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January 2011

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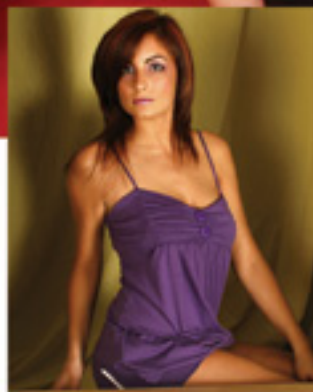
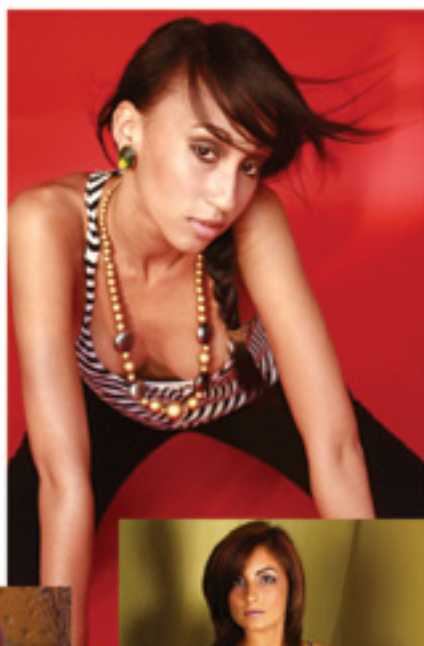


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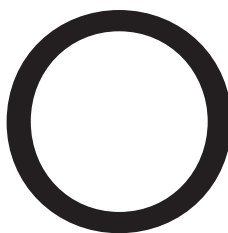


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FASHION IN REVIEW: BETSEY JOHNSON



Betsey Johnson Logo from
Flickr.com)



k, if fun, funky & bohemian chic describe your sense of style then Betsey Johnson is a label you definitely need to explore! The New York based designer incorporates all that's whimsical and free in life and combines it in an unexpected way for the sake of fashion.

Betsey Johnson exclusively caters to women in the form of clothing, footwear, accessories, and jewelry. For fall 2010, the price points for clothing ranges from \$38-\$470; price points for footwear range from \$150-\$250; price points for accessories range from \$38-\$360; and price points for jewelry range from \$31-\$154.

In terms of fit, Betsey Johnson's clothes aren't for the faint of heart! From the flirty frilly party dresses that are no longer than mid-thigh to the tight Graffiti leggings, this label is for those who are confident in their style and conscious that much skin will be exposed in her designs. Strapless, short, feminine and youthful are some of the best adjectives to describe the fall 2010 collection. My favorite dress, that I definitely will be purchasing, is the 'Evening Pleated Organza Tiered Dress' in Raspberry. I love it because it is sexy and looks good on a multitude of complexions. As for shoes, the refreshing use of color, pattern and tall heels is in full swing in her shoes, boots and sandals. 'Iridescence', a hot pink glitter peep-toe pump is as versatile as it is eye-catching and is a great compliment to the equally hot pink 'Wing It' suede mid-calf boots. But not to worry, if hot pink isn't your thing, Betsey Johnson offers a wide variety of more tame and elegant footwear, like 'Niobe' knee boots in black suede and the 'Ice' black glitter classic pump. The accessories available from Betsey Johnson range from sunglasses, leg wear, scarves, handbags and a signature fragrance. If jewelry is more up your alley when it comes to accessorizing there are many bracelets, large cocktail rings, earrings, watches and pins. The great thing about the accessories and jewelry is that the theme is sparkle and glam. This means you can easily use these pieces to accent other outfits with the same vibe.

My conclusion is, no matter what your normal mode of style is, if you want to add a refreshing splash of the unexpected + a pop of outrageous color Betsey Johnson is a label to try. Some of my favorite pieces for fall are the 'Ignite' booties in leopard satin, t-strap 'Impress' velvet sandals, the Knit Russian Fur Jacket, and the 'Flocked Taffeta Lace Corset' in grey. Don't be afraid of a little color or unfamiliar cuts, just take the plunge and try Betsey Johnson today, you'll be as hooked as I am in no time. Good Luck & Happy Shopping!

“Making clothes involves what I like color, pattern, shape and movement. I like the everyday process; people, the pressure, the surprise of seeing the work come alive walking and dancing around on strangers. Like red lipstick on the mouth, my products wake up and brighten and bring the wearer to life! Drawing attention to her beauty and specialness, her moods and movements, her dreams and fantasies.”

Betsey Johnson

About the Author: Sasha is a fashion addict, accomplished fashion stylist, avid blogger, and writer. Got questions, comments or want a consultation? Then contact her at: sashabowmanshops@yahoo.com.



AS

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The end of a great night....

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Model: Marena Montagnaro
Photographer: Jim Dundon













A black and white profile photograph of a man's head and shoulders, facing left. He has dark, wavy hair and is wearing a dark jacket with a visible zipper. The background is a light, neutral color with soft shadows.

Fashion Edge

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Model: Ana Lebron
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Model: Kristin
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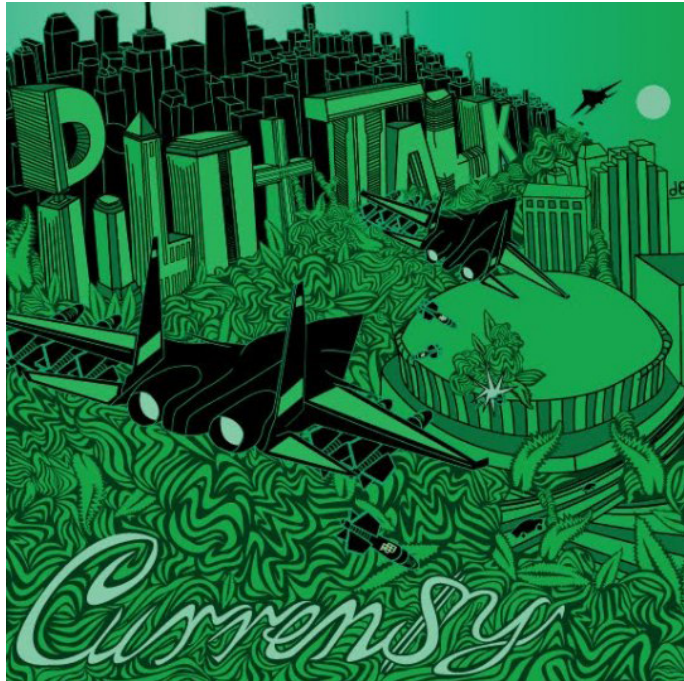


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Review:

Curren\$y - Pilot Talk II

BY BEN BERRIOS

With Curren\$y & the infectious weed smoking anthem, & ode to Knight Rider called "Michael Knight" was a way to drop his new album "Pilot Talk II" & the vibe of the whole album isn't about chilling and getting high but; an adventure through the mind of Curren\$y & the swag that he brings. You would never know that he's from New Orleans because his vocal delivery doesn't show it, at the same time his slow flow rides the beats so well on tracks like "Famous", "Montreux" & even the dope "Michael Knight" remix featuring Raekwon the Chef (Yes that Raekwon from WTC).

This album is slow, dope grinding vibes in where you're not into that type of culture, you'll still enjoy it, because of the connectivity the album shows, it feels like it was built as one thing without a conglomerate of producers. This album has the cohesive sound, regardless of how you feel about these new cats lyrical game, respect the ear for good beats.

Overall the album is a solid 3 out of 5 stars, for the fact that sometimes the lyrics are monotonous and don't do anything for the listener but, cover the same topics over & over again. The album is well put together with most of the production covered by Ski Beatz & The Senseis which are the same production team that help put together the 1st Pilot Talk album. Regardless this sounds dope but, STEP UP YOUR GAME LYRICALLY, I know people say they don't listen to the lyrics but they do.

FOO FIGHTERS' NEW ALBUM, GROHL'S BLASTS FROM THE PAST

It's been a while since Dave Grohl slammed the music scene with new Foo Fighters material. It's been even longer since he's worked with Butch Vig, producer of Nirvana's *Nevermind*, & Krist Novoselic, bassist for the band. &, presumably because he's Dave Grohl, he can now roll back clocks. The trio has reunited to work on a new Foo Fighters album due out in 2011. "Going back to make an album with a producer you've worked with before is not unlike going back & [having sex with] a girlfriend you had 20 years ago," Grohl said in an interview with Q magazine. "It can either be really good or a total [bleeping] disaster."

For Grohl, it seems as if the heat in the relationship hasn't cooled down in 20 years. On working with Vig, he said, "it was perfectly natural & totally comfortable and he's the same person he was 20 years ago."

The level of familiarity also may have had something to do with setting, which was especially important to Grohl when it came to recording.

"Rather than just record the album in the most expensive studio with the most state-of-the-art equipment," he states, "what if Butch and I were to get back together after 20 years and dust off the tape machines and put them in my garage?"

"I literally backed the minivan out of the garage, pulled the lawnmower out, put a drum set in it & set up mics."

So with Grohl, Vig, and a set of drums in a garage, there was only one piece missing from the 90's grunge nostalgia puzzle (with, sadly, the exception of a permanently missing piece): Novoselic. The former Nirvana bassist, who has kept in contact with Grohl over the years, will make a guest appearance on the forthcoming Foo Fighters album on a track Grohl considers to be the "darkest song on the album," which is more than understandable considering their history and how they've been able to persevere past the tragic death of friend and frontman of Nirvana, Kurt Cobain. Even seeing Novoselic becomes a very emotional ordeal.

"One of the things about the expanded Nirvana family, it doesn't matter how much time has passed, when you see each other you're immediately connected by that, by the good and bad things. When I see Krist, I hug him to celebrate our lives, but I also hug him to console him."

While recording, Grohl did admit it felt a bit weird to be in a room with Vig and Novoselic for as long as they were, but there was nothing weird about the music. In fact, maybe setting played a larger role than Grohl had originally anticipated. Grohl has stated the upcoming Foo Fighters album is the heaviest to date.

"There's a song called 'A Matter of Time,' which is one of the sweetest melodies I've ever written, but it has one of the heaviest riffs. Then there's a song called 'White Limo,' which has such a badass riff it's [bleeping] insane. It makes you want to break into someone's car & steal their stereo."

While heavy riffs and a grungy haze weren't necessarily what put the Foo Fighters on the map, it would be hard to expect much else from three integral parts of Nirvana. No matter the direction the Foo's have decided to take, one thing is for certain: they're just glad they've chosen one.

"Everybody's batteries are so recharged, we're just gonna come out with our wheels [bleeping] whirring. We're gonna do as much as we can." - Patrick McNulty

FRANZ FERDINAND SET FOR BIG RETURN

If you have a set of happy feet and your only cure is the rambunctiously hip swaying sound of rock band Franz Ferdinand, then you may very well be in luck. Since their last album release in 2009, *Tonight: Franz Ferdinand*, the band has been relatively quiet and their fans relatively still. Of course, dedicated Franz followers, who are starved and deprived for their hypnotizing melodies, may now be squirming in their seats in anticipation for anything remotely close to Franz Ferdinand, (even if the Archduke himself rises from the dead). But fear not! The band is reportedly looking to hit the live stage once more.

After completing a series of secret shows in November, their first live performances since 2009, Franz Ferdinand are set to return in a big way. And what better stage for the boys from Scotland to hit than the one set up by their own friends. It's rumored that Franz Ferdinand will be appearing at the All Tomorrow's Parties held in the UK in December, curated by fellow Scots Belle and Sebastian.

"The Bowlie Weekender was what started off All Tomorrow's Parties, so it is a special show for Belle and Sebastian," an unnamed source close to the band said. "And the lineup is a bit of a who's who of Scottish Indie from the last 30 years—Edwyn Collins, Camera Obscura, Teenage Fan club—I mean, there's only really one name missing from that list—and it's Franz."

In February of last year, the band was said to be back in the studio recording new material for their fourth album. Nearly a year later, the assumption is still assumed as the band has not commented on the new album or the rumor for their upcoming appearance at All Tomorrow's Parties. Over the course of the last year, the key word for Franz Ferdinand has been secrecy. But for fans of the band, all they care about is the music, which is sure to come in due time. And while Franz Ferdinand stirs and prepares for their return, fans are already standing, swaying, and waiting for the band to take them out. Hell, maybe it'll even happen as soon as the All Tomorrow's Parties. - Patrick McNulty

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