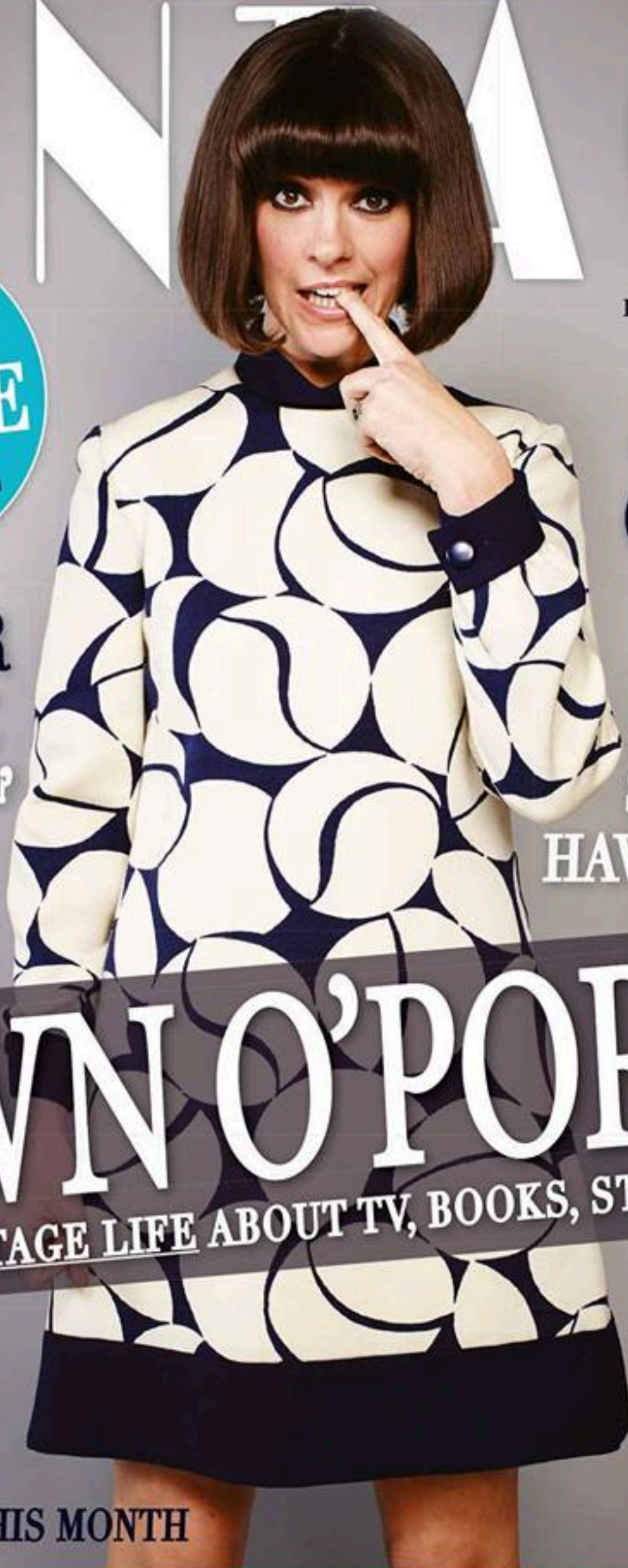


VINTAGE LIFE

HER

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BRIGHTER BAKELITE IN YOUR FUTURE?

MAD MEN THE FINAL SEASON

SUMMER OF LOVE BOHO BEAUTY

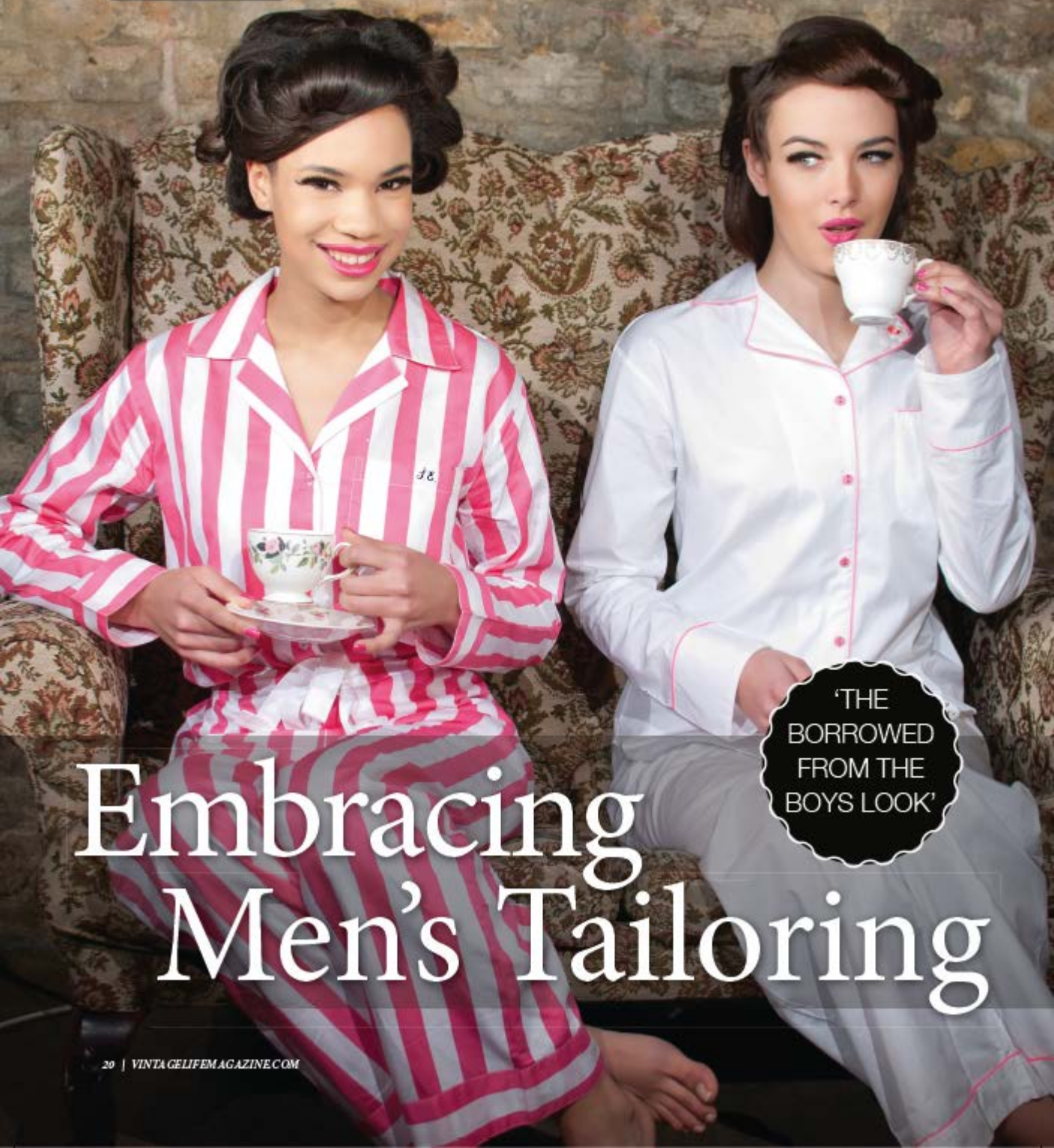
TIKI-TASTIC SAY 'ALOHA' TO HAWAIIAN STYLE

DAWN O'PORTER

TALKS TO VINTAGE LIFE ABOUT TV, BOOKS, STYLE & SHOPPING

SPRING FLINGS THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH

PLUS SIZE VINTAGE



'THE
BORROWED
FROM THE
BOYS LOOK'

Embracing Men's Tailoring

From Marlene Dietrich to Diane Keaton, women's wear inspired by menswear is an enduring style that guarantees maximum impact. Since the time of Dietrich, adopting and adapting traditional men's clothing has become more accepted but the trends and tastes are still constantly evolving.

Coco Chanel embraced men's tailoring in the 1920s to make an entirely new silhouette for the fashion forward woman. The strong new shape and style was embraced almost universally with previous ideas defining traditional women's wear and men's fashion facing fresh challenge.

In the 1940s women were firmly entrenched in apparel inspired by men's suits. The military uniform look of air stewardesses after WWII inspired the next evolution in women's design. Accoutrements typically reserved for men in the armed forces made their way on to stewardess's uniforms in subtle stylised ways. High shine buttons, epaulettes and hats went from military wear, to aviation wear and then gradually moved into everyday 50s fashion.

By the 80s and 90s, women snatching up their boyfriend's work shirts and walking around the house on a lazy Sunday morning became a well-worn cliché. This evolved further by 2014 to the less chic adoption of a pair of tracksuit bottoms and an oversize t-shirt.

Now, every woman seems to own a pair of tracksuit bottoms and an oversize t-shirt that qualifies as their sleepwear. The emphasis is on comfort; like wearing trainers paired with a pencil skirt and chiffon blouse on your morning commute, rather than on style.

Perhaps the borrowed-from-the-boys look that started with Chanel has finally over borrowed and left otherwise glamorous girls looking boyish in their downtime.

Thankfully, the tailored loungewear look

synonymous with Katharine Hepburn is making a comeback. Hepburn was a trailblazer when it came to gender re-appropriation. In 1935 the notion of a woman dressing as a man was akin to a woman announcing she was disregarding the codes of femininity and disinterested in the attentions of men. Hepburn embraced a preppy boyish style that included tailored sleek lines and comfortable chic.

Contemporary designers embracing the tailored loungewear trend include Lucy Guinness, Olivia Von Halle, Ralph Lauren and J.Crew.

British born Lucy Guinness who started up Poplin in 2011, found herself in hotel rooms perpetually working on her laptop in lounge-wear or sleepwear. As a freelance writer covering the Venice Biennale or reviewing a hotel in Singapore she was in work mode even when she was in the privacy of her hotel room. Evidently a tracksuit and t-shirt ensemble didn't feel right and Lucy instead looked to create her own fashionable loungewear that could be both chic and comfortable.

Inspired by quintessential British men's tailoring, Guinness searched the globe for luxury fabrics and finishes before engaging London based Hand & Lock embroiderers to monogram the finished garments.

Monogramming the pyjamas also speaks of a long history of male fashion being adopted by women. The delicate art of personalising garments with fine threads dates back to Roman times and has worked its way through the history books on the trail of various monarchs. In



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 WORDS: ROBERT MCCAFFREY
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 HAIR: GUILLAUME OSSANT FROM CZARNO.CO.UK
 VENUE: LITTLE NAN'S BAR, DEPTFORD

the 20th and 21st century, monograms are most likely requested on Savile Row shirts and grace the sleeves and breast pockets of the city boy elite. Monogramming is a fine and delicate skill that takes a typical embroidery student months to master. With the wide array of fonts and styles, not to mention the 26 distinct letters in lower and upper case, it is a dizzying amount to learn.

Hand & Lock's Production Director, Jessica Jane, believes the recent explosion in monogramming is a reaction against poor quality, disposable fashion. "People are investing in quality garments that they want to have for life. When investing in the highest quality, monogramming is a natural progression." She went on to explain, "in an age of austerity, when people are looking to spend more wisely and to cherish what they own, monogramming is a perfect way to ensure a throw, pyjamas or a purse always remain treasured."

With some designer's luxury lounge-wear costing in excess of £200 it can be assumed that the women buying them are looking at an investment. Like the enduring appeal of all vintage clothes there is something to be said for paying that little bit more and getting enduring quality. There is also something to be said for going that extra step and giving your latest couture investment a bespoke finish. A few delicate initials in finest cotton on a borrowed-from-the-boys set of silk pyjamas can make lounging by the fireplace with a trashy detective novel everyone's idea of heaven.

Women's fashion will always borrow from men's, adapting and repurposing styles to serve the ever-changing face of contemporary style. Combine this love for gender appropriation with a love for styles from decades past and the outcome is truly unique.

LITTLE NAN'S BAR

Tristan Scutt wanted to express how beautiful his 103-year-old Nan was, so he opened up a cocktail bar in Deptford, South London and named it all after her. All of the furniture, crystal cut glassware and fine bone china was carefully sourced by Tristan's Little Nan over the last two centuries, and many of the cocktails use his family's secret recipes which have been passed down the generations since Little Nan's, Nan's, Nan can remember...

Little Nan's Bar
 46 Deptford Broadway,
 London, SE8 4PH,
 07792 205 375
 tristan@littlenans.co.uk
 littlenans.co.uk