

The ultimate guide to the hottest emerging fashion designers from all over the world

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SEPTEMBER 2020

FEATURE STORY

Get to know the talented
Carolina Dalfo

SHOE HACKS

Everything you need to
know about shoes: five
ultimate rules every
woman should know



TOP FIVE SWIMSUIT TRENDS

You'll see next summer

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EDITORIAL

Editor-in-chief
Jenny A.

Managing Partners
Mike I, Raymond B, Maryrose Salubre

Creative Director
Raymond Bartholomeusz

Art Director
Stephen Wang

Photographic & Art
Raymond Bartholomeusz, Stephen Wang, Dave Chao, James Mao, Eric Fanacier

Marketing
Alex Abella, Krissy Anderson, Eileen Mayniga, Barnes Luz, Jason Harris, Annabel Gottfried, John Esqueira, Michelle Palmer, Cam, Angelica Whitelaw, Joanne Azz, Chevy, Tricia Argeseanu, Zenaida G, Gerry Samaniego

Writers & Contributors
Anjelica Whitelaw, Shiwani Gurpah, Renae Smith, Holly Phelps, Jenny Hu, Charles Cubelo, Jill Antonio, Scott Murray, Vanessa Jensen, Leanne Harrison, Patricia H, Judy Flynn, Kim Barry, Maddy King, Dr Mike Shenouda, Anjali Mac, Jess Nugent

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Social media is without doubt a significant communication channel and as such, needs to be addressed and taken seriously.

That's why various publications and businesses have woken up to the need to establish an effective social media presence to keep in touch with their customers and readers on a more personal basis.

Social media is definitely a solid part of the fabric of our publication hence the reason why Sassy & Co Magazine is working twice as hard to be active on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram because these channels present a great opportunity for personal feedback from our readers. We have thousands of followers across all of our social media platforms and I'd like to personally thank our readers and followers for continually following us and supporting us over the years. That said, please don't hesitate to give us feedback whenever you get the chance, we'd love to hear from you.

Patricia I.
Editor-in-chief



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FASHION . PORTRAIT . COMMERCIAL . WEDDINGS



Sassy & Co Magazine recently caught up with Carolina to discuss her journey as an entrepreneur and here's what went down:

Could you please tell our readers a brief background about yourself and how you started your business?

My name is Carolina Dalfo, I am originally from Argentina, but I am based in New York, where I work as a fashion designer. I have experience working for leading brands such as Ralph Lauren, Robert Geller, Opening Ceremony, and Gustav Von Aschenbach and along with companies such as Lululemon, Dreamworks, Pintrill, and more on special projects and collaborations. My work has been featured in publications such as Vogue, Vogue Russia, Vogue France, Women's Wear Daily, The Washington Post, The New York Times, W Magazine, Esquire, and The Impression. Besides being a designer at such prestigious and important brand like Ralph Lauren, I am the Founder and Chair of LATA, the Latinx Alumni together in the Arts Association at the School of Visual Arts and the Owner and Designer of DALFO, my own line of silk scarves that will launch in the next couple of months.

How did you get into the fashion industry?

When I was in my early teens, I became very interested in Art, especially its ability to conceal a deeper meaning and unfold for us the more we examine it. I believe it was that same quality that attracted me to fashion. The university I attended in Buenos Aires had a very open approach to Design. We were not only trained on how to translate an abstract idea to a tangible garment, which is ultimately what Fashion designers do but installed in us the idea of fashion as a system that observes and absorbs from its environment to reflect and inform social dynamics. A sign of the times. The possibility of seeing Fashion like that was very appealing to me and as it had happened with art years before, I was intrigued by that hidden essence. Fashion is more than meets the eye.

What do you like most about being a designer?

There are many aspects of being a designer I like. I have met so many talented people whom I have developed many great products for. Many of those colleagues are really good friends of mine now and always a source of inspiration. As a designer, you never stop learning, all the work I've done, and all the work I'm doing is constantly shaping and improving my own process. I really like that about being a designer. There are no walls, no ends, just endless exploration, and constant evolution. Another aspect I enjoy is creating something I'm proud of that customers love when it comes out. Designing something that will make someone feel good is a very nice feeling.

The downside to being a fashion designer?

Clothing has a direct impact on how people perceive themselves, but unfortunately, they are sometimes conditioned by made-up rules about what they should or should not wear. I strongly believe clothing should be a way for people to feel empowered, not intimidated, so I find these rules not only unnecessary but counterproductive to helping people love themselves. Fashion as a whole should be more inclusive, in many senses.

In addition, there is also a worldwide conversation that is already happening about waste. There are too many products being created each season that turn obsolete the minute a newer version goes on the market, which only results in a dynamic of endless supply and demand that is damaging the planet. Thankfully, people are becoming more and more conscious of their consuming habits, but there is still a lot of work to be done, both as designers and consumers.

What has been the most memorable experience of being in the fashion industry so far?

Carolina Dalfo is a 29-year-old fashion designer who's originally from Argentina, but is currently based in New York. Her academic career includes a BA in Fashion and Textile Design from UADE in Buenos Aires and a MA in Critical theory and the Arts from the School of Visual Arts in New York City. Besides being a designer at such prestigious and important brand like Ralph Lauren, She's the founder and chair of LATA, the Latinx Alumni Together in the Arts Association at the School of Visual Arts and the Owner of DALFO, her own line of silk scarves that will launch in the next couple of months.

DESIGNER SPOTLIGHT CAROLINA DALFO

One of the memories I treasure the most is during the Robert Geller Autumn Winter 2016 show during Fashion Week and tearing up watching the show on a TV screen backstage. Designing a collection is a fast but intense process and a runway show is the first time you share your creation with the world. I'd been in that position several times before, but in that specific moment, all the elements came together to create the most beautiful environment. It wasn't just beautiful clothes anymore. It was pure beauty. I will never forget that.

What has been the most valuable lesson you've learned while in the fashion industry. This can be about the industry or about yourself.

Besides learning to always feed my curiosity, resilience is probably the most important lesson that fashion has taught me. Fashion can be a frustrating industry at times, but there is a reason why I chose to be a designer. When times get tough, I try to go back to that excitement and love I feel for design and get the power to push through. It's also a good lesson for life. When something doesn't go your way, keep going.

If you could go back in a time machine to the time when you were just getting started, what would you do differently?

That is a great question. When I was just getting started, I used to compare my career to other people. I am and always have been a hard worker. I have no problem being the first one in and the last one out. No matter how hard I worked, there were times I thought I wasn't doing enough just because I wasn't advancing the way I had pictured I would. It took me a while to understand I shouldn't compare myself to others because that only creates a distraction and affects my own growth. I am now only focused on my career, shaping my path the way I want it to look like.

What is the best advice you have ever been given?

Growing up, my mother always told me that how you choose to communicate is as important as the point you are trying to make. A mother knows best.

What are your future plans? Inside your career or out of it.

Before the pandemic, we had some events coming up for LATA at the School of Visual Arts that had to be canceled. I am looking forward to rescheduling those events and connecting with more Latinx Alumni on that platform. On a personal level, I have been working on DALFO, my own line of bold and colorful scarves for a while now. It has been a lot of work, but it is the first project I venture on by myself and I'm excited to launch it soon.



FASHION

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GLAM NEPAL

Glam Nepal International is a global brand in the making in the world of fashion runways which aims to showcase the diverse and unique designs of Nepal. It gives the designers of Nepal wings through the Glam Nepal International network to conquer the global market via International exposure. The Revolution is from Australia itself... Will you join us?

Glam Nepal International also intends to produce role models as opposed to just merely supermodels who will be able to inspire the millennials to do better in life. The goal is to redefine the fashion industry to shape it with role models and an eco-friendly clothing industry.

Furthermore, Glam Nepal International founder Deepak Gaurali aspires to take the runway show to different countries in order to exchange cultural values and religious tolerance bringing people together through fashion and lifestyle.





Tick much of your lockdown to-do list?

You can rip up the rulebook and break new ground with Boux Sport. Their new design-led collection of exclusive activewear and sports-wear staples is finally here! Featuring crop tops, vests, running jackets, tees and mesh leggings fusing breathable, 2-way stretch fabric with seamless construction. If you're looking to buy some activewear then you've definitely come to the right place.

Photo Credit: Ana Vitarino of MediaVision Interactive Ltd







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Equal Image Salon Balmain is a welcoming salon located in the heart of Balmain. We are a small Boutique Salon that's able to offer the ultimate one on one experience. Equal Image Salon specialises in the latest trends from colouring, precision cutting, and various balayage techniques.

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MAKE WAY FOR MAHTAB HANNA

Dr. Mahtab Hanna is an award-winning British jewellery artist and designer-maker with a Persian heritage.



I

Dr. Mahtab Hanna is an award-winning British jewellery artist and designer-maker with a Persian heritage, whose designs are radically different from others – the cross-pollinating of Eastern and Western history, culture, religion, character, thoughts, and politics play a large part in the inspiration process leading to her creations. Whether its unique pieces or a limited edition series of work, her quest is to define within those pieces what she is aiming for, what the client is trying to communicate, and the reason behind each design. Some of her specialties include fine and contemporary jewellery, sculpture, and body adornment.

In 2017 Mahtab held a solo exhibition entitled "Political Jewellery: Silent Protest" at the P21 Gallery in London, and she has been featured by The Goldsmiths' Centre (UK's leading charity for the professional training of goldsmiths and a community for design, creativity, and craftsmanship), New Designers, Cox & Power, Masterpiece, Galerie Marzee, amongst others. Mahtab's trailblazing achievements include being awarded her Doctorate from Central Saint Martins and during those 4 years of her Ph.D. she had two children!

Sassy & Co magazine recently caught up with Mahtab to discuss her journey in the fashion and jewellery industry and here's what went down:

Could you please tell our readers a brief background about yourself and how you started your business?

I am a British Jeweller with a proud Persian background. It all started when I first wore my mother's jewellery, I became passionate about the small design details on those jewellery; how its made, the precious stones, and how people wore them. It was then that I saw people, their clothes and jewellery as a canvas.

This led me to study jewellery and goldsmithing for over a decade leading to an MA from the Royal College of Art and a Ph.D. from Central Saint Martins in Jewellery.

How did you get into the fashion industry?

I love fashion, its an undeniable ingrained part of the substance of being a woman. Whilst there are so many fashion designers, there aren't enough female jewellers in my view.

I entered the industry by showcasing my work and being showcased. I expanded from my artistic jewellery lines into fashion jewellery and body adornments, leading to my 2011 catwalk show at The Royal Exchange in London.

What do you like most about being a designer?

Being a designer is about sharing your life, your experiences, your feelings, your journeys, all under the umbrella of new creations. It's a conversation with people you may never meet but have communicated with. You are influencing their confidence; how they communicate themselves and how people see them. Amazing!

Every designer is an individual, their creations are unique to them, just like their fingerprints. The concept behind my Goldfinger piece was that it would be customised for each individual wearer.

Ultimately, extending the experience of jewellery wearing is to challenge and ambush the boundaries of function and ornamented decorative art, highlighting communication, concluding with stimulating contemplation.

While creating each piece is a process and expression or development of a vision I have, jewellery is created for other people. It is important to remember this without compromising the original vision I have throughout the design and creation process.

The downside to being a fashion designer?

One of the most frustrating issues is that of designs being stolen or copied without the due respect to the original designer or maker. What was thought through in the design has been lost because the item is now simply "a thing," not a messenger.

Of course, this is not a problem that's just exclusive to jewellery, but the entire fashion arena.



What has been the most memorable experience of being in the fashion industry so far?

There have been many memorable experiences, such as being featured in Vogue Italia, selected as one of the top luxury jewellers in the UK newspaper, The Telegraph, and featured in Qatar Airways magazine. I also appeared in a TV program called Four Rooms where top dealers tried to negotiate to buy some of my pieces.

Perhaps the most memorable was being selected to be the cover for the Goldsmiths' Company inaugural post-graduate programme and being mentored by the late Dr. Stuart Devin, one of the jewellery industry's royalty.

Naturally, there is a lot of satisfaction from seeing my creations being used in films, photoshoots, and publications.

Who have been the most interesting people you've met so far?

The word "interesting" applies to every human, in my view. Those that have had a profound effect on me include the renowned British jewellers Shaun Leane and Theo Fennell. Their support for upcoming jewellers is a testament to their commitment to the industry.

Didier and Martine Hoeselagh who have a passion for jewellery made and designed by painters, sculptors, architects, and designers from the late 19th to the end of the 20th century.

Audiences have taught me the array of views on my pieces, clients have taught me the sheer personal nature of jewellery, the industry has taught me the sense of community. Therefore, many people who have interests!

What has been the most valuable lesson you've learned while in the fashion industry. This can be about the industry or yourself.

There's a lot of politics behind the smiles in any industry, and fashion and jewellery is no exception.

I try to engage in one of the core values I place in life: from every person I meet, I try to leave the conversation having learned something or having exchanged knowledge. This is, in my view, the essence of being a designer – every lesson is valuable and shapes me.

The single most valuable lesson has been to remain faithful to my own values. Always consider the options but trust yourself to take the decisions – leadership starts with you!

Is your family supportive of you being a fashion designer?

I have been blessed to have a family that is completely supportive and unflinching in their love throughout my journey, through the victories and the challenges, especially my darling husband, Rafah Hanna.

It is critical for any creative person to have someone to support them, not only during the achievements but also at times of growth and learning. This is the person that will stand by you as you face those that do not have your best interest at heart.

If you could go back in a time machine to the time when you were just getting started, what would you do differently?

In the early days, I would want to focus much more on brand growth, especially internationally.



Another thing I would change would be to closely study those that have taken a similar journey leading to success, learning from their experiences.

What is the best advice you have ever been given?

My mother often says to me - If you can be inspired, you can definitely inspire.

What are your future plans? What new projects are you currently working on right now?

I am excited to tell you exclusively that I am working on publishing my book related to political jewellery! How jewellery is used as a tool of messaging and communication to affect protests and opinions in the matter of politics.

I will also be having an international exhibition with the same theme related to the book.

My "Pawns" Chess Set is an example of my political jewellery designs, which I also made. It is made from Sterling Silver and Bronze and relates to the most extreme form of protest – war: a highly emotive and evocative subject throughout mankind's history.

Politics, religion, money, and natural resources are all causes of wars, and these are all represented on the stage within this work in their own way.

The chess board is made from sand and soil, both of which represent another cause of war - "land" – as well as the battlefield.

The 'LIGHTNING FAST' Round:

1. Last good movie I've seen:

Frozen 2 – as my daughter, Anais, and I both love it!

2. What do you consider beautiful and why?

Beautiful is such a personal thing – we may share a view of beauty, but it is equally about your values, thoughts, and mood even, I consider beautiful to be yourself, it is to fight for those that cannot fight and stand for equality.

3. What haven't you done yet that you wish you could?

I would like to run workshops whereby I would mentor upcoming jewellers and designers, sharing my experiences with them, helping them to confidently progress in their chosen careers.

4. Complete this sentence: "If I had no fear, I'd..."

I don't actually recognise the notion of fear. Life and careers are a series of challenges, fear is certainly one of them. It's your job to face them, analyse them, and find paths to strengthen yourself to be able to proudly overcome them. Consideration and respect towards anything, person or decision is a far greater asset than fear. Fear simply holds humanity back.

5. What is the one "flaw" you wouldn't change about yourself?

I sometimes don't know when to stop working, trying always to reach a state of perfection! However, I wouldn't change that as it drives me towards even higher quality.

AN INSIDE LOOK AT Britney Spears' BEVERLY HILLS HOME

Britney's former Beverly Hills home that she purchased in 2007 after her divorce from Kevin Federline, and lived in until 2012 is for sale and featured this week at TopTenRealEstateDeals.com. Britney sold it in 2012 at a \$2 million loss. Previously on the market in 2018 at \$9 million, it is now listed considerably lower at \$6.8 million.

The Old World vibe of the Italianate villa-style home is still warm and inviting, and from the look of its upbeat modern interior, seems to have improved with a few years of maturity. Built in 2001 and measuring in at almost 7,500 square feet, the rooms are large and airy and open to take advantage of the mild climate. The interior opens into a grand foyer dressed in a huge chandelier with glimpses of the second floor that overlooks the entry. A few steps inside reveal the wrought-iron banister leading up the stairs that continues across the second-floor opening that acts as a large catwalk, also with views over the formal living room with its impressive fireplace. Crisp, white and bright, with clerestory windows adding even more light, it is a perfect backdrop for art or special antiques. Additionally, there is the formal dining room, the chef's kitchen is open to a large family room that opens to the pool deck and thick privacy hedges. There is a cheerful breakfast nook with built-in seating that is surrounded by windows on three sides. The six bedrooms and seven baths include a master suite with its own private balcony and fireplace, sumptuous bath, and large paneled walk-in dressing room/closet. There is also an office, a media room, and multiple entertaining venues both inside and out.

Beverly Hills Summit development has been the choice neighborhood for elite entertainers who want a paparazzi-proof location where they can mingle with their peers and their children can play peacefully away from curious onlookers. It has been home to Gwen Stefani, J-Lo, Ariana Grande, and Britney. The Biebers were recently seen house hunting there.

The Beverly Hills mansion that Britney Spears purchased in 2007 after her divorce from Kevin Federline and lived in until 2012, is on the market. Priced at \$6.8 million, Bravo's Million Dollar Listing Matt and Josh Altman of Douglas Elliman Real Estate, Beverly Hills hold the listing.

Visit TopTenRealEstateDeals.com for more real estate news, spectacular homes and Celebrity Home Video Tours.

Photo Credit: Christopher Amtrano, courtesy of Douglas Elliman
Source: TopTenRealEstateDeals.com

Britney Spears' former Beverly Hills home that she purchased in 2007 after her divorce from Kevin Federline, and lived in until 2012 is now listed considerably lower at \$6.8 million.





GERMANI JEWELLERY

Germani Jewellery has been established as an Italian brand in Australia since 1985. It became a household name for fine jewellery when it became an exclusive sponsor for the national TV show, 'Sale Of The Century' from 1988 to 2001.

Germani's extensive experience in creating distinctive, cosmopolitan, unique and exquisite jewellery is evident as he was awarded the prestigious Diamond De Beers Awards, designed and manufactured fine jewellery for the Saudi Royal Family, Queen Noor of Jordan, the Duke & Duchess Of Wellington, Elizabeth Taylor, Princess Diana and other well known international dignitaries around the world; thus gaining him international recognition.

Germani houses a huge range of quality, coloured gemstones and loose diamonds sourced from Belgium, Switzerland and the Far East. Customers can enjoy the luxury of purchasing directly from the wholesaler and having the jewellery made in-house. Each design is iteratively reworked until it fits the customer perfectly.

Prices are extremely competitive due to the magnitude of Germani's operation.



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TOP FIVE SWIMSUIT Trends

YOU'LL SEE NEXT SUMMER

There's no doubt that summer will look and feel a lot different this year especially with all the restrictions in place because of Coronavirus, but that doesn't mean we can't get excited about cool new swimsuit trends, even if we're just wearing them in the comfort of our very own backyard. Swimsuit trends change every year and next summer they are definitely full of colours and different styles. Below are the top 5 swimsuit trends you will probably see next summer.

1. Floss Bikinis

This is one of the coolest swimsuit trends and you will probably see a lot of women following this trend next summer. The floss or straps are attached to the bikini top and they can be used to make criss-cross designs on the waist. In a nutshell, it's tiny strings wrapping around various parts of the body, crisscrossing here and there and pretty much, everywhere.

2. Tie-Dye Swimsuit

Bored of the same coloured swimsuit? Don't worry, next summer, the tie-dye swimsuit would be one of the most popular trends. Tie-dye swimsuits have been trending for the past two years and they are not going anywhere any time soon. Tie-dye was never actually an option for swimsuit back in the days, but the quirky pattern has since become a trend on the fashion scene, with prominent luxury brands such as Collina Strada, Paco Rabanne, and Prada all using Tie-dye print down the runway the past few fashion seasons.

3. High-neck bikini top and high-waist bikini bottom

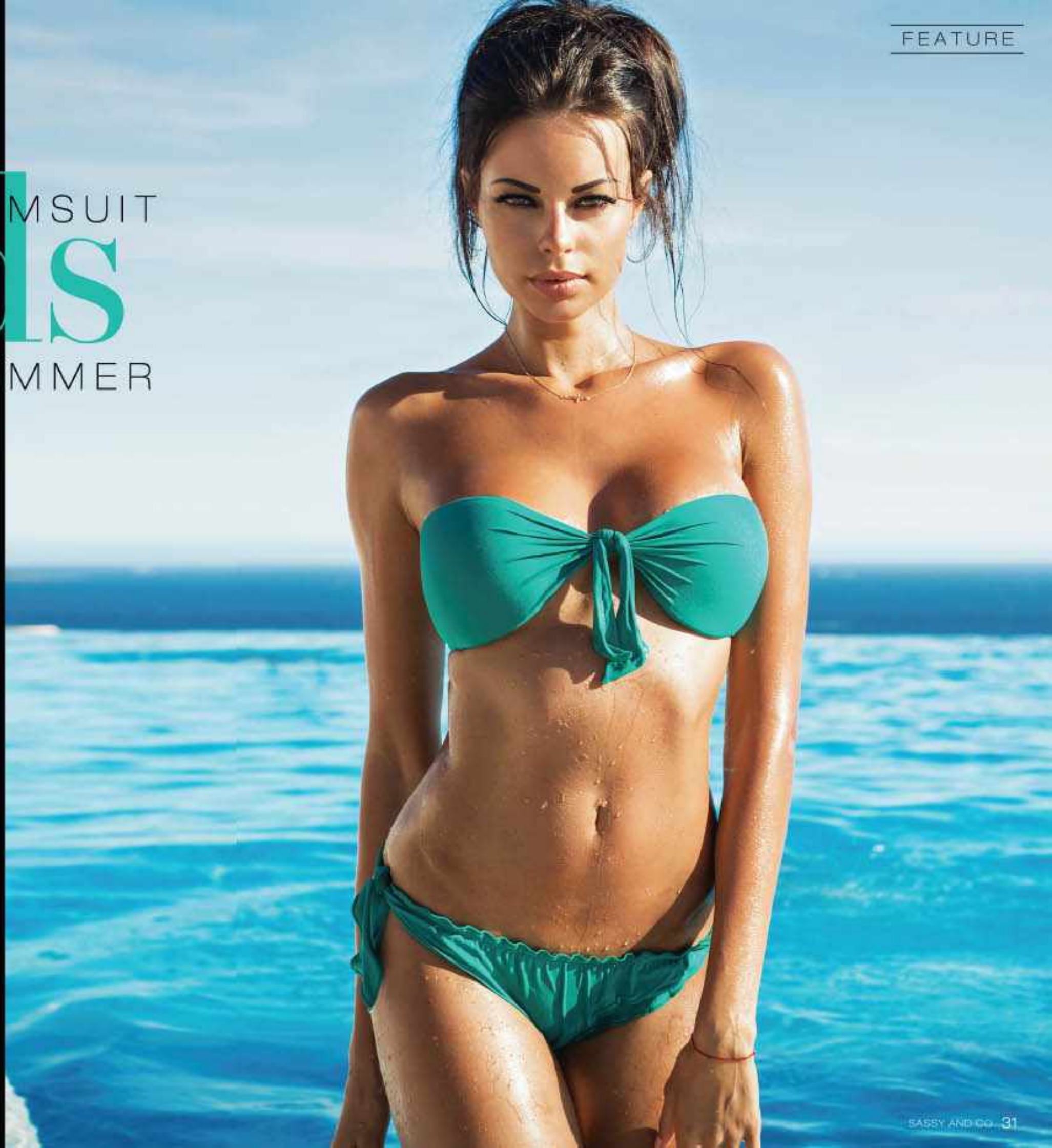
High-neck bikini tops and high-waisted bottoms will also be trending next summer. Flattering and beautiful on all body types, high waisted swimsuits can be a great alternative if you're looking for a two-piece bathing suit with a little something extra. High waisted bikini bottoms offer a modest, yet sexy look and they are easy and very comfortable to wear. For certain body types such as hourglass, pear, or diamond body type, where the waist is prominent and the hips are quite wide, a high waisted bikini will actually emphasize your curves in a flattering way. If you're one of these body types, you'll definitely look great in it.

4. One-shoulder swimwear

One-shoulder swimwear has been trending since last year and they are not going anywhere soon as well. The one-shoulder swimwear can make you look attractive as they help to accentuate the neckline and shoulders. The one-shoulder style keeps the swimsuit cool and modern - with this on, you'll definitely stand out at the beach.

5. The knotted Swimsuit

Who doesn't like knotted clothes? I believe no one! The knotted bikini tops look really cool and sassy. The knots can be present at the straps or just one at the front. The bottoms can be knotted at the sides as well. The knotted style is definitely making bikinis and one-pieces a lot more eye-catching, whether they're placed on the bust, waist, or shoulders. They offer a cool yet subtle finishing touch and are quite flattering on several body types.





HOW TO WEAR SHOES

FASHION RULES FOR SHOES

Let's be honest women love to buy and wear shoes and they can't get enough of them. We tend to buy every pair of shoes we like which shouldn't be the case because we will probably end up buying shoes we don't really need. But before buying shoes though, you should look for various aspects. Here are 5 women's shoe rules that will keep you looking fabulous. Follow them and make a fashion statement.

1. Prefer Comfort

The first rule which you should follow before buying a pair of shoes is that you must always look for comfort. Always check three sizes before buying a shoe; one size smaller, your usual size, and one size bigger. Walk in them and try them at the end of the day when your feet are tired and swollen. Don't copy what you see on the runway and the TV when it comes to wearing heels. There is nothing less attractive than a girl who looks awkward in her heels. Extremely high heels are bad for you and can, in fact, cause injury. No matter how pretty the shoes are, if you can't walk in them don't buy them.

2. Try Before You Buy

Different brands have different sizes. So always try the size you normally wear and then try one size bigger and one size smaller to make sure you pick the right size. Another rule that no one will ever tell you is that when buy shoes - buy basic colours. These colours can go well with almost every colour of the dress. The basic colours include black, beige, fawn, nude, white, etc.

3. Ballet Flats Is Your Best Friend

Whether you are a fan of heels or not, ballet flats can surely become your best friend as they are pretty comfortable. You can wear them with your professional attire as well as your casual outfit.

4. Find your Own Style

If you have seen a model on Instagram wearing a 4-inch heel and you want to buy one for yourself then you should stop. Most women buy shoes because it looks good on others even though it doesn't look good in them. You should always remember to find your own style. You need to also buy one shoe that's a crowd puller. If you're wearing a basic outfit an attention-grabbing pair of shoes will lift your outfit. But if you're wearing an over the top dress then you need to keep it simple with a basic pair of shoes.

5. Buy Shoes of each Type

Every woman should own shoes for each type. Your shoe rack must have shoes of all types because you never know when you'll need them. Buy sneakers, flip flops, heels, ballet flats, and boots, etc. All of these shoes are used for different purposes. You can wear flip flops at home or while going out for shopping. Heels are good for formal occasions or a professional environment. Similarly, sneakers can be worn while going out with friends and even for biking or hiking. You should also be shopping for shoes at the end of the day when your feet are tired and swollen. That's the best way to get a size that fits you well.





SALUBRE ENTERTAINMENT • NETWORK •

Salubre Entertainment Network is an entertainment company that empowers young people to bring awareness to the less fortunate. Salubre Entertainment Network not only celebrates the beauty of each of its beauty queens, but it also empowers them to help others in need. Established by Maryrose Salubre of Salubre Models International, our projects and publications aim to raise funds for a variety of worthy causes, chief of which is to help Bunga National High School (BNH) in Leyte, the Philippines rebuild.

