

MEN ABOUT TOWN

Want to know what's hot and what's not for fashion-conscious men in 2009? We asked six guys from around the globe for their style and grooming tips, before putting the same questions to a trio of industry experts

Words by **Christian Rose-Day**

introducing our men...



ANGEL BEAR
modern Thai
restauranteur,
Bangkok



IAIN
senior editor at The
Economist Intelligence
Unit, London



NICK
owner of Rennick
Properties, a real
estate firm, New York



ORIS
investment banker,
London



ROSS
art director for
t-shirt company
threadless.com,
Chicago



ALEX
stage director, the
Mariinsky Theatre,
St Petersburg and
London

PHOTOS: OLIVER ZELDIN, TOPMAN



and what they think...

MOST PRIZED STYLE POSSESSIONS?

ANGEL BEAR My Yves Saint Laurent Mombassa Leather Messenger Bag and my Alexander McQueen Silver Chiffon Skull scarf.
 NICK Carol Christian Poell overlock leather jacket. Classic looking with incredible detailing. Audemar Piguet Royal Oak Offshore Chronograph - the original stainless steel version with no Roman numerals or flashy colours.
 ROSS A cable knit scarf my mum knitted me from blue Alpaca wool. She's the best.

CELEBRITIES YOU ADMIRE?

IAIN Marcello Mastroianni, Mark Lanegan and Captain Beefheart – all play it cool without appearing to try too hard.
 NICK Adrien Brody – he seems to be able to pull off every look perfectly.
 ORIS P Diddy's style works. It's a unique blend – executive, hip hop, sporty and smart casual.
 ROSS Justin Timberlake always looks good, dressed up or down. Kanye [West] because he is always doing something new.
 ALEX I prefer costumes – last night I saw Jean Paul Gaultier's costumes for The Fifth Element. They are amazing.

NEW LOOKS?

ANGEL BEAR Sharp, minimal, architectural lines. Think Balenciaga or Calvin Klein Collection.
 ROSS It looks like blue is the new black. I'm going for more colours in 2009.

THE FASHION NO-NO?

IAIN As Barack Obama said, 'Brothers should pull up their pants. Some people might not want to see your underwear – I'm one of them.'
 ORIS Bad tailored suits with white socks. Or a poor fitting suit (sleeves too long).

ESSENTIAL GROOMING PRODUCTS?

NICK Malin and Goetz face moisturizer. Men's Science Advanced deodorant. Tancho Wax Stick for my hair – great for making freshly washed hair look like you haven't washed it in weeks.
 ANGEL BEAR Shu-Uemura Skincare.
 IAIN KMS hair product (pictured above) and Bulgari cologne.
 ROSS I'm liking this Lucky Tiger face wash I just got.

BRANDS OR LABELS YOU USUALLY BUY?

ALEX Sonia Rykiel, nice colours. Dior cut clothes interestingly. Nicholas Ghesquiere at Balenciaga is a genius. Hermes is very elegant.
 IAIN Paul Smith and Reiss because they always seem to fit.



NICK Carol Christian Poell, Label Under Construction, Viridi-anne.
 ORIS Ralph has a smart casual versatile look. Linen white blazers or even blue – as I love to sail in the summer. Sean Jean once in a while, and BBC (Billionaire Boys Club) by Pharrell Williams of the NERD hip-hop group.

ROSS Marc by Marc Jacobs, Acne (main image and inset), APC, and Paul Smith. Its quality stuff but still relaxed, fun, and pretty classic.

COLOURS, PATTERNS, FABRICS OR DESIGNERS?

ANGEL BEAR Definitely electric blue as a colour and loads of Yves Saint Laurent. Stefano Pilati is a genius.
 ORIS Leather is always a must! Shoes, I recommend Poste (pictured left). Cashmere, Egyptian cotton (for easy breathing).
 ROSS Subtle neutral prints and layering are things I need to try to wear more often, according to my girlfriend.



DRESS UP IN... DRESS DOWN IN...

NICK Jeans. Black jeans with dress shirt and great blazer is about as dressed up as I get. Plus it's much easier to pack one outfit than several.
 ALEX The same thing. Don't waste your life in front of the mirror. Voltaire used to dictate his books while getting dressed, and he made a bigger contribution to humanity than Victoria Beckham or Paris Hilton.

ESSENTIAL SPRING/SUMMER ITEM?

ANGEL BEAR Spring – Dior Homme white high-top trainers. Summer – Maison Margiela wrap-around sunglasses (pictured below).



introducing our experts...



CILLIAN O'CONNOR
editor of Male Mode, the online destination for musings on menswear



FRANCES CARD
brand director for new private members fashion website cocosa.com (special invite code: flight)



JEFF LAHENS
principal designer of Genuine Bespoke by ECC

and what they think...

STYLISH CELEBRITIES?

JEFF Jay-Z and [George] Clooney – mainly because of their swagger. It doesn't really matter what they put on, they will turn heads.

CILLIAN Gossip Girl's Ed Westwick is usually spot-on style-wise. Hugh Dancy frequently turns out dapper and Ryan Gosling never fails to set himself apart from the school of 'safe-dressing'.

FRANCES Brad Pitt – casual but cool as ice.

Clive Owen – rugged but probably eco-friendly.

THREE ITEMS MEN SHOULD NOT LEAVE HOME WITHOUT?

CILLIAN (1) Something from the eco-friendly, vegan label Matt & Nat (2) Shades: Martin Margiela sci-fi sunglasses or a pair from the Linda Farrow x Raf Simons range (3) Deep v-necks – perfect for layering during chilly periods and lightweight enough not to induce sweltering when the sun's out.

FRANCES (1) Bottega Veneta Briefcase bag (2) Anything Tom Ford (3) A little bit of Gareth Pugh.

'MUST HAVE' GROOMING PRODUCTS?

JEFF The Art Of Shaving make some really cool grooming products. The packaging makes it easy for guys to select the right grooming kit and they're convenient for traveling.

FRANCES Liz Earle Cleanse And Polish. Exfoliate to within an inch of your life.

CILLIAN Burberry The Beat For Men is my new favourite fragrance – it perfectly encapsulates the bouncing, youthful joie de vivre which is the definition of the brand itself. Also, Clarins and Simple are still producing quality daily skincare.

SHOPS, BRANDS AND LABELS ALWAYS RELEASING GOOD PRODUCTS?

FRANCES Paul Smith, Lanvin, Levis.

CILLIAN Topman (pictured left) is tirelessly creative. Reiss offer high-quality classics. Swear London do some painfully cool shoes. Junk de Luxe stylistically bridge the gap between high-street and luxury.



NAMES TO LOOK OUT FOR?

JEFF Spurr – they are staying true to the KISS principle. Also, look out for Robert Gellar. Ozwald Boateng is the most inspirational designer. What he creates through his own brand and at Givenchy is remarkable.

FRANCES Rick Owens and (Liam Gallagher's) Pretty Green (pictured below).

CILLIAN Patrik Ervell is really bringing a unique aesthetic to the market. James Long and Jaiden rVa James are two small, yet incredibly imaginative names bringing menswear to the fore. Also, I'm eager to see how Liam Gallagher's Pretty Green turns out in July.



LOOKS, COLOURS, FABRICS AND THEMES?

JEFF Although most guys will look for their staples (blues, greys, and blacks), classic plaids with splash of colours, houndstooth, and herringbones will enhance the outfit.

FRANCES Caps! Waistcoats...the neck scarf firmly in place – silk or linen – that really cheeky British look.

ESSENTIAL SPRING/SUMMER ITEM?

CILLIAN Spring – a bright-hued mac in an eye-popping shade of cherry or electric blue. Summer – short shorts in stark white or inky black. Preferably teamed with knee-high socks.

FRANCES Spring – Stripes, knitwear, Vivienne Westwood Three Stripe sweater or a John Smedley nautical cardigan. Summer – Acne, so cool. Or Martin Margiela yellow trainers.

JEFF Spring – classic rain coat. Summer – if you're critical of Kanye West's style of sunglasses, this summer choose your pair wisely: a vintage looking pair, or Tortoise look.

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