Kindred. There's a range of coverage options so everyone has something they feel comfortable in. As Tourmaline put it: "In a moment when so much in the world is showing us what we don't want or need, it's more important than ever to have swimwear that allows us all to bring our full selves to the party."



Lady Gaga in custom Schiaparelli Haute Couture at the presidential inauguration in January.



Daniel Roseberry

Lizzo, Bella Hadid, Lady Gaga—all the buzziest celebrities have worn Roseberry's striking creations for Schiaparelli this year to great fanfare. But even without the clout of his clientele, the couturier's work stands on its own as high art, thanks to a combination of daring surrealist references and gravity-defying silhouettes.

Left: Roseberry at the finale of his spring 2021 Schiaparelli Haute Couture show.



A look from Schiaparelli's fall/winter 2021-2022 collection.

Gabriela Hearst

Since starting her namesake label in 2015, she has quietly built a reputation for making Earth-friendly luxury pieces. Now, as the newly appointed creative director of Chloé, she's bringing her thoughtful sensibility to a larger stage by reinventing the storied French maison's feminine aesthetic (think more free-spirited than frilly) and pushing for sustainable practices (the brand just became B Corporation-certified, a designation that requires rigorous inspection of a company's social and environmental impacts).



Reed with Iman (in his design, produced with the support of Dolce & Gabbana) at the 2021 Met Gala.



Hearst at her debut Chloé show in March.



Grace Wales Bonner

In an era of overexposure, the notably press-shy founder of Wales Bonner most often lets her work—a meticulously researched mix of traditional European tailoring and Afro-Atlantic influences—speak for itself. The message we're getting? That we want pretty much everything she puts out.

Rich Fresh

The tailor, designer, and self-made man is relatively new on the scene, but with his grit and talent for structured fits, he's sure to become a household name.

Your brand Henry Mask has been spotted on celebs including Jennifer Lopez, Demi Lovato, and LeBron James. Did you expect it to become such a sensation? My brother and I had a conversation right when the pandemic hit about creating a [mask] company. No one else thought it was a great idea, but I expected it to be a success from Day 1—which is why I invested so much into it! We've gone through a lot of ups and downs, but it's exciting to know you've built something with family.

How do you hope to shape the future of the industry? As a Black man in luxury fashion, changing the notion of what luxury designers look like is a big responsibility for me to have. My story isn't one with a benefactor or conventional schooling; it's an underground story of what determination can produce. The industry isn't limited to fashion students and traditional designers; it's open to anyone bold enough to put their stake in the ground and say, "This is what I intend to do."

With your breakout success in the last few years, do you feel you've "made it"? I'm just getting started. Richfresh and Henry Mask are baby businesses. I've announced myself, and I've made an impact, but I still have so much more to do.



Fresh at the Richfresh "Romance the Jewels" womenswear show in September.



Bode (left) with Lorde at the Met Gala in September.

Emily Adams Bode

The brains behind Bode consistently sets the standard for green fashion by producing her collections in small batches from repurposed vintage textiles. And while officially billed as menswear, her gender-fluid pieces are championed by all sorts of fashion lovers: Just look at Lorde, who was inarguably one of the Met Gala's best-dressed guests this year in a custom Bode jacket, skirt, and headpiece.

And Just Like That...

...THE LADIES OF *SEX AND THE CITY* ARE BACK, TURNING THE STREETS OF NEW YORK INTO THEIR OWN PERSONAL RUNWAY (AND MAKING US FEEL LIKE IT'S 1998 ALL OVER AGAIN).

There's a veil of secrecy around the plot of the upcoming HBO Max reboot *And Just Like That...* (premiering in December), but one thing's for sure—the looks will *not* disappoint. This go-round, longtime *Sex and the City* costume designer Patricia Field handed over the reins to protégés Molly Rogers and Danny Santiago, who helped bring Carrie, Charlotte, and Miranda into 2021. Here, they offer a sneak peek at some of the fashion fun to come.

The Internet has been buzzing for months about the styles in the reboot. Are you ever surprised by the reaction?

MOLLY ROGERS: I feel like we're under a microscope sometimes! But the immediate large-scale judgments are a part of social media life now. We do what makes us happy in the fitting room bubble. I just wish more things could be kept as surprises.

DANNY SANTIAGO: We stay focused because we know how the costumes will serve the story. Fans get excited when they see the outfits photographed, but we really can't wait for them to see how the looks play out when the show airs.

You both worked with Patricia Field on the original SATC show and films. How have you continued her vision yet still put your own spin on things?

MR: I've been working with Pat since 1984, so I've received her magic through osmosis. There was a hugely successful blueprint, which we brought forward for the times we're in and where the girls are in their lives. The biggest lesson I learned from her was to always keep your eye on the energy in the street.

DS: Pat mixes vintage, high-end, and no-name designers, which is the same approach we take. It doesn't matter how much something costs, it's whether you feel a connection to the color, the fabric, and the silhouette.

How have the characters' looks evolved?

MR: We're in a post-pandemic Zoom life in the city, so Carrie has a more vintage, recycled vibe this time around, and she has her archive to pull from. Miranda's life is changing, as her hair certainly has, so her wardrobe became more relaxed. Charlotte is still the constant and the touchstone for everyone.

DS: We wanted to show just how stylish women of every age can be. Even if the characters and their personal looks



Kristin Davis, Sarah Jessica Parker, and Cynthia Nixon on the set of *And Just Like That...* in N.Y.C.



have shifted, they haven't lost any of the whimsical flair.

What moments are you most excited for fans to see?

MR: There's a color that Carrie wears that she's never put on before, plus a lot of cool nods to archive pieces and a very special evening stroll.

DR: We got really creative with the returning cast and all the new characters. People will love the diversity and inclusivity, which we were proud to reflect in the styling. Everyone gets their time to shine! **—JENNIFER FERRISE**

For a behind-the-scenes look, follow @andjustlikethatcostumes on Instagram.



ELLA EMHOFF

Since attending the presidential inauguration in a bejeweled Miu Miu coat to support stepmom Kamala Harris, the fashion design student has become a rising style star. Recent additions to her CV? A contract with IMG Models (Balenciaga, Stella McCartney, and Lacoste have all recently booked her for gigs), a turn at the 2021 Met Gala, and a knitwear collaboration with downtown-cool brand Batsheva.



Gomez as her character Mabel in *Only Murders in the Building*.

SELENA GOMEZ

Along with running her vegan and cruelty-free makeup line Rare Beauty, the singer-actress gave us one of the year's must-watch shows: the charming Hulu series (and true-crime spoof) *Only Murders in the Building*. At this rate, we can't wait to see what she comes out with in 2022—although we'd happily accept more of the same.



CASSANDRA PETERSON

Known for her sultry portrayal of iconic horror hostess character Elvira: Mistress of the Dark, the actress made headlines this fall when she opened up about her girlfriend of nearly two decades after years of worrying what fans of her sexy alter ego might think.

Hello, Lovers

AFTER MONTHS OF UNCERTAINTY, ROOTING FOR THESE ADORABLE CELEBRITY COUPLES BECAME A WELCOME DISTRACTION.



Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez



Shailene Woodley and Aaron Rodgers



Zoë Kravitz and Channing Tatum



Michael B. Jordan and Lori Harvey



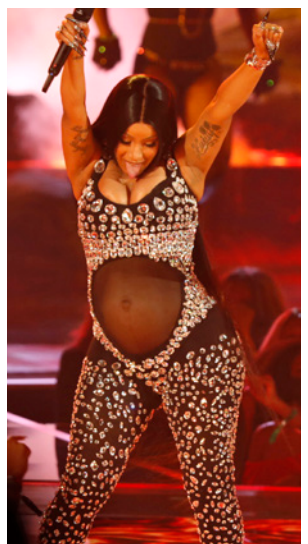
Megan Fox and Machine Gun Kelly



Rihanna and A\$AP Rocky



Harry Styles and Olivia Wilde



CARDI B

Sure, there's no contest for announcing your pregnancy in the best possible way. But if there was...rapper Cardi B, who revealed her bump to the world by wearing a bedazzled bodysuit with a sheer cutout panel for her BET Awards performance, would unequivocally win.



JILL BIDEN

We'll never know whether Dr. Biden's studded "Love" blazer—worn to join her husband for a meeting with British prime minister Boris Johnson—was a subtle rebuke to Melania Trump's infamous jacket emblazoned with the phrase "I really don't care. Do U?" Either way, we appreciate the positive change of pace.



THE WHITE LOTUS CAST

From cringe-funny dialogue to all the catfants, there's so much to love in HBO's hit dramedy about privileged guests at a Hawaiian resort—most of all the riveting ensemble of actors (including Connie Britton, Jennifer Coolidge, Sydney Sweeney, and Murray Bartlett) who carried the series.



LEWIS HAMILTON

Because most emerging brands can't afford to attend the Met Gala (tickets are reported to cost anywhere between \$35,000 and \$275,000 per table), the British Formula One race car driver footed the bill for an entire table at the event and filled it with three on-the-rise Black designers (Theophilus, Kenneth Nicholson, and Jason Rembert) and other creatives of color.

Models of the Moment

THE RUNWAY IS THEIR PLATFORM, AND THEY USE IT TO MAKE A STATEMENT.



Emily Ratajkowski My Body

Emily Ratajkowski

In between giving birth to her first child, Sylvester, in March and making a triumphant return to the runway in September, Ratajkowski found the time to finish her first book, *My Body*.

“My beliefs around feminism evolved in my 20s, and I wanted to take a hard look at why and how,” she says. What followed was a series of frank essays that break down our culture’s commodification of women. “It sheds light on the complicated, nuanced relationship that I and many other women have to their sexuality and power. My hope is that they recognize their experiences in my own.”

Metropolitan Books, \$26; us.macmillan.com.

Quannah Chasinghorse

The 19-year-old shares how she uses her platform to highlight Indigenous excellence.

How did your Met Gala look [below] come together?

Designer Peter Dundas had the beautiful gold dress, and my mom and I had the great idea of asking my auntie Jocelyn Billy Upshaw, former Miss Navajo Nation, to borrow some of her silver and turquoise jewelry. It worked out so perfectly! I’m honored and blessed to have been able to showcase Indigenous art at such a big event.

What do you want people to know about your work as a protector of Indigenous lands?

It’s not easy and is often exhausting to constantly try to break down stereotypes and prove to the world that Indigenous people are more than what we are painted to be. We carry so much traditional knowledge and strength, yet we are silenced and pushed out of conversations that influence our future. I’ve worked really hard, and I’ve put myself out there for the greater good of my people and the world.

Looking ahead, what are you ambitious for?

I’m ready to see much more Indigenous representation in all spaces: fashion, politics, film, music. I love being a part of the growth and change in our industry. Indigenous people for generations have been very vocal about the challenges we face, yet we are just starting to get attention in mainstream media. I want to see people in powerful positions making space for Indigenous voices.



Karen Elson

After two decades of feeling unprotected by modeling agencies, Elson made the bold decision this spring to represent herself, claiming full ownership of her fashion future. “I had to stand up for my values, even if I took a hit in the business,” she says. “Now it’s about women taking charge.”



Aaron Rose Philip

The Antiguan American model, who made her New York Fashion Week debut this fall, is leading the charge toward a more inclusive industry.

You killed it on the Moschino runway. What did that moment mean to you?

It was everything I’ve dreamed of. I feel humbled and grateful that Moschino and Jeremy Scott were the people I could share it with. For years, all I’ve wanted was to see a model gracing a major runway using a wheelchair or mobility aid, and now I get to say that was me! It’s important that it’s not just a singular moment, though, but the start of a more inclusive reality in fashion.

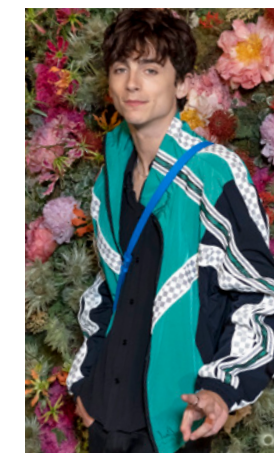
What has the reaction been like? I was shocked by the outpouring of love. When Linda Evangelista and Naomi Campbell congratulated me on Instagram, I cried.

What advice would you give another young disabled model who dreams of making it in fashion? Have faith in yourself. Be assertive and persistent about your goals. And just keep going, because if you stick your neck out for long enough and stay true to yourself, people will see you.



NAOMI OSAKA

The tennis champion sparked a much-needed global discourse about caring for the mental health of elite athletes when she dropped out of the French Open to address anxiety and depression and admirably opened up about her personal struggles in an essay for *Time* magazine.



TIMOTHÉE CHALAMET

It’s tough to say where we’ve enjoyed watching the actor more: on the red carpet (where he delivers a perfect blend of sportswear and skinny suits) or in his stretch of Oscar-contender films—*The French Dispatch*, *Dune*, *Don’t Look Up*—this fall and winter.



Clockwise from far left: Thede as Chris; Ashley Nicole Black as a party host who claims her jumpsuit is vintage; Thede in the "Get Your Life" sketch; Thede in the "Last Supp-her" sketch with co-stars Skye Townsend and Black.



Laughing to the Top

WRITER, ACTRESS, AND COMEDIAN **ROBIN THEDE** ON CREATING SPOT-ON CHARACTERS (AND BRINGING THEM TO LIFE) FOR ANOTHER ROUND OF HER HILARIOUS SKETCH SHOW.

When Robin Thede debuted *A Black Lady Sketch Show* on HBO in 2019, she set the bar high for herself. But fortunately for us, Season 2 of the acclaimed comedy series—which Thede both writes and stars in—didn't disappoint. She continues to embody a whole host of astutely rendered characters, proving there is no role, on camera or behind the scenes, that she can't take on and masterfully execute.

There have been some great costume moments this season. Which was most memorable to you? The robes from "The Last Supp-her" were decadent and *heavy*! I was surprised by their weight, but they were so beautiful and helped us transform. The hair, makeup, and wardrobe are key to locking into our characters fully.

Of all the characters you did, which felt like the biggest transformation? A guy named Chris who can't give a straight answer to any question! He's a simple man, but a

complicated part for me to play given the three hours of hair and makeup and the complete voice and posture changes I had to make to be believable. Lots of my girlfriends have told me how much he reminds them of their exes, so I think it's convincing!

What has been the most rewarding part for you about creating this platform? Being able to look around at our cast, writers, production team, and crew and see so many Black women and people of color who are dedicated to making sure that we are creating not only this Emmy-winning show but also long-lasting opportunities for folks to thrive in this industry far beyond it.

What's your goal for the show in the future? Continuing to expose the audience to more hilarious Black women comedians and writers. We are a small but dynamic team, and all of us are better now than when we arrived, due simply to working in an environment that actually values us and our talents! —**CHARLOTTE COLLINS**

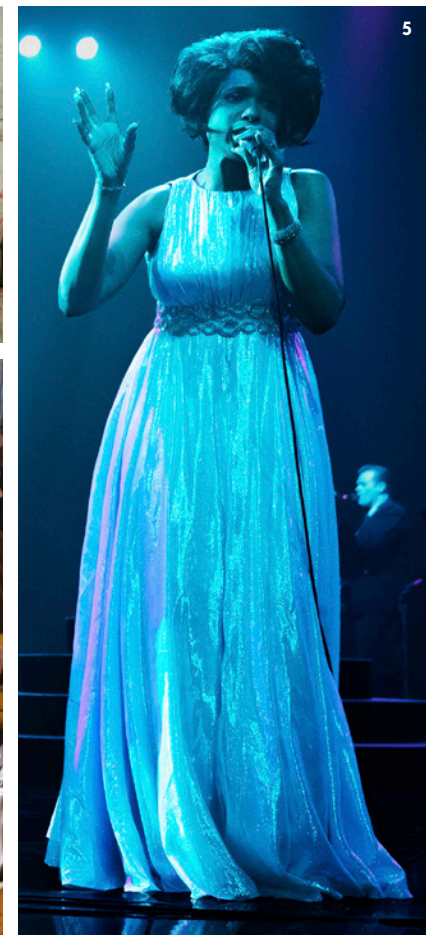
Leading Ladies

OUR FAVORITE PERFORMANCES THIS YEAR? POWERFUL ACTRESSES PLAYING EQUALLY FORMIDABLE WOMEN.



1 ANDRA DAY
A transfixing portrait of jazz singer Billie Holiday and sultry 1940s-era costumes—what's not to love about Day's star turn in *The United States vs. Billie Holiday*?

2 KRISTEN STEWART
Considering her own fraught relationship with the paparazzi and ability to pull off a fancy blazer, the actress couldn't have been a better choice to take on the role of Princess Diana in the movie *Spencer*.



3 SARAH PAULSON AND BEANIE FELDSTEIN
We all remember the drama of former president Bill Clinton's extramarital affair in the '90s. But this pair, who respectively play civil servant Linda Tripp and intern Monica Lewinsky in *Impeachment: American Crime Story*, make it feel totally new.

4 JESSICA CHASTAIN
You don't need to know a thing about evangelist television personality Tammy Faye Bakker to thoroughly enjoy Chastain's portrayal of her in *The Eyes of Tammy Faye*—and the parade of sparkly, shiny, and satiny looks she serves in the process.

5 JENNIFER HUDSON
When it came to casting the lead in the Aretha Franklin biopic *Respect*, it's easy to see why producers went for Hudson: Few other actresses have the presence and vocal chops to convincingly embody such an icon.



6 LADY GAGA
Even if *House of Gucci* weren't full of major fashion and family drama, we'd stream it just for Gaga's take on Italian socialite Patrizia Reggiani, complete with a rich, syrupy accent.

Queens of the World

RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE SEASON 13 FINALIST **GOTTMIK** AND ALL STARS SEASON 5 WINNER **SHEA COULEÉ** KNOW THAT DRAG'S MAINSTREAM TAKEOVER IS MORE THAN A MOMENT.

With several spin-offs airing in the U.S., nine international editions, and 24 Emmys over a 12-year run, *RuPaul's Drag Race* is an empire on course for global domination. Gottmik, the first out trans man to compete on the program, and Shea Couleé, who snatched the crown after a season's worth of impeccably executed looks inspired by Black beauty, are more than ready to lead the charge. The show has led to abundant opportunities for both alumni, each of whom recently sashayed their way onto Rihanna's Savage x Fenty runway after their respective seasons aired. Here, they discuss how drag has given them a conduit for personal expression and a platform to embrace diversity and representation across industries.

SHEA COULEÉ: When I first started, drag was something that you had to go out to see in person. Now, with *RuPaul's Drag Race*, it comes right into your living room and onto your phone. There are so many different types of drag, and it's much more accessible. *Drag Race* has allowed us queens to become better and more realized because we're exposed to so many different types of art.

GOTTMIK: I started out as a celebrity makeup artist, so I was doing editorials all the time, and I remember when [Season 7 winner] Violet Chachki began pushing that boundary of being like, "I'm a fashion doll, and I'm going to be mainstream." Queens started showing up to events like Paris Fashion Week and coming on to the editorial scene, and it inspired me to take drag more seriously as an artist because it was a reality where both of my worlds could collide.

SC: I love being in this space where I can express different styles through Shea. I can be soft and femme one moment, and then be really hard and Grace Jones, painted head-to-toe with a high-top, the next. My brand is Black femme excellence—anything that's Black, feminine, powerful, I'm here for it.

G: I gravitate toward this punk rock aesthetic because it's gorgeous and inspires me, but also because that's what queerness and drag is, that punk statement of "I'm here; I'm queer; and I'm taking up space unapologetically." Now that I've medically transitioned and am comfortable with who I

am outside of Gottmik, I can use my drag persona as art, as opposed to a vessel to figure out gender. It's fun to push the limits of my artistry every day rather than needing Gottmik to figure my life out. I definitely have been on a journey with her. **SC:** Seeing the power that style has to change the way others react and treat you when you step out into the world has given me so much confidence. Fashion lets me literally turn myself inside out. It allows me to bare my soul and show people how I see myself. I feel naked both literally and figuratively if I can't express myself through clothing and makeup. When I put those lashes on at the end and turn to the side, I see that little profile, and I'm like, "There she is!" **G:** I always say if you're into your makeup before you put lashes on, that means it's going to be a *gorgeous* beat! And I agree—to me, fashion is a language. It's the way that I personally want to communicate. We're blessed as dope drag queen artists to speak that language extremely well.

SC: It truly is a language. The majority of all communication is nonverbal, so what am I saying by what I put on without having to open my mouth?

G: It's crazy to me that I can translate what I stand for into a look with drag. I want to be a voice for the LGBTQIA+ community, and I can put that into an outfit, like subtly wearing the trans flag colors or being a little more naked and having my [transmasculine top surgery] scars out. To have mainstream designers reach out and support that, I'm so honored to be a part of it.

SC: What I'm most excited about with drag entering mainstream media and culture is building equity and longevity in the entertainment, fashion, and beauty industries. I want to come in not only as a guest artist but as somebody with staying power and a seat at the table. More brands are embracing drag artists, but I always want to be careful of not being tokenized and to be truly respected for the work we do. I want to see drag queens in positions of power, like creative directors for labels and things like that. **G:** Hell, yes. Activism and equality are where my passions lie. I'm excited to partner with mainstream designers and amazing artists because a lot of them have been playing with the whole genderless moment in fashion for a while now, blending masculine and feminine styles, and who else in the entire world can do that better than drag queens?

SC: It's a blessing to be in rooms with people I admire and



“Fashion allows me to bare my soul and show people how I see myself.”

—SHEA COULEÉ,
RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars Season 5 winner



Left: Gottmik at Savage x Fenty Show Vol. 3; Shea Couleé at Savage x Fenty Show Vol. 2.

respect. I have to remind myself, "You've always wanted this. You always said you'd be here. Don't act shocked now that you are. Own your shit!" I look forward to continuing to chase my dreams, and they're always changing. *Drag Race* has become this beautiful platform for multihyphenate artists—because I feel like that's what drag queens are, to show people you don't have to be just one thing. RuPaul says to color with all the crayons in the box. We do, and we show people that that's OK. —CHARLOTTE COLLINS

Super Stylists

THE PROS BEHIND THIS YEAR'S MOST MEMORABLE CELEBRITY LOOKS PROVED THEY CAN TACKLE ANY OCCASION—FROM RED CARPETS TO VIRTUAL CEREMONIES—AND MAKE IT FASHION.

Wayman + Micah

The duo responsible for Regina King's stunning wardrobe is dream team Wayman Bannerman and Micah McDonald, who went into this past year with the goal of bringing some levity through their clients' fashion. "We felt it was important to lift the mood," says McDonald. "Whether through color, silhouettes, or accessories, we wanted to exude joy." The pair's favorite look out of all they styled in 2021 was King's futuristic one-shoulder Louis Vuitton dress at the Golden Globes (below), which they felt perfectly captured the actress-director's essence. "The gown was beautifully structured on her body yet felt cool and effortless," says Bannerman. "It was like armor but still oozed femininity, mirroring Regina herself."



Above: McDonald (left) and Bannerman with model Adut Akech.



Law Roach

"I want to use my platform to amplify voices and inspire young creators who look like me," says Roach, who describes himself as the only Image Architect. The showstopping red carpet styles we live for from mega clients Zendaya and Kerry Washington are testaments to his talent for crafting headline-making looks. The quintessential Roach-styled client? "Someone playful who loves the art of fashion and is not afraid to take risks."



Erivo at the 2021 Venice Film Festival.

Jason Bolden

This year's *InStyle* Awards Voice of Style honoree aims for fashion that surprises and delights.

Between working on looks for stars like Cynthia Erivo, Yara Shahidi, and Angelina Jolie, you've had a remarkable year. What does it mean to you to be named the 2021 Voice of Style? It means more than just being celebrated. For me, this is an opportunity to bring attention to people who look like me and who've always been told that style and fashion are unattainable for us. This is a mirror of reflection to show people that they can see themselves.

How do you want your clients to feel through styling? I try to dress people with an angle of joy. Happiness depends on what happens to you, but through all things you can still find joy. No matter what someone may say about their aesthetic, they're joyful.

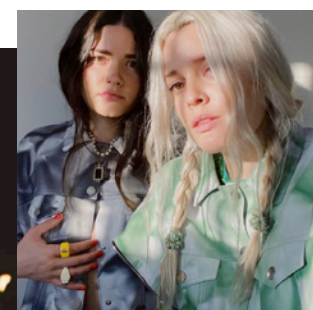
Looking ahead to 2022, what are you excited for? Leaning back into what fashion means to me, which is this imaginary journey and creating these episodes of fantasy in my mind.

Hodo Musa

As the lady behind some of Lil Nas X's biggest wardrobe wins, Musa knows how to make a fashion risk pay off. A few highlights? The rapper's jaw-dropping lilac VMAs outfit, as well as the styling and creative direction for his debut album *Montero*, an instant classic not only for the bops but also for the music videos' scandalously sexy ensembles.



Musa (left); Lil Nas X at the 2021 VMAs.



Chloe & Chenelle

Collaborating with pop superstar Olivia Rodrigo, the pair have been instrumental in developing an image that is both youthful and edgy for the singer-songwriter's breakout year.



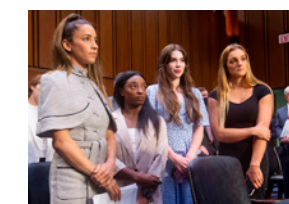
KACEY MUSGRAVES

When Texas senator Ted Cruz left for a tropical vacation in the middle of a severe snowstorm, the singer (who released her soulful album *Star-Crossed* this fall) had an epic response: selling cheeky "Cruzin' for a Bruzin" T-shirts to benefit relief efforts in the state.



OUR BEST FRIENDS

Watching the beloved cast of the enduring '90s sitcom reminisce 17 years post-wrap was the comfort viewing we didn't know we needed.



U.S.A. GYMNASTS

We're in awe of the composure and bravery Olympic medalists Aly Raisman, Simone Biles, McKayla Maroney, and Maggie Nichols showed while giving heartbreaking testimony in a Senate hearing about convicted sex offender Larry Nassar.



Amanda Gorman

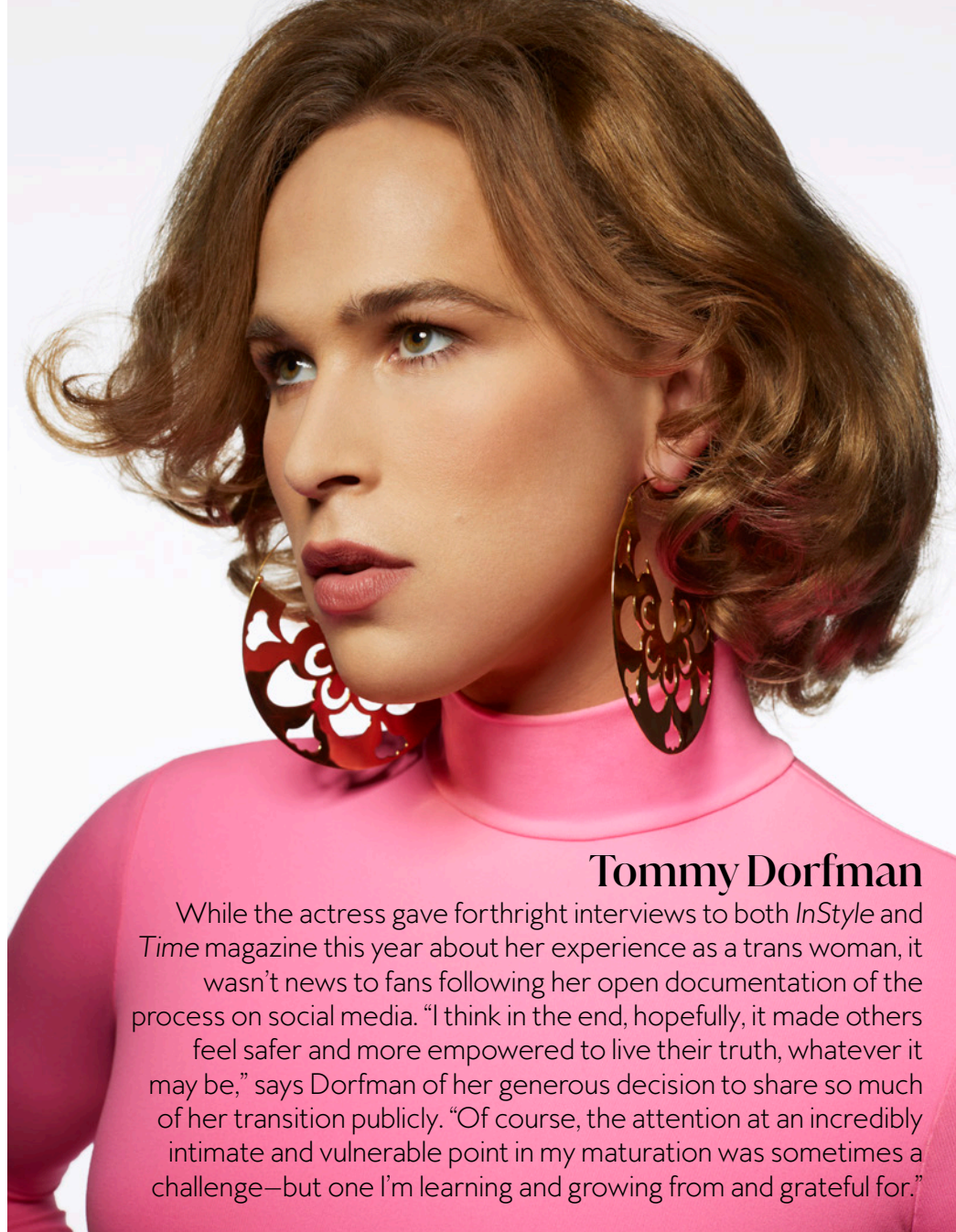
"It's very important to me that my role goes beyond being a face or name attached to a brand," says the poet of her partnership with Estée Lauder. In September, Gorman was named its global changemaker and curator of its Writing Change initiative. She sees a strong connection between language and beauty. "The way that I choose to present myself visually is an extension of my voice," she says. "What is poetry if not an expression of beauty?"

Mikayla Nogueira

Thanks to her sunny disposition, candid advice, and unapologetic glamour, the beauty influencer was one of the pandemic's biggest breakout TikTok stars.

You just launched your account in 2020. At what point did it go from being a hobby to a full-time job? When I joined the app, I had no followers online, and no one knew who I was. But my first video went viral and immediately changed my life. I knew it was my moment, so I took advantage of it by posting every day. By August 2020, I was faced with a very difficult decision: stay in graduate school [or pursue my dream]. That same month, I was offered my very first beauty contract. That was a turning point. I quit my job at Ulta Beauty, dropped out of school, and moved into an apartment where I created my first beauty studio.

How has your content evolved from when you started? From the beginning, I did not want to be a beauty guru stuck in one category. So in both my current videos and my earliest ones, I do it all: fashion, skin care, dating, makeup. I share everything. TikTok has created a different breed of influencer: People care about who a person is deep down. Are you genuine? Are you authentic? Whether I am sharing a cooking video or a beauty tutorial, people watch because they feel a connection.



Tommy Dorfman

While the actress gave forthright interviews to both *InStyle* and *Time* magazine this year about her experience as a trans woman, it wasn't news to fans following her open documentation of the process on social media. "I think in the end, hopefully, it made others feel safer and more empowered to live their truth, whatever it may be," says Dorfman of her generous decision to share so much of her transition publicly. "Of course, the attention at an incredibly intimate and vulnerable point in my maturation was sometimes a challenge—but one I'm learning and growing from and grateful for."



Hannah Einbinder

The Emmy-nominated *Hacks* star reflects on her breakout year and what she learned from co-star and comedy idol Jean Smart.

What was the best part about playing your character, Ava? She lives her life unfiltered, and as someone who constantly wants others to be comfortable, I loved all of the wild stuff she would say.

What was the biggest thing you took away from working with the legendary Jean Smart? I can't stress this enough: She really taught me how to act. Just watching her was a master class on all the physical, mental, and emotional nuances of the job.

How has your life changed since the premiere? Well, my day-to-day look is best described as 1970s male gym coach who is getting a divorce, so walking outside and having people recognize me in that sort of getup has been character-building, to say the least.



CHLOÉ ZHAO

Zhao had a lot to celebrate this year, becoming the first woman of color to win an Oscar for best director, as well as leading the massive Marvel movie *Eternals*. We also applaud her always quirky personal style, including this fleece jacket covered in pictures of adorable puppies that proved to be her lucky charm on the set of *Nomadland*.



Tarana Burke

The founder and activist behind the #MeToo movement was finally ready to tell her story on her own terms this fall with her powerful memoir, *Unbound*. "The last several years, people have tried to piece things together on their own, but it was important that they hear it from me directly," she says. "I hope it builds empathy for folks, connects them to the larger themes of trauma and resilience, and sparks some serious conversations for survivors and those who love and support us."

Oprah Book/Flatiron Books, \$29; us.macmillan.com.