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INTERNATIONAL HOUSE
TRADITIONAL DRESS COLLECTION

AUTHOR: LEANN CHERKASKY MAHNI

INTERNATIONALLY-INSPIRED PANCAKE BREAKFAST SPRING 2016

The International House traditional dress collection was first started with over 50 outfits by Doris Menendez's mother, Irene Goutter, a missionary in China from 1922-1951. During her travels in many countries the collection started to grow and as friends and others heard about it, more were added. As a folk dancer and seamstress, Doris added outfits to the collection. Doris and her mother felt that the more one learned about another country, the better we would be able to understand each other and become friends.

Doris decided to donate the collection to the International House (International Center at that time) so that the outfits could be enjoyed and seen by many. Doris felt that with U.S. and international students living together at International House, "A world of friends is a world of peace." Our collection now includes over 150 traditional dress outfits from all over the world. If you have an outfit that you would like to donate, please consider adding it to the I-House collection. Each semester traditional dress outfits are worn by residents during our Internationally-inspired Pancake Breakfast where we serve close to 500 guests, performers and residents.
British fashion has always been a story about suits. Suits have always been staples of fashion throughout the decades, and the current iteration of the outfit is properly a formal piece of wear. As each decade passed, the formality of fashion has gradually scaled down to current casual streetwear, with the occasional suit for occasions or events. Streetwear has gotten more daring than before. The styles however, have better taste. The neon nightmares from the psychedelic sixties and seventies are over, and instead, the pinnacle of fashion in this decade is just a clean cut and well fitting outfit with good taste for color.

The suit itself has gone through many changes, from the doublebreasted style in the early half of the 20th century to the unnecessarily bulky shoulder pads of the decades following. But currently, the emphasis, is that fit is king. A flashback to the 1960s, artists such as The Beatles popularized the slim suits. Most suits today are cut to a slim fitting, to accentuate a sharper profile. The shirt underneath the suit has slimmer collars than ever before, to go with the slim cut profile. Colors have also been readily accepted as stores all over the country have a wider variety of colors and patterns available.

Casual wear has changed. In contrast to the past 50 years, the baggy streetwear and skater fashion has been replaced with more appealing counterparts. The gaudy and garish colors of the past century are no longer common. For example, the skinny and colorful skater jeans have been replaced with Straight-leg jeans and chinos. The big baggy graphic T-shirts have been replaced with snug-fitting button-ups or cleanly designed shirts boasting neat crew or V-neck collars.
KOREAN

Model: Alicia Bogart
Country: USA
The difference between the past and the present becomes apparent in garments the Kuwaitis wear today. Arab garments changed to suit the current cultural and environmental conditions. Nowadays, men and women both wear western design clothes. These clothes are no longer restricted to the foreigners working in Kuwait.

20th century -- Darraa: A robe with long sleeves made of cotton or Indian silk embroidered with gold thread. 
-- Zeboun: A long, fine robe made of silk embroidered with gold thread. It has a narrow central front opening and long sleeves. It is opened so that the front parts are wrapped around the body. Wealthy women usually wear it. 
-- Thoub: A wide robe with long sleeves and oval wide central front opening. Names of the thoub differs according to its color, thickness, and embroidered decorations such as jazz, amfah, thuraiya, manthour, and tour.

This woman is wearing “abaya”, which is a long piece of cloth that falls over the head and body to cover them. This type of abaya can’t be worn alone because it’s not sewn in front. It’s worn mainly by older women and the color is always black.

These men are wearing a simple white “dishdasha/thobe” and a head cover “ashmagh”, which is what they wear on a daily basis. However, on special occasions, they top it with these colored robes as it’s considered impolite to come in your everyday white dishdasha.
Model: Yukiko Fukushima
Country: Japan
ANCIENT CHINA
The ancient Chinese clothing consisted mostly of robes. While women wore lengthy tunics that reached the ground, men wore tunics that reached their knees. The sleeves of the garments were wide, and loose fitting. The original ancient Chinese clothing was referred to as the Han Chinese clothing. The outfit was called the Hanfu.

20th CENTURY
Qipao is like a wonderful blossom in China’s brightcolored fashion scene. Because of its unique charm, many women wear it to show their special grace. The Chinese tunic Zhongshan Zhuang [after Sun Yat-Sen, Romanized as Sun Zhongshan] is known in the West as the Mao suit. Mao jacket is a light jacket with a high collar. It was worn by Chinese people during 1980s.

MODERN
Modern Chinese fashion tends to simulate the western fashion trends. However, Chinese fashion designers started to design clothing that is mixed traditional with modern elements. China is expected to become the largest fashion market within the next five years.
Model: Salman Alanazi
Country: Saudi Arabia
1930s - 1940s, Taiwanese fashion can be described as the golden age of cheongsam. The cheongsam was influenced by Chinese culture from the capital city Shanghai. 1940s - 1960s, with the influence of Western dress, the bodice cheongsam improved to be more narrow with more fitted sleeves, and gradually became popular among women.

1960s, the shirt waist dress survived the entire decade. The skirt got a little shorter and the collar was a bit wider. However, the dress remained a staple of the average woman. Hippy fashion was very unique and popular in the 1960’s. Taiwanese fashion in this period was influenced by music and protests. People dressed in jeans and casual clothing.

1980s, spiritual and cultural aspects of the Western movement led to the social rights of women. It created equal employment opportunities between men and women. Specifically, the suit began to be seen as formal dress, big shoulder pads were also popular because it gave a strong look. Skirts were bold and innovative including bright colors and the use of nylon. Pants were tight and made with leather and washed jeans.

Nowadays, Taiwanese dress code is influenced by Korean style such as K pop, street fashion and plain clothes. Many women feel that wearing neutral style as single product is not only comfortable but also surprisingly sexy. For men, they tend to dress as metrosexual. It refers to the neat appearance and muscular combination. Three essential accessories are cap, round neck shirt, and topcoat.
Model: Celia Mok
Country: Hong Kong
Despite popular belief, Cosplay did not come from Japan but America. The first documented cosplayer was a Science Fiction fan named Forrest J. Ackerman who attended the 1931 "1st World’s Science Fiction Convention" in Caravan Hall, New York. He wore a futuristic costume based on the "Pulp Magazine" art of Frank R. Paul. He was the only one in costume at the convention. When asked about his costume he said, "I thought everyone should be in costume for this". Since then the trend of wearing costumes to conventions and events caught on.

The term cosplay was coined in 1984 by Nobuyuki Takahashi, a reporter for a Japanese magazine called "My Manga". He wrote about the costumes he had seen at the 1984 World’s Science Fiction Convention in Los Angeles, CA. He referred to the act as Cosplay (Kosupre as pronounced in Japan). Thus the term Cosplay was born.

Today Cosplay is enjoyed all over the world. However, in America, it is mostly seen at Comic/Anime conventions and special events. There are those who casually do Cosplay, and those who do Cosplay for a living. Fans cosplay characters from books, movies, comics, anime and Manga. So next time you see someone Cosplaying around San Jose or even around the globe, ask the person about their cosplay. Learn what the hobby means to them. Explore it.
Model: Tony Stritch
Country: USA
In about 1850, Kimonos were so expensive that only the rich could buy a new Kimono. However, most people bought used Kimonos from second hand shops.

After 1860, the military and the nobility started wearing western style clothes. However, most people still wore Kimonos. Only the privileged could wear western style clothes.

During the war period (about 1940), the Japanese government instituted uniforms for men to deal with wartime shortages. For women, the uniforms were called "Monpe" and they were also encouraged to wear them. People at this time could not afford to enjoy fashion.

Almost all Japanese people don’t wear Kimonos daily anymore. We wear it only for special occasions. Western style clothes have become widely used among all ages. Who would want to wear expensive and binding clothes like Kimono, when you can buy a T-shirt for around 5 dollars?
GREEK

Model: Julia Adams
Country: USA
Djelaba is one of many Moroccan traditional dresses. What’s special about this dress is that women in Morocco wear it on a daily basis because it’s comfortable to wear. The difference between the Djelaba for women and for men is the style. Women also wear it more often than men.

Jabador is considered a formal dress in Morocco. Men usually wear it on special occasions such as weddings and religious days.

Kaftan is similar to Djelaba. The only differences are the style and purpose. Kaftan doesn’t have a hoodie like Djelaba and also women wear the Kaftan on special occasions just like the Jabador for men.

This is a traditional dress of the native people of Morocco. It is called Amazigh. This dress is just one of many traditional dresses they wear on a daily basis or for special occasions.

All these traditional dresses don’t just represent the past but people in Morocco still wear them nowadays. Some of them we wear everyday, and there are others we can only wear for special events such as weddings.
MOROCCAN

Model: Ismail Qaisoumi
Country: Morocco
Fashion, what is it? Where does it come from? And when does it change? No one really understands fashion. Really most of the time it is just how you as a person feel comfortable, along with what is acceptable in your country, state, or city. To say that what I show you today represents the fashion of my generation would be incorrect. So let’s just say that the styles that I put are what I, at one point in my life, have felt comfortable using.

Honestly the style I can really remember first is probably the worst one, it is one that icons such as Eminem aka Marshall Mathers rocked from the early 2000s to 2007ish. It included baggy pants and the jeans were so baggy that some guys really just showed their underwear or shorts if they used them under. This phenomenon is also known as sagging. For shirts, guys would use shirts that were normally oversized. Being raised in the in the US, one thing that has been consistent has been the choice in footwear in the early 2000s including Jordans, air force ones, and Vans. They were so popular that artists sadly made song, of these shoes all too often. Toward the end of this era, we briefly got the full zip up jackets that my cousins and I affectionately called the thumb jacket because when fully zipped up, you look like a thumb no matter what’s the image of the face on the hoodie.

Let’s fast forward to 2009ish, the clothes for guys are getting a lot more fitted to the point where the jeans get a new style called skinny jeans. To some, this is called the jerking movement as it is the time when the song “you’re a jerk” came out. People were hitting the cat daddy and jerk as dance moves. Now this was one of the few times when the change in style was drastic. We went from stereotypical hood ghetto clothes to a more skater vibe. The type of shoes ranged from basketball shoes to skate shoes. Thanks to wiz khalifa and his Taylor gang, converse got big again. Other than the jeans hugging guys’ legs like leggings hugging girls’ legs today, these skinny jeans often came in very vibrant colors. It was really a time when anything and everything was a go, for a short time we even replaced shoe laces with belts.

We move on to 2012ish, a fairly new artist is hot in the rap/hip hop world. His name is Tyga. His music was ok but it was not until he and Chris Brown began to use the retro snapback and strap back hats that they made a mark in the fashion sense of many young guys. Before every hat that was ever cool was fitted. For a short time we even kept the tags on our shoes and hats.
How do you describe the fashion sense of a nation without a unified culture that changes styles roughly every 10 years at most? In this incomplete, totally biased guide, I will try to do just that, or at least to give highlights. When humanity finally invents the time machine, you, dear reader, will be prepared and very stylish indeed.

The Pilgrim — To be completely honest with you, the clothing of some of our first Americans, like most things in American history, have been greatly mythologized over time. Needless to say, the settlers that came to Massachusetts around 1620 wore a variety of clothes and many other colors besides black, and would not be caught dead with buckles on their hats. However, the stereotype pictured here is what I will go with. If you are an American, there’s a pretty good chance that you were forced to wear this as a child.

The Revolutionary — While we were eager to break our bonds with Great Britain in 1776, English fashion remained very much in vogue during the eighteenth century. Men’s clothing began to feature cravats around this period, and the suit look that ultimately provides the basis for what formal wear in America has turned out to be started to take shape. Women’s dress consists of gowns and petticoats during this period. And, if you ever find yourself in Colonial Williamsburg, don’t forget your tri-cornered hat. It was in style then. Also, a friendly note from someone who deals with them in opera productions: wigs, especially eighteenth-century wigs, are the worst. That is all.

The Pioneer — As many Americans moved West (often either on foot or by wagon), a far simpler style of dress began to prevail. Men’s costumes started to become slightly similar to what it is now, with much more fitted clothing and the added suspenders for good measure. (Also, facial hair really became trendy at this time.) Women typically wore long skirts and aprons while making the journey. The bonnet also was a common accessory during this period.

The Old Westerner — Fashion stays pretty similar for this period. New additions to the wardrobe that take place during this time are the Stetson cowboy hat (1865) and Levi blue jeans, created in 1873 for the benefit for gold miners and cowboys. I mention this because these two clothing items probably define American fashion far more than anything else that I could possibly mention.

The Hipster — Why did I choose this to represent contemporary American fashion? Well, the bohemian style of the hipster, like American clothing, can be diverse and hard to define. Common trends in both involve checkered patterns, tight jeans, well-thought out fashion, and many scarves. For more information, check out this picture of hipster Santa. He’s amazing.
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INTERNATIONALLY-INSPIRED PANCAKE BREAKFAST
IT’S A CULTURAL THING!