The art of reinvention

In this edition of Best Closets in Canada, Toronto's vintage queen, Kealan Sullivan, shares her life in style and self-expression.

AS TOLD TO LAURA DE CARUFEL
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JENNA MARIE WAKANI

EARLY DAYS

My grandmother used to take me to a local church shop and I'd get crazy cute baby clothes for my dolls. Then I noticed that there were high-person things there, too. At that time, it was just weird stuff. Then it became, "Oh, weird stuff!" I was wearing my grandmother's flannel shirts and tee-shirt blouses. There was nothing ironic about it—I thought it was really cool.

Then, when I was 12, I visited a really small town [Gravenhurst, Ont.], which made me realize that I was different from other people. If I showed you pictures from that time, I dress exactly the same now. I'm wearing oversized white T-shirts and really clashy prints that I found at the Salvation Army.

HIGH FASHION PERIOD

I left [Gravenhurst] when I was 19, and when I was 21, very accidentally, I became a model. I went to an Aerosmith concert and someone said, "You should be a model!" I was like, "Yeah, sounds great. What's it mean?" Suddenly I had all those really glamorous friends—it was just handed to me. My whole life came from that.

I looked at modelling—a more mainstream mould, but I just embodied anxiety! [laughs] My friend told me, "Just keep being you—dress how you dress." So I went to Italy rocking the same clothes I probably still have—really high-waisted bell bottoms and super-low-rise '60s patterned pants. Any jobs I got booked for, I'm convinced that's why—all the other girls were statuesque and wearing all black. Fashion got me through a lot of doors.

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What SPF do I actually need?
All your burning sunscreen Qs answered

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The new "green" beauty
The prettiest picks of the cannabis-infused crop

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Clearing the smoke
Put an lifestyle essential to be big biz.
But what does it mean?

PAGE 6

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ONE OF A KIND SALE

It's our Anniversary Sale!
Shop brand-new arrivals at super-sale prices.
Starts July 20 and ends August 5.

NORDSTROM
Visit nordstrom.com/anniversarysaleca
When it comes to tanning, faux is the only way to go, dermatologists have taught me. Years of interviewing beauty writers, I shun the sun the rest of the time, as my reflection in the mirror feels more serene—i.e., nothing instantly makes me look more radiant or radiant than a tan. I still relish a tawny gleam’s taste, I still relish a tawny gleam’s taste. Though I am not a sun worshipper, I am not a sun worshipper, I do respect tans. But here’s a reality check from the But here’s a reality check from the SunAwareness Working Group. “So but here’s a reality check from the SunAwareness Working Group. “So it’s supposed to do—protect you from sun damage and protect you from sun damage and prevent skin cancer,” says Kuritzky. Stashing your sunscreen in a prevent skin cancer,” says Kuritzky. Stashing your sunscreen in a pocketbook, or in your purse, will make it more likely to get口袋book, or in your purse, will make it more likely to get used. But it won’t do that. 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I spent my childhood obsessed with the horror that was my freckles. I counteracted them with the key to my imagined normalization, and I screened everything from the sun to my own arm, which feels like the snap of a rubber band. Each time I count you down and then…zap!

After five treatments, Helena does some follow-up work. “You look good,” says another friend, people, I mean my now jealous girlfriends. “We’re going to get a sunhat for the first time in my life,” I declare. I’m so dewy, smoother—like I’m five times the age of my visage. Before each IPL treatment, I bathe myself in sunscreen like a madwoman, reapplying through my six sessions, I bathe myself in sunscreen up to my face at all times. I’m so dewy, so smooth, so sun-safe. “You’re a sun goddess,” says one person who’s always been around. I’m so smooth, I’m so healthy, I’m so sun-safe. The sun’s gone. The sun is done. The sun isn’t needed. The sun isn’t needed. The sun isn’t needed. The sun isn’t needed.

“Stop that!”

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It’s the sale you’ve been waiting for

Nordstrom Anniversary Sale is on! The once-yearly, not-to-be-missed event offers outstanding savings on brand-new arrivals—for a limited time. We rounded up our top fall shopping picks plus plenty of pretty buy-now-wear-now pieces you can scoop up from July 20 through August 5.

CREATE A HEAD-TO-TOE WORKWEAR LOOK FOR $250

OFFICE UNIFORM
Polished plaid, structured suiting, and ultra-feminine add-ons amp up your workwear wardrobe.

ALL UNDER $150

MADE FOR MEN
Get him geared up with sophisticated separates, top-notch accessories and trendy outerwear (hello, pale pink puffer jacket).

ALL UNDER $50

KIDS’ CORNER
Send your littles back to school in style with wash-and-wear joggers and statement-making tees.

SCORE A CHIC LEATHER JACKET FOR ALMOST HALF THE PRICE

WEEDND WARRIOR
Hit the streets in fashion-forward separates, topped with wear-anywhere accessories and trendy outerwear (hello, pale pink puffer jacket).

LOUNGE LIFE
Upgrade a night in with a super-soft sweater, sleek, slipper-like shoes and luxe pajama sets.

SAVE ALMOST $350 ON A DESIGNER BAG!

FREE ALTERATIONS & TAILORING
Get the perfect fit with complimentary alterations on all your Anniversary Sale purchases. Nordstrom experts will ensure your new pieces are in order, and they’ll even come at no extra cost.

HASSELE-FREE RETURNS
Purchase at your convenience knowing that Nordstrom will return your items for free (if at Nordstrom stores or Nordstrom.com) or you can opt for same-day delivery within 2 hours if at Nordstrom stores (Toronto and Vancouver only).

CURBSIDE PICK-UP OR SAME-DAY DELIVERY
Nordstrom will bring your Anniversary Sale goodies to your local Nordstrom store for only $15! Or you can opt for same-day delivery within 2 hours if at Nordstrom stores (Toronto and Vancouver only).

BEST-IN-CLASS EXPERTISE
Nordstrom Style Experts are here to help. Let them find the best of the best during the Anniversary Sale in-person or online with a Beauty Stylist who can share helpful tips and tailored product recommendations.

VISIT NORDSTROM FOR THE ULTIMATE SHOPPING EXPERIENCE
Lighting up is now Cannabis-approved way to relax.

Like crystals, yoga and verse from the Gospel, cannabis has no calendar. “After all, just three years after legalization, and she says, cannabis sales have zipped past alcohol of which was for ‘illegal purposes’ (i.e., no pain, no gain). In 2019, U.S. consumers spent $5.7 billion on cannabis—90 per cent of which was for medicinal use. ‘Illegal purposes’ (i.e., no pain, no gain) is, at the very least, Jade Egg curious. “If you go to most smoke shops, the products are pretty masculine and perpetuate that stoner stereotype,” says Chacras, the founder of Montreal-based Mini Moon clutch. “These emerging leaders include Camille Chacras, the founder of Montreal-based Fleurish, Canada’s first female-centric cannabis wellness company. Translation: ‘We need to make people feel good, we need to bring long cannabis to bath bombs, lip balms, even the bidet dual.’(MALIN + GOETZ)

It sounds like a verse from the Gospel of Goop, that’s kind of the point. Much like crystals, yoga and tunic laser, cannabis is increasingly being positioned as a therapeutic good, a lifestyle indulgence with health benefits aimed at separating the smart consumer who can organically, price-sensitively and is, at the very least, Judas Riff curious. “If you do a Venn diagram with medicinal use and recreational use as the two circles, right there in the overlap you’ve got well-covered—‘It is, at the very least, Jade Egg curious. ‘If you go to most smoke shops, the products are pretty masculine and perpetuate that stoner stereotype,” says Chacras, the founder of Montreal-based Mini Moon clutch. “These emerging leaders include Camille Chacras, the founder of Montreal-based Fleurish, Canada’s first female-centric cannabis wellness company. Translation: ‘We need to make people feel good, we need to bring long cannabis to bath bombs, lip balms, even the bidet dual.’(MALIN + GOETZ)

1. This vegan, cruelty-free, biodegradable, ‘high’ volume lash primer will leave your rich lashes looking lush, long and luscious.
2. A drooping swirl of kush-kissed, patchouli-scented and utterly cool, cannabis-inspired perfume.
3. The perfect homepage of stoner chic, the Stash vase for discreetly tucks into your Mansur Gavriel mini purse. “If you go to most smoke shops, the products are pretty masculine and perpetuate that stoner stereotype,” says Chacras, the founder of Montreal-based Mini Moon clutch. “These emerging leaders include Camille Chacras, the founder of Montreal-based Fleurish, Canada’s first female-centric cannabis wellness company. Translation: ‘We need to make people feel good, we need to bring long cannabis to bath bombs, lip balms, even the bidet dual.’(MALIN + GOETZ)
4. Inspired by the herbal remedies of ancient peoples, this tea is steeped with the legendary Wild Yam, used for all things uterine, and a touch of cannabis to ramp up the mood.
5. In order to maintain its vegan, sustainable focus, everything in the ASCHE X BLUNTED collection is made with zero plastic and zero waste. RAquel Kurch (Chiclet), the formula feeds into latches for ‘truth’ volume.
6. On your next trip to Goodness Me, stop by the beauty section to pick up this organic lipid treatment, Choc oil for silky butter, coconut and hemp seed oil, it’ll leave you wanting your lips at all times.
7. ACID back in the big days. Add a pop of colour with these matt, matte lip tints.
8. The perfect lip balm that’s 100% natural, organic, cruelty-free, and made in Canada.
9. The pemam’s rosewood crystal ashtray is all the rage on Instagram.
10. A vapourizer of your choice, with these matt, matte lip tints. A vapourizer made for the bath and beyond, it can be used to hold your smoking accessories.

IS THE POT NEW ROSE?

Cannabis is poised to be the next essential of the Goop generation.

Sarah Laing clears the smoke on the latest lifestyle trend

ILLUSTRATION BY MADISON VAN RIJN

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“The jacket is made from one of a few different pairs of jeans: under it is a brass studded denim piece from my first reworked collection, Wild Child, in 2016. The purple boots are Versace. I snatched them from a friend and claimed the rights to them. He’s a size 10 men—I wear them because he can’t.”

“Style tip: Never put your hat on while looking in the mirror. Like a scarf or a top knot, it looks best when it happens naturally.”

“I inherited this kimono from a friend who gave it to me with the promise that I’d never sell it. It’s reversible, it can be worn as a jacket or belted as a dress—it would probably even look amazing rapped upside down as a skirt. I just thought of that now! I’ll try it.”

“The art of reinvention
CONTINUED FROM COVER

I was having fun, travelling, but I started to wonder, “What am I going to do?” I was buying clothing constantly in Kensington Market and selling it after I’d worn it once. Like, “I love that thing!” I have to have it. Now it’s done.” I had to sell those clothes to maintain that habit and that’s actually how the transition to working in vintage was made.

THE BUSINESS BEGINS
In 2014, I opened 69 Vintage on Queen West in Toronto, and over the next few years, I opened other vintage locations. Retail was exciting and exhausting. It was challenging to stay up to my own standards. I had to have constant stock of the best stuff—the right stuff. You can’t have a beautiful blazer and have it be a terrible fabric. You can’t have an amazing taffeta shirt and have it be a terrible cut. No, no, no, no! “The ‘no’ is what I lived for. The ‘yes’ is what I took over.”

The anxiety crept up. I also thought about the future. Was I going to be on Queen Street at 50? Eventually, I got down to one beautiful boutique where I was happiest. I thought it was the beginning of a new era, but physically my body had different plans. The anxiety crept up. I also had a legitimate health scare that convinced me to make a real change.

As for my own closet, it represents less than 10% of my personal collection. Every month, I like to cycle items in and out. It keeps things fresh. I have the thought of closing out full of things that aren’t being worn. I’m not a big believer of hanging up clothes that represent how I’m living and living in the present. The boots I have on my shelf, the bags I have on my hooks; the belts I have on my hooks; the shoes I have on are the pieces I’m working into my look of the moment. Last year, I sold 500 pieces of my personal collection, items I wore in my 20s through to my late 30s.

There are few wearable items that are more artful, durable, versatile, tough and timeless than a cowboy boot. “There are few wearable items that are timeless than a cowboy boot.”

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THE NEXT CHAPTER
I wanted to experience my life without fashion as my identity, so I started wearing only my boyfriend’s clothes and clothes from Winners. I had eight things hanging in my closet, a pair of boyfriend’s clothes and clothes from Winners.

I hate the thought of closets and out. It keeps things fresh. I have the thought of closing out full of things that aren’t being worn. I’m not a big believer of hanging up clothes that represent how I’m living and living in the present. The boots I have on my shelf, the bags I have on my hooks; the belts I have on my hooks; the shoes I have on are the pieces I’m working into my look of the moment. Last year, I sold 500 pieces of my personal collection, items I wore in my 20s through to my late 30s. Every piece had a personal story and every customer had to endure those stories! It was a great reset, and the best part in the change for me to start collecting all over again.

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It’s our Anniversary Sale!
Shop brand-new arrivals at super-sale prices. Starts July 20 and ends August 5. Prices go up August 6.