

Finding the Right Fall Footwear

Crystal Pickard, Contributing Writer

Now that you are all stocked up on fall apparel, the question remains: what shoes can I wear? Not to worry, I have five leading fashion footwear trends for fall that have hit runways from Milan to New York. With these great trends, you are sure to find a look that is right for you.

Boots are always a timeless classic for fall. From thigh-highs to booties, there are many chic styles from which to choose. This season, lace-up boots are sure to vamp up any ensemble, whether your style is girly or grunge. Over-the-knee boots are making a statement this fall, as well as thigh-highs for the more daring; find a pair with a Robin Hood-style fold-over cuff, and you have the "it" piece of the season. Riding boots have arrived on the scene again as well. These flat boots offer comfort and versatility that can be dressed up or down for any occasion. Cowboy boots are an old time favorite and are here to stay. Update yours with bold embellishments for a fresh look. Wedge heels are comfortable and sophisticated fall shoes. Unlike stilettos, these heels are easier to walk in while still providing stylish height. Wear a boot with a wedge heel to work and you'll have two trends with just one shoe!

Menswear inspired loafers or oxfords are vintage chic, a very popular look for this fall. Yves Saint Laurent was one of the first designers who created menswear inspired looks for women in 1966 with his tuxedo suit for women, and today menswear style for women adds clean cut taste to any form of apparel. Oxfords add a vintage appeal and effortless class to any outfit. My personal favorite is a form of footwear that offers comfort and style: the pointy-toed flat. This shoe is not only great for walking around campus or the office all day, but it also elongates the leg line giving the illusion of height as a more comfortable alternative to towering heels for nighttime wear. Try a pair in a bright hue, like violet or magenta, to add a pop of color to your wardrobe.



photo from <http://smartcanucks.ca/2006/12/>

Finally, clogs have also made their way back...and whether you choose to participate in their comeback or not, there is no denying that clogs are here to stay. Even designers such as Coach and Christian Louboutin are offering new makes of these shoes. But don't be fooled into thinking these are your mom's clogs. The style for clogs this fall is a chic, pointy (not clunky) heel. Slip on a pair with fur trimming and you'll be able to rock them this winter, too.

No matter what you're wearing this fall, pair your ensemble with a trendy shoe to complete the look. Try a pointy flat with a pair of denim trousers or a bootie with a skinny jean. Get your money's worth out of your riding boots by pairing them with skirts and pants for any occasion. Pick and choose the trends that fit your personal style and experiment with new looks. You may be surprised at what you can pull off!

Teen Mom: An Essay

Rebecca Brodney, Staff Writer

There are some shows on television that I simply cannot bring myself to watch. Frankly, I would nail my own kneecaps to the floor before trying to sit through MTV's "Teen Mom." The show was conceived, no pun intended, to show how difficult it is

to be a teenage mother, and as a sequel to MTV's show "16 and Pregnant." In "Teen Mom," we meet Farrah Abraham, Maci Bookout, Amber Portwood, and Catelynn Lowell, who all became pregnant while still in high school. As an audience, we get to feel like voyeurs while we learn more about their personal lives than we ever wanted to know.

Farrah Abraham is the mother of Sophia Abraham. Sophia's father, Derek Underwood, was killed in a car accident before her birth. We watch Farrah fumble and question her parenting abilities regularly. After giving birth to Sophia, Farrah tries to live as normal of a teenage life as possible. She quickly realizes, however, that having a baby changes everything. Her whines and gripes consist of being broke and having various family dramas.

Maci Bookout is probably the most responsible "Teen Mom." She and her then-boyfriend Ryan's union resulted in her son Bentley. At the end of the first season, Maci and Ryan broke up. Maci manages to juggle college classes as well as being an adequate parent. However, she makes a questionable decision- moving away to date an old friend of hers, Kyle. Naturally, after she moves, Kyle breaks things off with her because he feels that being with her and Bentley is "too much."

Amber Portwood is more than likely one of the worst parents I have ever observed in my life. She and her boyfriend Gary are the parents of Leah.

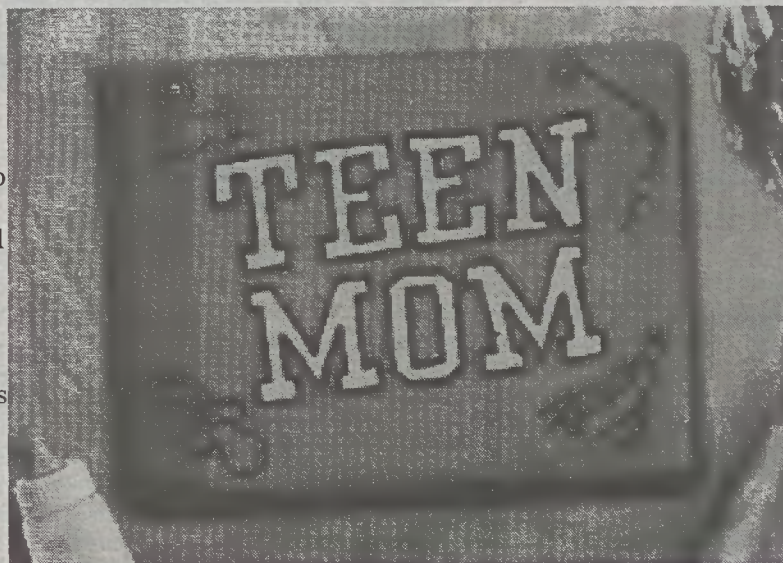


photo from <http://blogs.babble.com/famecrawler/2010/09/19/mtvs-teen-mom-modern-day-birth-control/>

Amber has dropped out of high school since she learned she was pregnant and is struggling to procure her GED. Amber and Gary cannot seem to decide if they want to be together or not. On many an occasion, Amber is filmed slapping and/or hitting Gary in front of their daughter. As of late, the county police have been investigating the domestic violence.

Finally, there is Catelynn Lowell. Prior to giving birth to her daughter Carly, she and her boyfriend Tyler decided that adoption was the best route for them to go. Catelynn and Tyler are both featured on the show, although one cannot be entirely sure why. After all, Catelynn isn't actively a teenage mother. Shouldn't she be considered just a teenager at this point?

The show "Teen Mom" appears to be a cautionary tale to sexually active teenagers. Yet, it is exploiting and glamorizing teenage pregnancy. In recent issues of US Weekly and People Magazine, Maci and Farrah have both had cover stories in which they share their struggles. With the two most conventionally beautiful of the teen moms gracing the covers of magazines, it is almost as if a message is being sent that if you are an attractive teenage mother, everything will be just fine.

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