

Tips and Ideas for Dressing for the Stage Door Canteen

Women's Fashion

1930's

The 1930s are a forgotten, in-between decade, of fashion and economic turmoil. Often lumped in with the 1920s or 1940s the fashions of the thirties are truly one of a kind. There isn't a 20th century fashion decade that embodied femininity in women and masculinity in men like clothing of the 1930s. From bias cut dresses or broad shouldered suits for men, 1930s style clothing is a unique style that has revived in recent years. Think Old Hollywood glamour.

Web Resources

- <http://www.retrovaste.com/1930s/fashion-in-the-1930s/>
- <http://vintagedancer.com/1930s/women-1930s-fashion/>

1930s FASHION

Accessories

A woman wore gloves for both day and evening. Day gloves gathered loosely at the cuff. Evening gloves were long opera length. A simple handbag, small angular hat and shoes always matched.

Jewelry

Simple art deco designs or small plain pearls were all the jewelry a woman needed. Earrings and a bracelet were preferred over flashy necklaces and pins.

Evening Gowns

Elegant bias cut floor length gowns with sweeping flared hems was the style of the decade. Modest necklines on the front opened up to bare backs. Black, pastels and jewel tones in silk, satin or lace.

Day Dresses

Floral prints, polka dots and muted colors filled a daytime wardrobe. Dresses had modest hems, wide sleeves or cape effect and a slender bias cut body with flair at the hem. Length ranged from floor to slightly below the knee. Matching thin belt at the high-waist.

Shoes

Shoes had thick heels and full coverage but with ankle straps, cutouts and perforations. Two-tone heels were very common as well as mixing textures. Oxfords were a daytime comfort shoe.

Formal shoes were tall pumps and strappy sandals in gold, silver and jewel tones.

Create your 1930s style at
VINTAGEDANCER.COM/1930s

1940 's

1940s were a decade many countries around the world can not forget. With the second world war and clothing rationing the war time pride of fashion on a budget became the norm. 1940s fashion for men and women experienced deep changes but also created some of the most flattering designs of the 20th century.

1940s fashion has wide padded shoulders, nipped in high waist tops, and a-line skirts that came down to the knee. 1940s fashions were all about exaggerating the hour glass figure with broad shoulders, tiny waists and full hips. Sleeves were often puffed up a bit with gathers at the top and extended down to just above the elbow. Evening dresses were spaghetti strapped or halter topped that revealed shoulders and chests but only mild cleavage. Pants or trousers were primarily a men's wear item only

1940's Fashion

Women's Dress

Early 40s Dress

Padded shoulders, puffing sleeves, massive collar, belt and/or a full skirt. Late 40s dresses were the style of early 40s dresses. Early necklines, stripes, and small floral prints were in style.

Hot & Hair

Classy hair done in a crepe, wavy, pulled back with curls, old-fashioned or small streamers but never at corners and never in the hair.

Late 40s Dress

Late 40's fashion gave women a more feminine look. Lighter dresses mixed with perfectly applied makeup. Colors were brighter and patterns bolder with contrasting trim.

Stockings

Slightly darker than natural color with decorative lines on the back. When stockings are worn during the winter, they have a decorative line on the back of the heel with a decorative pattern.

Shoes

Heady pumps were thick, had the decorative lines in brown, black white, grey or red tones were desirable. Brighter colors came in the mid-40s along with sandals and the very high top pumps.

Gloves

A woman could not leave the house without her hat, pearls, and gloves. White length and finger gloves were the most popular, black, and red.

The 1940s were a turbulent time of War and recovery. Fashion became practical with less fabric and simple lines. While the men were away, fighting, women's clothing took on the masculine with large padded shoulders that lasted many years after the war ended.

This was also the decade of the Pinup, a sexier version of women's everyday fashions. Shorter, tighter dresses mixed with perfectly applied makeup. Victory Roll hair and makeup gave men something to want to come home to.

Create Your Costume at: www.VintageDancer.com/1940s

until the 1940s. Women working in factories needed safe clothing that wouldn't snag in machinery. At first women just wore mens' pants. Later manufactures made pants for women although they still looked very masculine. They were very **high waisted**, button or zippered down the side, and had full legs with wide cuffs at the bottom. They were made of cotton, denim or wool blends.

Web Resources

- <http://vintagedancer.com/1940s/what-did-women-wear-in-the-1940s/>
- <http://www.marieclaire.co.uk/fashion/1940s-fashion-the-decade-captured-in-40-incredible-pictures-108160>
- <https://bellatory.com/fashion-industry/Fashion-History-Design-Trends-of-the-1040s>

Used Clothing and Accessories Stores

1. Kathys Upscale Resale Boutique - 716 Commercial Ave, Anacortes, WA 98221
2. Thrifty Kitty -1001 8th St. Anacortes, Wa 98221
3. Value Village - 525 E College Way, Mount Vernon, WA 98273
4. Goodwill- 242 E College Way, Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Male Fashion

1930's

Men's clothing was inspired by broad shouldered and thin waist athletes. Suits were wide, pants were wide and shirt collars were also large. Clothing was full of color and distinctive patterns. Plaids, checks, stripes mixed with solid colors. It was the era of men's classic clothing. You can dress yourself into the 1930s style with new vintage inspired clothing. The clothes linked here are some of the best options online. Choose a 1930s style suit or sportcoat, fedora hat, dress shirt, two tone shoes, and ties for a head to toe vintage fashion with the comfort of a modern fit.

Web Resources

- <http://www.retrowaste.com/1930s/fashion-in-the-1930s/>
- <http://vintagedancer.com/1930s/1930s-men/>



1940's

1940's clothing isn't too different from today's men's clothes. Single and double breasted **1940s men's suits** were still common as day wear. The pinstripe suit in navy or grey was the most iconic of the 1940s. Formal suits were brightened up with the velvet trimmed or white dinner jackets. Inner city youth added colorful zoot suits to their fashion wardrobe. Every man wore a felt Fedora or straw hat and a snazzy pair of two tone shoes.

You can get the 1940s men's fashion look using new clothing with vintage style. A pinstripe suit, fedora hat, and wingtip shoes are your essentials. Add a vintage pattern tie and pocket square to complete your day look. For 1940s swing dancers, skip the hot jacket and wear a colored shirt and suspenders instead.

Web Resources

- <http://vintagedancer.com/1940s/1940s-mens-clothing/>
- <http://www.retrowaste.com/1940s/fashion-in-the-1940s/>



Used Clothing and Accessories Stores

1. North Star Embroidery- 718 Commercial Ave, Anacortes, WA 98221

2. Value Village - 525 E College Way, Mount Vernon, WA 98273

3. Goodwill- 242 E College Way, Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Female Attire

- Wide padded shoulders, nipped in high waist tops, and a-line skirts that came down to the knee.
- 1940s fashions were all about exaggerating the hour glass figure with broad shoulders, tiny waists and full hips.