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$IFM \mid 0007 \mid FALL \ 2025 \mid GAME \ OF \ CHIC$

- 17. Editor's Note
- 18. Marlene's Edit
- 23. STYLE FEATURE: AAVANTE CLAY
- 29. Creative feature: faithima wright
- 34. DESIGNER SPOTLIGHT: TYTUS BY TYTUS
- 42. Style Guide: Game On
- 44. Fashion Editorial: Serve Looks, Not Just Aces
- 54. SHOE GUIDE: THE POWER PLAY
- 55. Shoe Guide: The Style Bench
- 56. COVER STORY: THE REVOLUTION WILL BE STYLED
- 68. Beauty Guide: Winning Mauves
- 70. Beauty Guide: Hair for Fall
- 72. Home Edit: The Players Lounge
- 75. On The Scene
- 80. Chicago Fashion Showcase
- 82. Music Feature
- 84. Horoscope

#0007 FALL 2025

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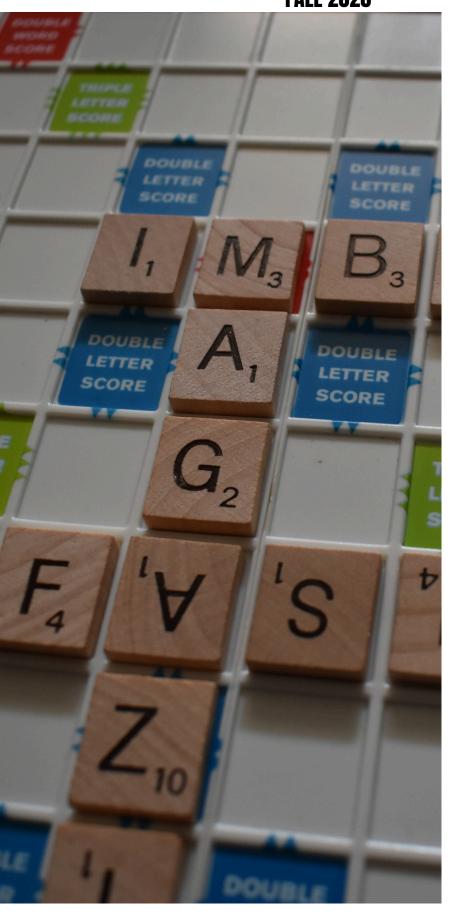
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Editor's Note

IMBUED FASHION MAGAZINE

As we say goodbye to summer, we step eagerly into fall layered in style, storytelling, and Chicago grit. This issue is our ode to strategy, strength, and style. The ultimate Game of Chic.

We spotlight the stylish Aavante Clay, shine the light on fashion designer By. Tytus, and welcome back Ticara Devone, this time as Contributing Fashion Editor, curating our Fall Shoe Guide with her signature flair.

Beauty takes a seasonal turn with bold mauves on the lips and face, paired with darker hair shades inspired by our Insta community.

Accessories also get the attention they deserve, with our curated guide delivering the must-haves you'll want on repeat all season long.

And our fashion editorials? They set the tone. The cover story is a journey of evolution, resilience, and quiet power. A milestone moment: our first accepted submission, Serve Looks, Not Just Aces. This tennis court-set story breaks the rules while honoring the ones we make for ourselves. Major props to the creative team who brought that vision to life.

Fall marks our second anniversary, and with that comes reflection. As a mom, grandma, wife, friend, stylist, and Editor-in-Chief, I wear many hats; and some days it feels like too many. To keep building with purpose, I'm considering shifting Imbued Fashion to a biannual schedule beginning next year, giving each issue even more depth, impact, and creative energy. This isn't about doing less, it's about doing better. And once I bring more help on board, there's every chance we'll return to quarterly even stronger.

I'm also excited to see everyone out at Chicago Fashion Week this October. It's a reminder of how powerful we are as a community when we show up, look out for one another, and celebrate Chicago fashion together.

This fall, play your position, make bold moves, and remember: in the Game of Chic, the only rule is that there are no rules.

Editor-in-Chief

@stilett0b0ss_



WE PLAY

Every season, I get to handpick pieces that feel bold, joyful, and built to last-just like Chicago style. This edit is all about playful texture, statement color, and pieces that turn the sidewalk into a runway.



EIC playing a chic game of mini golf





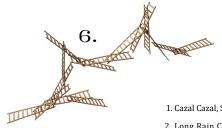






2.









2. Long Rain Coat, The Checkroom, \$860; coatcheckroom.com

5.

- 3. Ricochet Pickeball Bag, Laudi Vidni, \$395; <u>laudividni.com</u>
- 4. Cropped Denim Shirt, Florodora, \$198; florodora.com
- 5. Wes Barrel Jeans, Alice & Wonder \$178; aliceandwonder.com
- 6. Las Escaleras The Ladders, \$79; <u>luminaire.com</u>
- 7. Bois Talisman, Dior \$220; dior.com
- 8. Andy Warhol Playing Cards, Barnes and Noblel; \$12.99; barnesandnoble.com



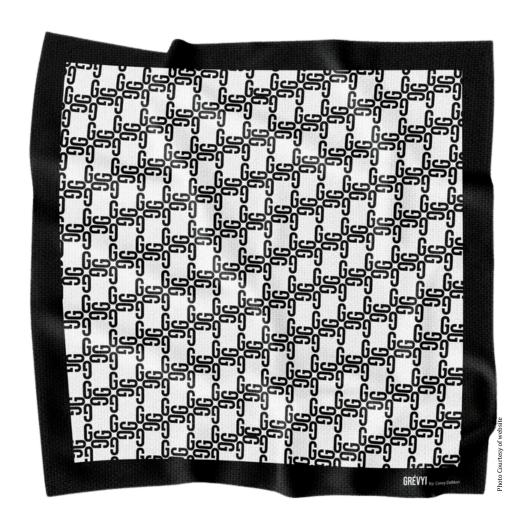
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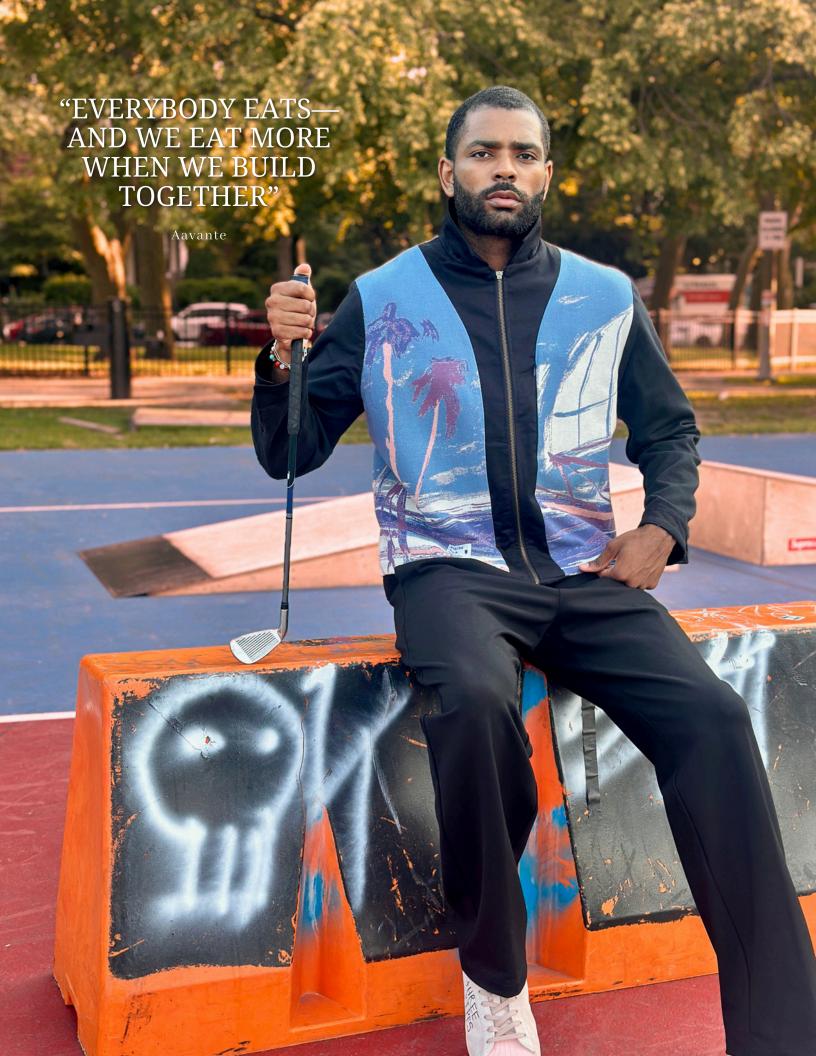
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The New Street Sport Uniform

Aavante Clay is redefining Chicago style with a blend of ease, confidence, and creative ambition. Proof that Chicago city streets are the new runway.



Q: Let's start with that Chicago Fashion Week moment modeling for Gente Fina at Union Station in 2024 with Chicago Fashion Showcase. What was that experience like for you, and how did it impact your relationship with fashion?

Aavante: Walking for Gente Fina in the middle of Union Station for CFS was a lot of fun and a much needed experience for my career. I got a chance to meet and work with some really great makeup artists, designers, stylists, photographers, and models who are all making an impact in the city. I also love that I got a chance to expand my knowledge of how fashion is being represented in Chicago. Shoutout to Manny and the Gente Fina team for a beautiful showcase and selecting me as one of the models to help bring their vision to fruition.

Q: How would you describe your personal style today—and how has it evolved from where you started?

Aavante: I would describe my style as "Steezy Comfort". Styling with ease while feeling very comfortable in what I'm wearing. I used to chase a lot of trendy stuff that wasn't always the most comfortable or true to myself. Now I focus on what I think is really cool and what makes me feel my most confident.

Q: When you get dressed, is there a strategy behind it? Do you approach style like a power move or more like self-expression?

Aavante:My strategy behind getting dressed is seeing how confident and cool i can look that day. Depending on my plans, I might go all out with a really expressive outfit that matches the vibe of my day or I might throw something more calm and chill on that still makes an impactful statement of who I am. Regardless of my outfit choice, I make sure my energy radiates confidence with everything I wear.

Q: What made you want to start modeling—and when did you realize it could be more than just a side hustle?

Aavante: I actually never thought about becoming a model, growing up I always wanted to be a successful famous actor. My mom and I were out in Fitchburg, Wisconsin eating at Subway on some random weekday night when she asked me if I wanted to go to a model scouting event. I was in 6th grade and intrigued by the idea, so I said yeah let's do it. From there, we got invited to a major scouting event in Minneapolis with hundreds of hopeful new models and actors from all age ranges and backgrounds. And that's where my story began! Fast forward to present day, I realized modeling could be more than a side hustle when I heard about Tyson Beckford getting paid \$40,000 for 60 seconds of work. That rocked my world and I instantly was like, "Oh yeah, I can definitely make a career out of this."

Q: Do you remember your first shoot or runway? What did that moment unlock for you creatively or personally?

Aavante: My first shoot was for Intel and it was in Green Bay, Wisconsin at a local Best Buy. They had us playing a virtual video game where we took turns being player 1 and then cheering on our friend. It was a really cool moment to realize that I'm getting paid to enjoy myself and have fun. Also to not worry or think too much about what I was doing but to be natural in it.

Q: How does Chicago shape the way you show up in fashion—your wardrobe, your confidence, your attitude?

Aavante: First off, I love Chicago. And in this city you have to show up confident and with the right attitude because people will see right through the facade if you don't! You gotta come correct every time you step outside and move like you have a point to prove. You never know who's watching you or what opportunities might find you and change your life!



Steezy Comfort

—styling with
ease while feeling
completely
comfortable.

AAVANTE

Q: What local brands, artists, or spaces in the city keep you inspired and aligned with your vision?

Aavante: Seeing local brands like Prgrssn and Gente Fina continuing to grow and build community keeps me locked in. Watching creatives like Joe Freshgoods and Rello going global with their fashion, art, and ideas keeps me locked in. The DJ's of S4TS (Sounds 4 The Soul) and the energy they bring to all their events keeps me hyped and inspired. Lastly, being anywhere in the city where there's a plethora of street art, murals, and graffiti keeps my soul inspired, hungry, and locked in.

Q: You've worked with a range of creatives how important is collaboration in your journey so far?

Aavante: Collaboration is huge at this stage in my career. There are so many talented and creative people to work with who all share a common goal of getting the art out and expressing themselves authentically. Everyone has ideas and visions of their own that need to be seen and appreciated. So building strong relationships and collaborating with people is a major key to success. Everybody can eat and we can all eat little bit more when we come together on a meal.

Stay Connected @its_aavante

Q: What's next for you creatively—are you exploring anything outside of modeling like styling, design, or even content curation?

Aavante: All of the above! When I was living in Cape Town, South Africa earlier this year, I had a groundbreaking conversation with a friend. I came to the realization that I am an emerging Multi-Disciplinary Creative-Entrepreneur. I don't want to limit myself to just one creative lane when I'm a visionary and have a passion for all things creative. Music (writing, producing), Styling & Fashion (stylist, clothing brand owner), Designing (furniture, bags, accessories, spaces), Photography, Videography (short films, music videos, commercials, movies) Creative Directing. My brain loves having the freedom to create with no limitations and it's something that comes natural to me.

Q: When people see your photos or this interview in Imbued, what do you want them to understand about who you are and what you represent?

Aavante: I represent authenticity, loving yourself, showing up confidently even if you don't feel like it, and using your discernment to guide you through life. Know that your style and creativity is unique to you so you should always embrace that. Don't ever be afraid to make changes in your life when you're unsatisfied with how things are playing out. It's your life. You have the power and control over who you want in your life and what you want out of life so don't force anything ever. Let things unfold naturally for you and have a higher belief that no matter how dark things may get, everything is working out for you as it's supposed to.

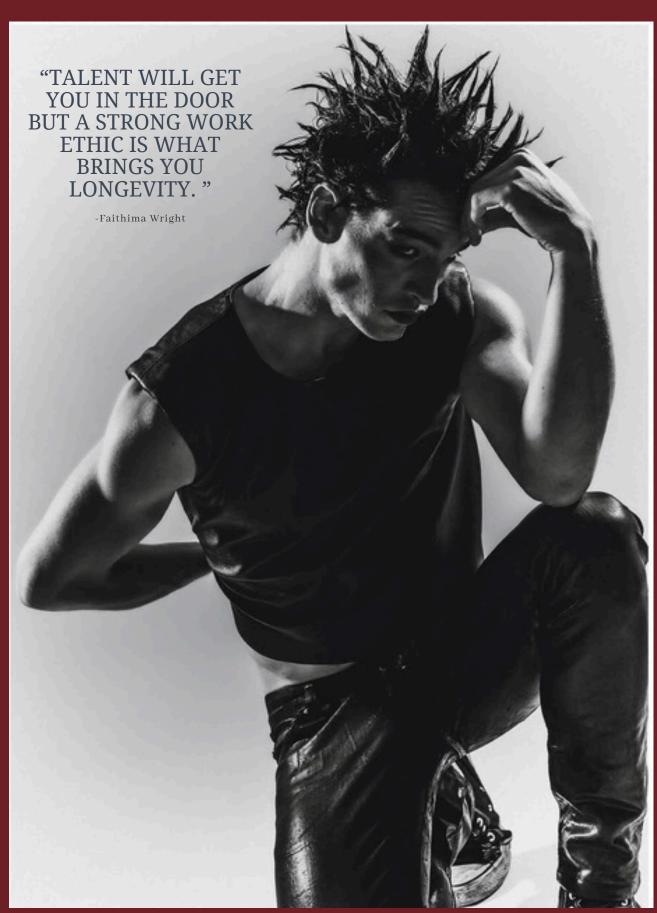


FAITHIMA WRIGHT

FROM MIDWEST GRIT TO LA GLOW

Interview by Marlene Anzaldua

When I first met Faithima Wright seven years ago at a fashion event in Chicago, introduced by our mutual friend Beth Swanson (CEO of PHOMAZ Handbags), there was already something magnetic about her energy. Since then, the Midwest-raised stylist and costume designer has carved out an impressive career rooted in purpose and persistence. Now living in Los Angeles, Faithima is building characters on screen, curating bold visual stories behind the lens, and finding joy in the chaos of costume design. From her early days at Chicago Fashion Week to working on sets like Empire and leading indie film projects across multiple states, her career is a masterclass in blending fashion with storytelling. In the midst of a shifting industry and a charged political climate, she remains a fierce creative force and her latest chapter is just beginning.



Q: Let's start with a throwback. We first met 6 or 7 years ago at that Chicago fashion bar event—introduced by our mutual friend Beth Swanson, CEO of Phomaz. What do you remember about that moment in your styling journey?

Faithima: Wow talk about a throwback moment! I remember at that point in my life being full of wonder. I interned for Chicago Fashion Week while in college. I remember being excited. I've always dreamed of a career in fashion. That point in my life I wanted to absorb as much knowledge as I could.

Q: Chicago has a unique energy when it comes to fashion. How did the city shape your early vision as a stylist?

Faithima: Being from the Midwest has taught me the value of working hard. Talent will get you in the door but a strong work ethic is what brings you longevity.

Q: Was there a defining project or moment that made you say, "Yes—this is the lane I'm supposed to be in"?

Faithima: I would say my first day on set of the hit show "Empire." I remember getting lost at Cinespace studios. Somehow, I ended up on stage during the filming of a performance scene. The lights, the costumes, the camera moving back and forth on the dolly. I remembered feeling amazed. Being on set showed me how to blend fashion with storytelling. This was my true purpose.

Q: You've since relocated to Los Angeles. What sparked that move, and how has it transformed the way you create?

Faithima: Fun fact; I never wanted to move to LA. I remember being adamant that I would never move to Los Angeles- it wasn't fashionably charged enough for me.

My dream was to move to New York and conquer the fashion scene. But fate had other plans. I worked in a pilot executively produced and staring Katie Holmes that never aired. It was on that pilot I jokingly asked the Costume Designer to keep me in mind if she ever needed a costume P.A in LA. Well a few months later, I received a text messages that changed my life.

Los Angeles made me a true Costume Designer. Film making is serious business in LA. I struggle badly on my first job moving to LA. But I was determined to keep going. LA provides so many resources to collaborate and pull to create characters. There are many film making peers you can connect with or talks where you can listen to established film makers.

Q:What's a typical day in the life of Faithima in LA? Give us a peek behind the curtain.

Faithima: A typical day for Faithima starts and ends with sitting in Traffic. I primarily work as a Union Costumer for various productions my favorite job is Costume Buying. Where I go out to shop clothing, fabric and materials for talent fittings. You will normally catch me running through Century City Mall like a mad woman with so many shopping bags.

Next I get lost in the parking lot for 15 minutes. I head back to the studios to set up for fittings.

As a Costume Designer (Department head of a Costume Department) I start my day reading scripts at my favorite coffee shops. I love to people watch. People tell stories by the way they are dressed. After reading the script and breaking down each character, I create looks that tell the story. From my Costume Deck (a look book of visuals) I decided whether to buy clothing from vendors or if some costumes need to be built from the ground up. This is also my time to create a budget to present to production.

Once costumes are secured. I'm doing fittings with talent. After fittings, the director picks the selects which is what we see the actors wear on screen.

Continued on page 32



Once the production moves to filming, I'm on set establishing costumes before the first camera take.

Everyday is a different adventure but I enjoy the spontaneous chaos.

Q:What's the latest project you've been working on that has you feeling inspired—or even just lit up creatively? Give us a little behind-the-scenes.

Faithima: I have a few projects in the works at the moment that I'm super excited for the world to see. I'm big on international story telling. Stories that capture real life in a cinematic way. Some projects require me to do hours of research to capture the feel and history of the clothes that we will see in this project. I recently designed a film that required me to conduct fittings in 3 states Los Angeles, Chicago and Wisconsin. I cannot give too many details yet before it's released.

Q: LA is a beautiful creative hub, but it's also going through a lot right now—politically and socially. With everything happening around immigration and community displacement, how are you seeing that affect the fashion and creative scene? Has it shifted the way you move or connect as a stylist in the city?

Faithima: Well right now the industry is very slow post 2023 Writers' and Sag strike. Work is slow-people are tired but preserving. This has been a great time for indie filmmakers. I've been working on projects with peers who are seizing this opportunity to enter the industry.

This also been a time to strengthen community and find ways to create and spread peace. I spend more time connecting with creatives throughout the country. I'm stepping back into editorial styling for magazines.

Q: Do you ever bring that Chicago grit into LA styling sessions? If so, how does it show up?

Faithima: To be honest, I was born and raised in Indiana. So I think my grit comes from being a Midwesterner. I would say I bring a "get it done" attitude to set. This work isn't as glamorous as it seems on television. I'm a Costume Designer not a Fashion Stylist on film sets. It's typical to work 12 hour shifts for up to 5 days a week. So coming from the Midwest, I don't feel the burn out as bad as many of my peers. I'm not scared to work. I can get really dirty- whether it aging boots or running through a muddy set to change a hat (because I can be picky).

Q: What's a piece of advice you'd give to young stylists coming up in Chicago—or anywhere, really?

Faithima: Authenticity is key. There is only one you in the entire universe. Be yourself. Don't be afraid to be cringe. Do it scare. Failure is your best friend. Embrace the word no. Become addicted to rejection. Art is never perfect but it's your truth. Just create, it will land with the right people. Be intentional. Don't fake it til you make it (that can bite you in the rear end eventually). Lastly be observant, ask questions, be of service.

Q: Lastly, what are you manifesting next in your style journey? LA is a launchpad—what's on the horizon?

Faithima: I am manifesting an Afro-futuristic high fashion teen drama. Perhaps more editorial work (Vogue). I would love to go on tour with an incredible artist (Hi Rihanna or Ciara) as costume designer. Definitely more fun obscured music videos. Most importantly I'm just enjoying the journey I've experienced so far. I pushed so hard I've missed out on celebrating myself. I want to be more intentional about my work like balance and spending time with family.

DESIGNER SPOTLIGHT · TYTUS BY TYTUS

TYTUS By.Tytus



RECONSTRUCING THE GAME

On a hot South Side golf course, By Tytus showed us why upcycling, grit, and vision can redefine Chicago couture.

It was one of those spicy Chicago afternoons, the kind where the sun doesn't let up. Out on a South Side golf course, two models moved across the greens in Tytus's designs. I was there on set, watching him command the scene with ease, even as the heat pressed in. There was something poetic about it: couture born from thrifted textiles, standing tall against manicured fairways. Luxury against grit, polish against raw energy—felt like the perfect backdrop for By Tytus. His mantra, "Ain't Nun Like Tytus, Except TYTUS," rang true in every detail; these weren't just clothes, they were statements.

But what makes Tytus stand out isn't only the clothes. His work defies gender norms, dismantles fashion's rigid boundaries, and redefines what sustainability can look like when filtered through a sharp point of view. With Fashion Week approaching, he's not just bringing new looks. He's bringing momentum! From pop-ups to styling projects to his upcoming Fye Star Productions, Tytus is pushing Chicago fashion to claim its rightful place on the global stage. What he's building is bigger than a collection; it's a movement rooted in community, culture, and the belief that Chicago deserves to be seen.

Q: Your brand's mantra, 'Ain't Nun Like Tytus, Except TYTUS,' screams authenticity. How do you channel that unapologetic vibe through your upcycled work?

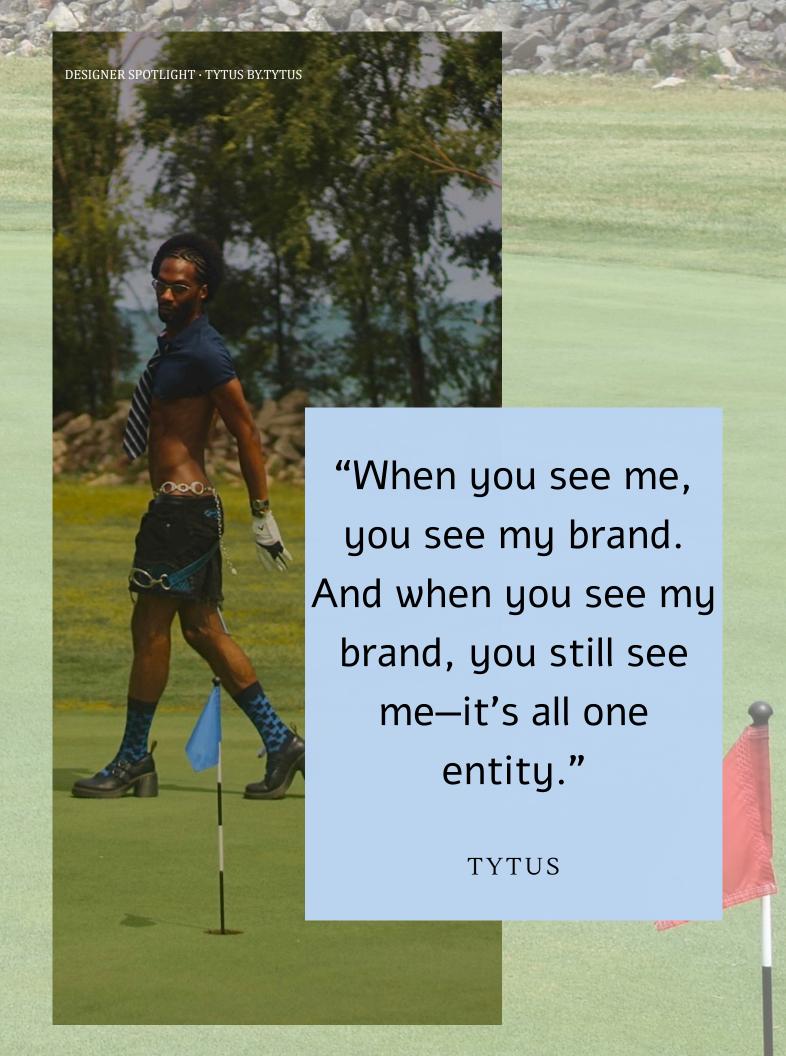
TYTUS: I think I channel that by not creating or putting out anything I wouldn't wear myself. I have a few core muses & inspirations but overall I do filter my brand through my personal pov. I've been hearing more & more that people can tell my work on others without them having to say it or me being tagged necessarily. So to me that means i'm really starting to make my signature & it's because when you see me, you see my brand & personal style. And when you see my brand, you still see me & my personal style. It's all one entity!

Q: You're building couture out of what others toss. How does transforming discarded textiles inspire your creative freedom?

TYTUS: To be honest I think I'm a natural disruptor in a way, the more I get into my twenties the more I come to peace with it because I feel like I disrupt things for a reason. I have such a strong and unique point of view on EVERYTHING vs others who generally would never look at it the way I would. But with disruption I provide a better solution/outcome. I'm very resourceful and go with the flow and that portrays how I rework and upcycle garments. So when I get these base pieces from the thrift and I rip it, rework it, freak it my own way and add my details it all just comes together. There's a lot of natural alignment with how I combine or add onto garments. I don't force things, if a sleeve doesn't fit with this torso then it just doesn't fit, there will always come a perfect match & once i find that combo that im satisfied with i amp it with various flavors.

Q: Do you lean into gender-neutral pieces—or feel like your reconstructed silhouettes inherently defy those boundaries?

TYTUS: To me a piece is a piece, manufacturers and society put genders onto everything clothing related and i'm not even going to dive into that but needless to say i source pick pieces based on character alone. It'll fit whoever I make it fit, tailoring and functional adjustment is important at my brand because fashion has no limits, and while that may be subjective to who you ask. One limit should never be gender norms or sizing, it's enough fabric in the world. MAKE IT FIT!! Fashion choices should be made more on sizing and fit rather than gender and i dont mean that in a harsh or political way i just truly dont look at clothing like that. That would be like telling people pens are for men, pencils are for women...like um no pens and pencils are meant for expression period. Same thing for clothes, its just an avenue of expression therefore there shouldn't be hardly any guidelines. I've always been able to fit "womens" but to me they're just clothes made a certain way. But it's just about finding what flatters YOU the most and make it work and own it. A lot of men are curvy or even petite & dont fit in the standard men size bracket, a lot of women are tall or curvy that don't fit the typical women size bracket. You'd be amazed at how people feel when they get something tailored to them no matter what it was before. Or finally getting into a piece that's truly adjustable to fit them in a flattering way. There's a lot of my male customers out there with pieces they don't even know were originally manufactured for a womans body. And the same goes for the girls a lot of those suits or corsets I put girls in start from menswear. Gender is respectfully not relevant at my brand, its always respected but its not a factor when it comes to design. It's all about the fashion and I make fashions for everybody, so it's up to you if you're secure & confident enough to rock it!!



Q: With fashion week on the horizon, what sneak-peek vision are you cooking up at By Tytus? Any shows you will be showing or attending?

TYTUS: I'm actually working on a pop-up shop collaboration with the Silverroom at the start of fashion week on October 11th. Still finalizing some details but be on the lookout for that, there will definitely be some sales going on. I definitely will be styling a few people this time too for fashion week, I'm excited about that! Show wise I'm still deciding on what else I plan on attending, but so far I know for sure I'll be at Why Not Petites, Karen Tracy, & Support Your Hommes!!

Q: I know your work feels couture but livedin—how do thrift-sourced textures play into that balance?

TYTUS: Quality is the key factor when I'm thrifting for base pieces, if it's not nearly a 10 out of 10 solid on its own then I wont get it. There's certain materials I won't work with like spandex or elastane because I want a quality that has durability & longevity that still holds its character over time. In regard to character for base pieces, while character is important, it also can't be too much character depending on the garment because that's my job is to add my character. For example if a suit jacket had pleats and a graphic design on it or some peplum waist or something I wouldn't take that. That's already a design in itself & out of respect for that designer i wouldnt tweak it., I only look for decent blanks when I'm creating my sustainable couture garments. Things that are a pretty standard silhouette that I can manipulate, most i'd do is a print but even then I'm very picky with materials. Denim as well has to be a very good quality with little to no stretch unless applicable and even then, again im very picky at the thrift store lol I can be in there for hours.

Q:How can Chicago—the streets, the creatives, even local institutions—help elevate your pipeline? Any dream collabs or support systems you're hoping for?

TYTUS: The people can surely SHOP on www.bytytus.com to help my brand elevate! But besides that, I'm curating my own fashion media production company to host quality & top tier fashion events in the city & provide fashion media that the people can only receive through us, by us. So I feel like community & word of mouth is a great help as well right now as well as genuine support that goes beyond just liking a picture. I know I keep saying this but quality is very important in how I do things. With that being said I am looking forward to collabing with some other brands & creatives that I've been eyeing for a while that I feel like can also provide a unique experience for Chicago & beyond! I'd love to start hosting events like styling expos or diy sewing classes, networking events, model coaching or even brand coaching. Think of America's Next Top Model mixed with Project Runway, minus the messy controversy lol. I want to push the boundaries of models, photographers, designers & fashion altogether in Chicago to a height I feel as though it should have BEEN at! Chicago is such a melting pot of everywhere so we should be on the map as a capital for fashion like New York or LA or Paris. We are more than just the Bulls or Portillos. We have produced iconic superstars in other fields; Kanye West, Souja Boy, Chief Keef for music. Keke Palmer, Oprah, Bernie Mac for television. Micheal Jordan & Dwayne Wade for basketball. MICHELLE OBAMA!! Clearly we have the resources and the culture to provide the best there is so why is our fashion scene just now starting to slowly pick up. I want to bridge that gap & with the right team of creatives & innovators I think we will do exactly that! Chicagoans just have to stop acting like Chicagoans & be more open minded to new things & new people.



"I make fashions for everybody. The only question is—are you confident enough to rock it?" – TYTUS



Q: Who inspires you? Where do you get your inspiration from to create your designs?

TYTUS: 90's & Y2K Girl groups have always been a heavy inspiration for me. The way one look/concept would be distributed between a few bodies and all be unique and personal yet still a part of a harmonious collective. Sometimes I make little groups in my head for looks like my own Destiny's Child or 702 to help me translate the story or execute styling. Nature is a big part of inspiration for my brand too. If you've noticed, a good majority of my photoshoots are outside in nature or at least nature is a co-star in the frame in some sort of way. I feel that my clothes are highlighted best in nature, it's like my couture's natural habitat is the jungle, yet also the city. Despite how much metal and structure that's put into my designs there's still a natural flow of things that I feel like is crucial to my aesthetic. But even nature has a silhouette.

Q:Looking ahead, are you exploring new materials/ mediums like hardware, unconventional trims, maybe accessories or gender-fluid staples? What's next???

TYTUS: You'll have to just stay tuned;)

Q: What's that one upcycled piece that still triggers a 'damn, I nailed it' moment for you?

TYTUS: I dont know thats a really good question im too indecisive to pick but as of recently I feel like my Cowboy Carter outfit was really THAT GIRL!! That was really something special! I didn't even know what I wanted entirely. I had an idea & just started cutting but it all came together perfectly with the accessories and teal detailing & it was all upcycled Levi's denim. I think it might be my favorite because at first I thought it would be a challenge trying to make a cowboy or western themed outfit that was still along the lines of my brand & current collection & i really surprised myself with the outcome because it hits the nail on the head!! (for reference you can go to my instagram and scroll until you see me in a big white cowboy hat & white chaps with turquoise dino skin details)

Q:If Chicago is your runway, how do you envision that future? A local showroom? DIY Workshops?

TYTUS: *****Fye Star Productions....coming soon





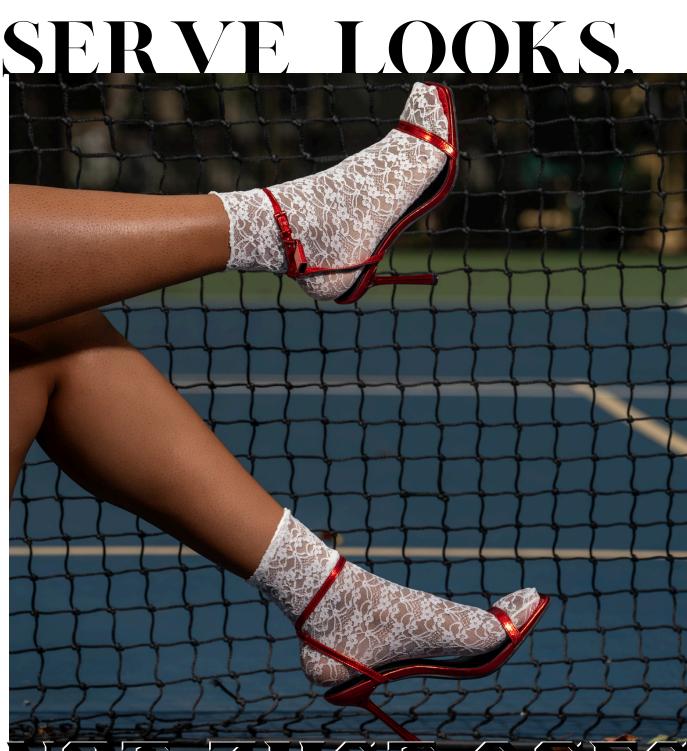


This fall isn't about following trends, it's about **mastering the game.** From trench coats that double as armor to accessories that hold their own, these pieces aren't just stylish, they're **strategic**. Think of them as your **seasonal playbook**, essential moves every fashion lover needs in **rotation** to stay two steps ahead.



Suede Slingbacks; \$165 <u>dillards.com</u>
Good Form Pump; \$165 <u>nordstrom.com</u>
Luna Black Leather Mary Jane; \$145, <u>marcnolan.com</u>
Distortion Wedge Boot; \$200 <u>stevemadden.com</u>
Leather Gloves; \$59 <u>katespadeoutlet.com</u>
Cat Eye Sunglasses; \$85 <u>nordstrom.com</u>
Lennon Plush Handbag; \$145 <u>veranohill.com</u>
Tote Bag, \$495 <u>coach.com</u>
Leather Heel Bag, \$320 <u>alexandriawillis.com</u>
Faux Furs Loop Scarf; \$32 <u>neimanmarcus.com</u>
The Frank Lloyd hat; \$2,000 <u>shop.optimo.com</u>





NUTJUSTA

Editorial Team:

Photographer - Alex Callejo **Model** - Kristen Hudson Stylist - Katie DeLuna

HMUA - Mariia Samarina Assist Photographer - Sebastian Figueroa

Assist Stylist - Christina Schutz





Top:Akira
Dress: Akira
Accessories: Stylist Owns
Tennis Balls/Bag: Amazon
Tennis Racket: Yonex Airide Lite
Shoes: Stylist Owns
Socks: Leg Appeal



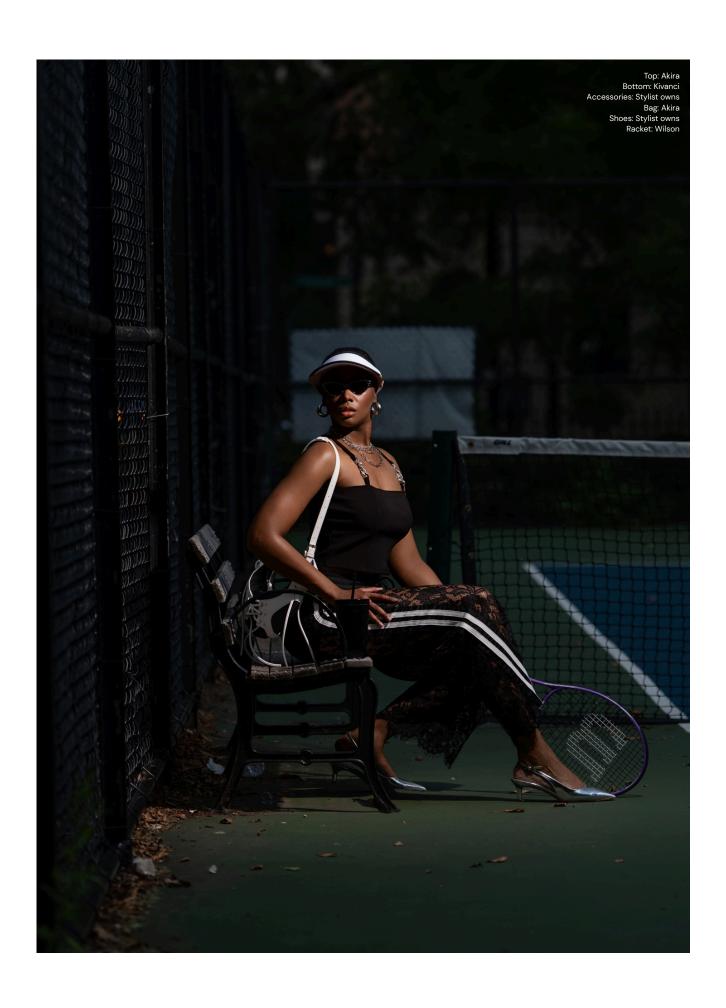






Sports Bra: Stylist Owns Skirt: Target Bomber Jacket: Amazon Accessories: Stylist Owns Tennis Racket: Wilson Shoes: Stylist Owns Socks: Leg Appeal Sunglasses: Loewe Tennis Bag: Wilson









THE POWER PLAY

Fall Footwear Edited by Ticara Devone

From sleek staples to conversation-starting silhouettes, Shoe Guide Editor Ticara delivers this season's winning plays. In the Game of Chic, shoes are your first move.

When it comes to footwear, Ticara is in the know, long before a style hits the streets. This Fall, she's serving up a lineup that's equal parts strategic, bold, and timeless. From exotic textures to unexpected silhouettes, her picks are made to be worn, talked about, and remembered.

Ticara's



Women's Clarks Wallabee in Mauve Crocodile - \$104 USD

Photo courtesy of brand/website

The Wallabee has been on my radar for about two seasons and this year I will finally add it to rotation. Again, there's some exotic. print happening here and I think these will look great with the right denim, the right cardigan, the right cargo pant, the coat, you get where I'm going here. These come in suede, leather, and a few different materials and colors so there's something for everyone.



Maison Margiela Tabi Ankle Boot in Black — \$1,420

"You either love or hate the Tabi, and I'm firmly on team love. They're comfortable once broken in, go with almost everything, and always spark conversation. They'll live in your collection for years—splurge-worthy or secondhand treasure."



Women's Nike Total 90 'Snakeskin' - \$125

"Sleek sneaker silhouettes are in across brands like Puma and adidas, but this 'Snakeskin' colorway hits different. You get a dose of exotic print without going overboard, and they're easy on the wallet. A very fye pickup for fall."



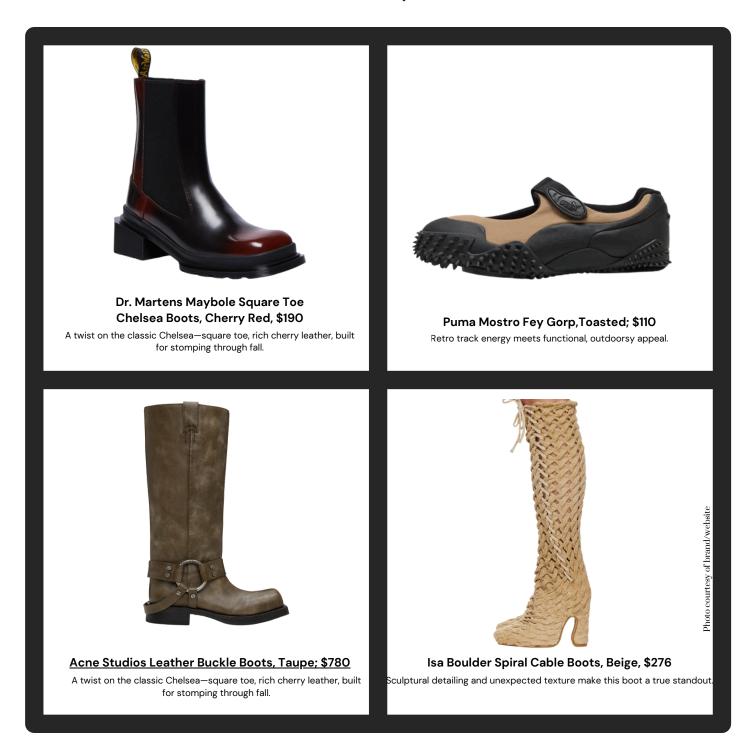


Curated by Ticara
@Ticaradevone our Fall
2025 Shoe Guide Editor

THE STYLE BENCH

FOUR MORE PAIRS THAT CLOSE THE SEASON STRONG.

Fall Footwear Edited by Ticara Devone











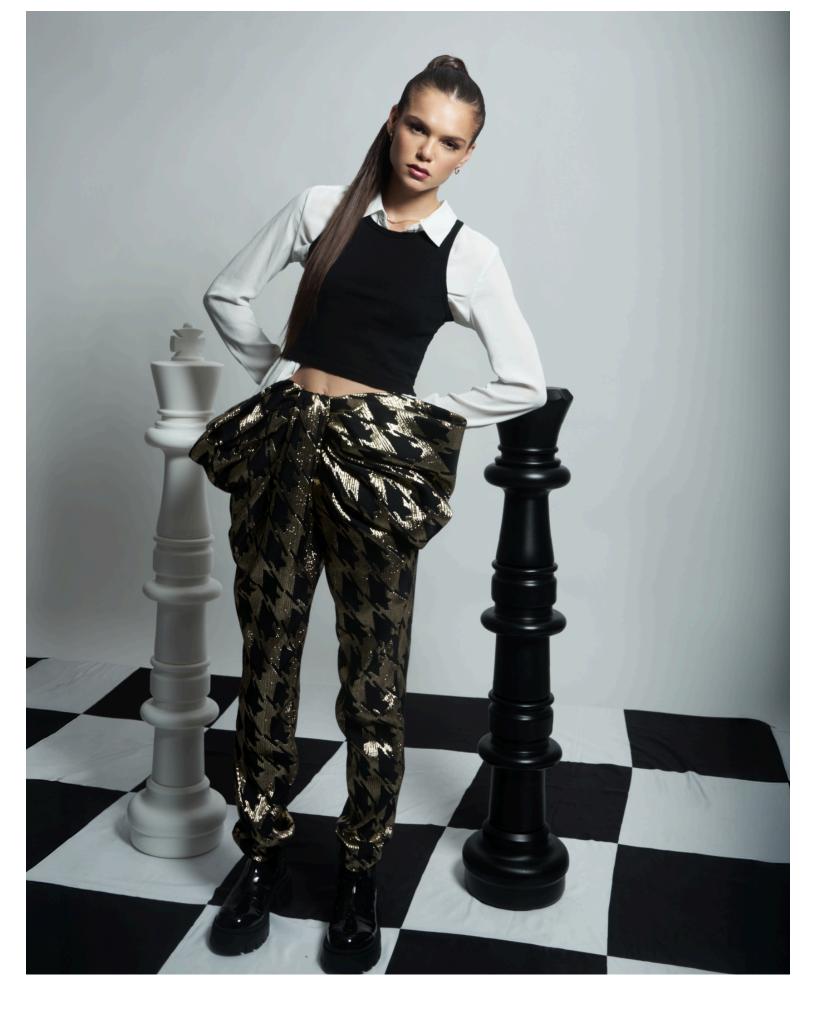


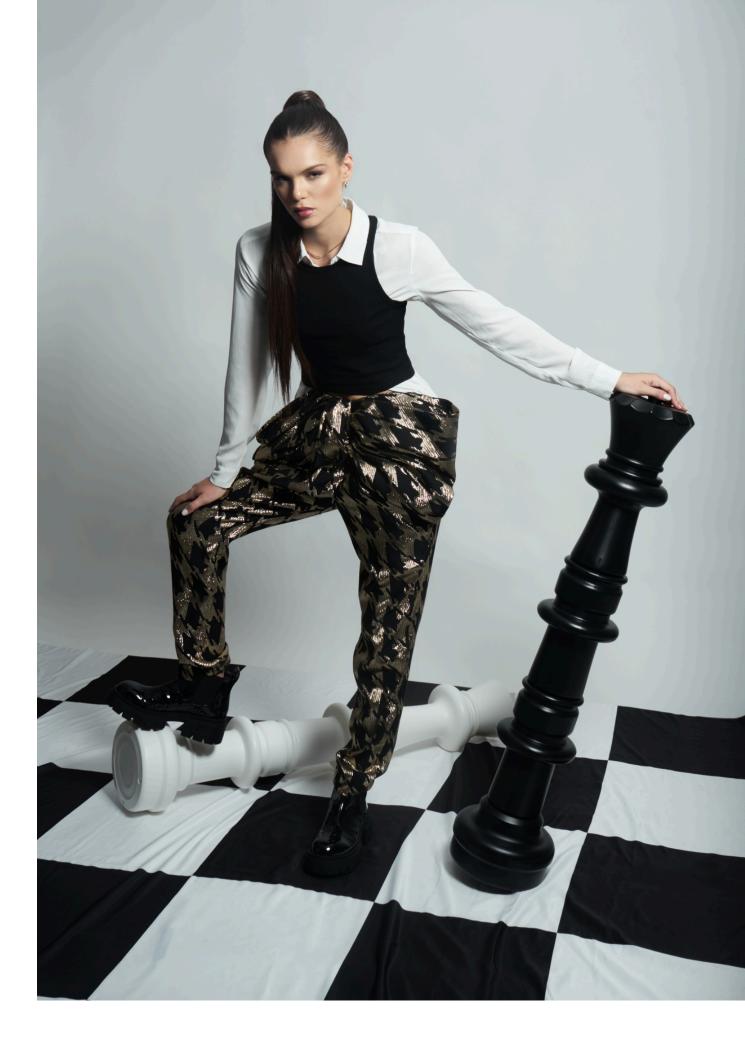


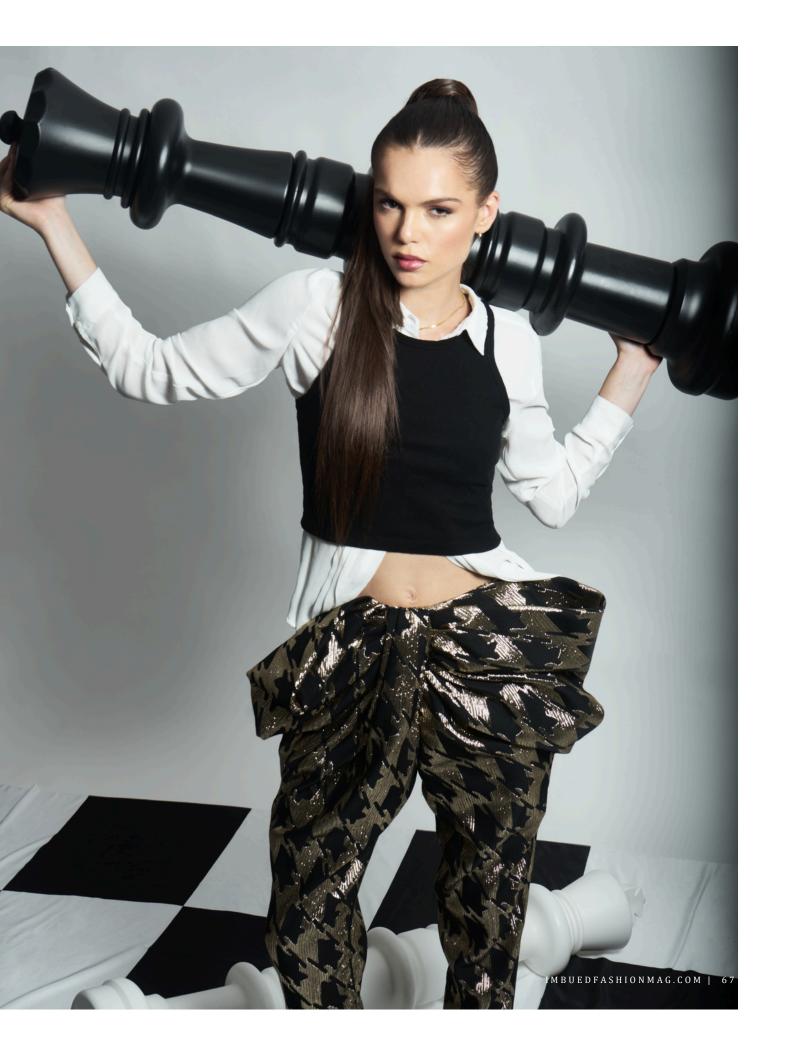




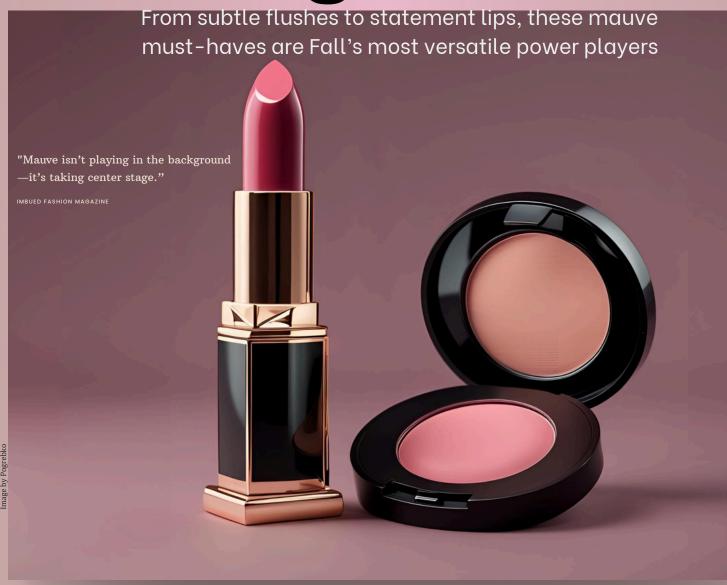








Winning Mauves



This Fall, mauve takes the crown as beauty's most wanted player. Equal parts soft romance and sharp sophistication, this shade moves seamlessly from morning meetings to midnight rendezvous, always ready for another game. Whether it's a plush lipstick, a silky blush, or a polished nail, mauve delivers that perfect balance of subtle and statement.

In this season's recruits, we've scouted nine all star shades ready to elevate your look. While keeping you at the top of your game.

Players Stats





Fall Hair Color Draft

Five shades. One season. Our followers made the call and the results are pure fall power plays.

This fall, it's all about making bold moves, on the streets and in the salon chair. We handed the playbook to our Instagram squad, and they drafted five powerhouse shades to rule the season. From Cinnamon's warm kick to the rich drama of Deep Burgundy, each hue is a style strategy in its own right. Consider this your official lineup, complete with the names of the style MVPs who called the shots. *The game plan? Pick your shade, own the season, and play to win.*









— As Chosen by You







The Player's

Whether you're hos something strong or aesthetic with design your invitation to strong or all shout clayer in the strong of the strong or an all shout clayer in the strong or an all shout clayer in the strong or an all shout clayers in the strong

Whether you're hosting a late-night chess match, sipping something strong over a game of cards, or flexing your aesthetic with design-forward décor. The Player's Lounge is your invitation to stay in with style. This season, the game is all about elevation. Think sculptural game sets, velvet-clad bar carts, mood lighting that whispers "checkmate," and tabletop treasures that play as hard as they look. Because for the chicest players in the game, winning starts at home.





Roll the dice 48x48, \$499; fineartamerica.com





Cowhide Mirror Faux Animal Printed Frame \$331; emmamason.com

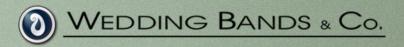


Black Ebonized Gold Chess Game Table \$5,882; <u>luxedecor.com</u>



Speakeasy's hand carved onyx face \$5,900; bucktownbuilt.com

A chic strategy guide for stylish stay-ins.





Mory Tafreshi, <u>Mory@WeddingBandsCompany.com</u>

WWW.WEDDINGBANDSCOMPANY.COM

On The Scene Words by Chau The Curator Featured photography courtesy from Isaiah Luat

Aff The Tock

As Chau the Curator—a model and "multiple-jobs-to-pay-the-bills" creative—navigates
Chicago's fashion scene, she finds herself creating in the in-between: between shifts,
between gigs, between moments of burnout. And in that space, she finds friendship that
brings the fun back into making.





Everyone wants to move to New York these days. The usual reasons: no one claps for you in Chicago, it's not big enough, you can't "make it' here. But maybe that's the point. Maybe Chicago isn't meant to be mainstreamed. Maybe it's not meant to be consumed.

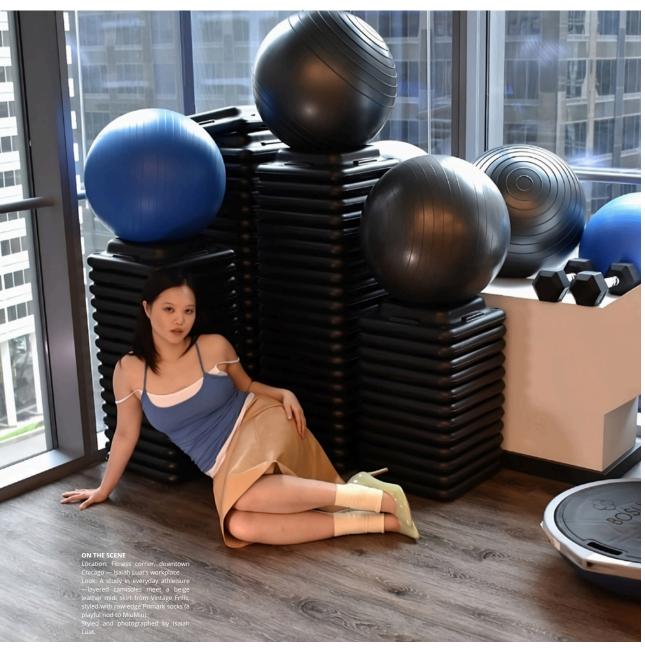
The truth is, Chicago doesn't run on fame. It runs on grit. On second jobs and side gigs. On after-hours jobs and side gigs. On after-nours fittings and impromptu shoots. And that's exactly what makes the underground scene here more interesting, more alive, and more worth paying attention to than any self-promoted feel good projects.

"The truth is, Chicago doesn't run on fame. It runs on grit."

I've spent the past two years working and creating inside this city's fashion spaces. I've watched people come in full of energy, eager to be known for something. And that's fair—Chicago's so diluted that it's actually easy to stand out. But eventually, the "look at me" energy. runs dry. Because what are you actually saying with your work? What are you actually building?

ON THE SCENE Location: Isaiah Luat's second job at a corporate gym in downtown Chicago Look: 1980s monochrome colorblock, shoulder-padded dress from Vintage Frills—photographed and styled by Isaiah Luat, pulled from his and Nguyen's shared workplace





At the small vintage boutique where I work at, I see the crossroads of cool and wearable every day. Chicago fashion lives right there—in the tension between what sells and what speaks. That's where I met my creative soulmate, stylist and photographer Isaiah Luat. Early twenties. Default instagram profile photo, feed curated but chaotic—strange in the best way, deeply authentic, and not a single face in sight (@lovewhoyoucan). And somehow, his work lodges itself in the collective memory more than most with ten times the reach.

Isaiah and I have spent late nights styling at the shop, pulling up to his second job and turning it into a set. We didn't have the budget for studios—and honestly, we didn't need it. By building looks from what was already in our hands, we created something that felt honest. We really created.

Fashion needs community. In this game, you don't win by going solo. You build with who's around you—across shifts, across group chats, across late nights and second jobs. You share what you have. You make space where there wasn't any. And when the city doesn't give us a third place, we bring it with us—in our hearts, in our work, in the teams we choose to play on.

Not everything will be perfect. But it will be real.

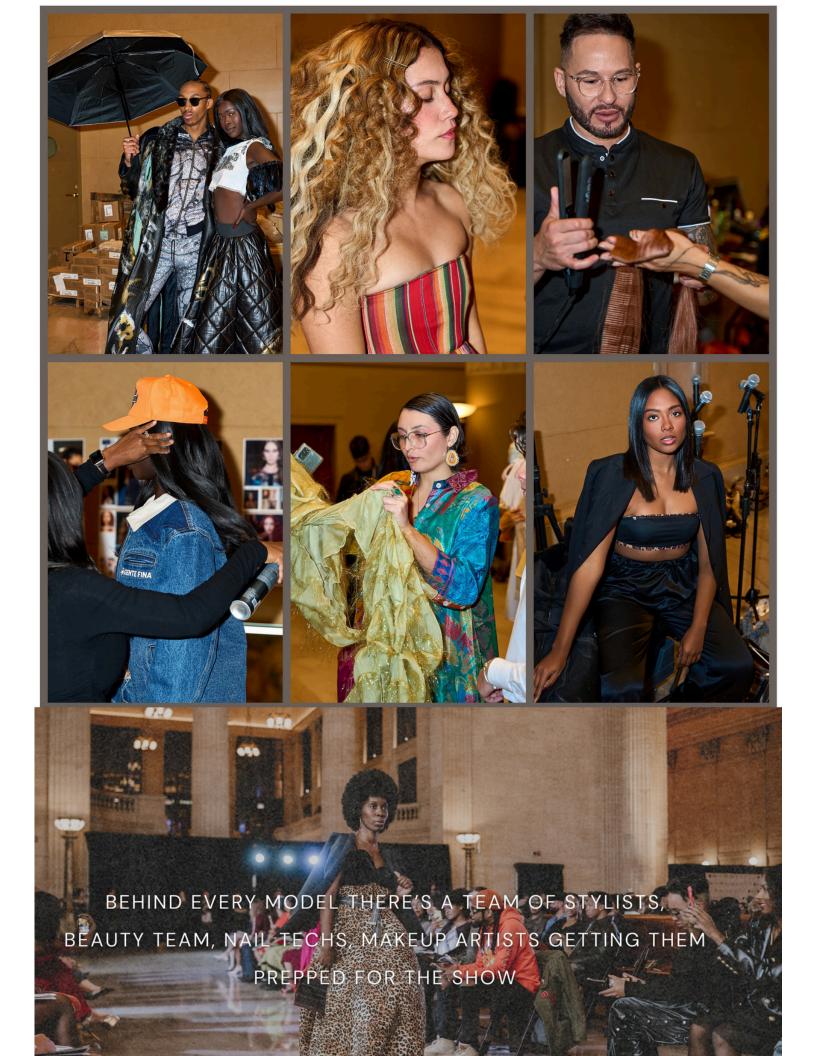
And that's the game I want to play.

ATHLEISURE: ALWAYS READY

I've merged my modeling IG and my "other" creative page into one—Chau The Curator. Being chic is the lifestyle I've chosen, regardless of the job titles I hold. To survive this game without burning out, I've had to remember: fashion is in me. The gigs, the side jobs, theyre temporary, but I still show up as my best self in everything I do. So when the timing aligns, I won't need to catch up. I'll be ready.

I've been ready.



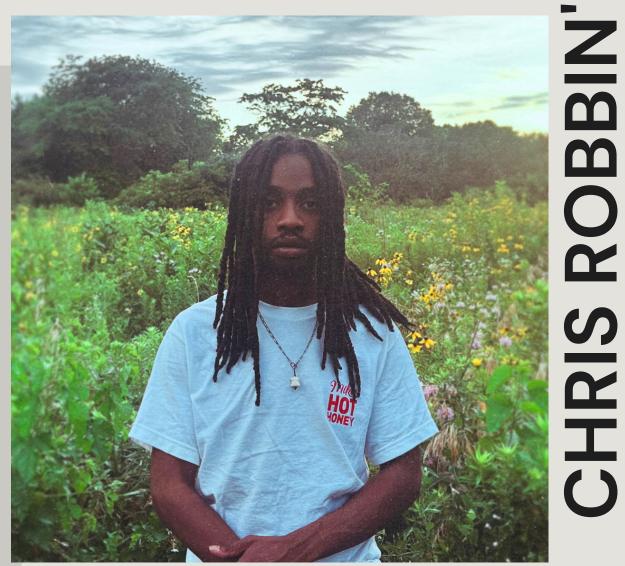




CHRIS ROBBIN'

FKA F.A.B.L.E

"POETIC RAP AND HARD HITTING CONCEPTS" is a Chicago based alternative hip-hop artist hailing from the Englewood area. With a musical upbringing stemming from church, jazz, and theater, Robbin' manages to string together a whimsical delivery of poetic rap and hard hitting concepts. Coupled with genreshifting instrumentals and a powerful live performance, Chris Robbin' is a hidden gem in the Chicago Underground.



Photographer: Elia Brooks



<u>OVERDUE</u>

The New Single by Chris Ronnin'

Scan to Listen

GAME OF CHC

FALL 2025 HOROSCOPES: STRATEGICALLY STYLISH— MASTER YOUR PLAYBOOK

IN THIS SEASON OF SOPHISTICATED STRATEGY, EACH SIGN GETS A FASHION-FORWARD GAME PLAN. SCORE BIG WITH CHIC COURTWEAR. STREET SAVVY OUTFITS, AND DELIBERATELY DARING LOOKS FIT FOR THE QUEEN OF STYLE

👿 Virgo (August 23 – September 22)

September 2025 is your runway, Virgo. You've been planning, editing, & perfecting. Now it's time to execute like the boss you are. Fall brings clarity to your creative vision, and you'll find yourself leading teams, projects, or even friend groups with quiet confidence.

Game of Chic Style Tip: Court Couture

Channel your inner tennis prodigy or sideline strategist. Think structured silhouettes: pleated skirts, zip-up polos, ribbed knits, and fashion-forward sneakers.

□ Libra (September 23 – October 22)

Fall brings a fresh chance to reset, rebalance, and relaunch. You're in your diplomatic era, Libra. Charming, persuasive, and effortlessly chic. Relationships get real this season, but instead of people-pleasing, you're prioritizing peace.

Game of Chic Style Tip: Chess Master

You're the queen on the board. Graceful but not to be underestimated. Style a structured jacket with sharp tailoring, monochromatic looks in black, cream, and oxblood, and a power accessory like a wide belt or angular clutch.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)

This fall, you're ten steps ahead. Quietly manifesting, strategically building. While others flex, you're plotting legacy moves. People may not see it yet, but they'll feel it.

Game of Chic Style Tip: Poker Face

Scorpio, play the fashion game like you're holding the winning hand. Sleek leather, second-skin dresses, sharp sunglasses, and deep shades of burgundy, midnight, and obsidian are your

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)

You're restless this season, Sag and that's a good thing. New cities, new styles, new scenes. Fall brings growth, both mentally and sartorially. Say yes to adventure, even if it's just in your

Game of Chic Style Tip: Track & Trailblazer

Athleisure gets luxe. Think racing stripes on tailored pants, zippered tops, slouchy leather jackets, and crossbody harnesses. Deep teals, burnt orange, and camel shades bring earthy drama to your freedom-seeking fits.

□ Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)

Fall 2025 is about redefining what success looks like for you. You're in boss mode, but with softer edges. You're giving ambition and intention, discipline and elegance.

Game of Chic Style Tip: Boardroom Blitz

Upgrade your classics: wide-leg trousers, oversized wool coats, crisp shirts, and architectural heels. Add a hint of rebellious detail pinstripes with a leather corset, or a structured bag with industrial hardware. Stick to stone, charcoal, and dusty rose.

🖾 Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)

This season, you're disrupting norms and rewriting trends. Whether it's in your social circles, your activism, or your closet. Aquarius, you're remixing the whole game.

Game of Chic Style Tip: Streetwear Strategist

Layer like a pro. Pair mesh tops with structured cargo skirts, platform boots with sporty windbreakers, and add quirky accessories that double as conversation starters. Embrace bold.

H Pisces (February 19 - March 20)

Fall opens a portal to your imagination. You're romanticizing the small things, healing from the big ones, and letting your style speak in soft declarations.

Game of Chic Style Tip: Ballet Brawler

Floaty fabrics meet structured grit. Think satin slips under moto jackets, ballet flats with chain anklets, pastel knits styled with heavy outerwear. Layer blush, lavender, and stormy gray for a poetic edge.

Aries (March 21 - April 19)

Fall launches you into the driver's seat, Aries. You're leading with confidence and blazing new trails whether it's a bold project or a fresh style sensibility.

Game of Chic Style Tip: Rally Racer

Channel race-day energy. Think fitted leather jackets with zip accents, racing-stripe trousers, bold red knit tops, and streamlined ankle boots. Add sporty sunglasses and a sleek

😈 Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

This season, you're all about tactile indulgence. Fall warmth meets texture richness because comfort and elegance are your power combo.

Game of Chic Style Tip: Courtly Collusion

Think suede blazers, silk scarves, chunky loafers, and moody florals. Add a luxe fedora and a structured satchel for statement sophistication.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

Fall is your multifunctional stage, Gemini, two sides, one striking presence. You're bridging trends with ease and keeping it playful.

Game of Chic Style Tip: Dual Uniforms

Layer a sleek utility vest over a chiffon dress, or pair a tailored blazer with biker shorts. Contrast heavy boots with delicate jewelry. Mix neutrals with bright pops like cobalt or mustard.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

You're entering a nurturing leadership role this fall. Protection, care, and emotional intelligence shape your path and your wardrobe.

Game of Chic Style Tip: Armor Allure

Wrap yourself in quilted jackets, padded boots, hermetically sealed bags, and pearl-accented scarves. Soft tones like dove gray and muted teal show heart and strength.

Leo (July 23 - August 22)

All eyes on you, Leo this fall you command attention. Glitter, glamour, and unapologetic presence are your calling cards. Game of Chic Style Tip: Spotlight Swagger

Go full regal with velvet blazers, gold-tone hardware, bold patterns, and statement sunglasses. Finish with theatrical boots and a matching pet collar for your sidekick cameo.

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Fall 2025



SERVE LOOKS, NOT JUST ACES Photo by Alex Callejo