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WOULD YOU BUY A PAIR OF DIRTY SHOES?

Converse unveil their new range of scuffed-up sneakers

AILSA LESLIE

LONDON: Most of us throw out shoes when they get too tattered, but trainer giant Converse is banking on the, er, converse.

With its Well Worn collection, out this month, it's hoping to tempt shoppers into buying sneakers which have been made to look deliberately dirty, apparently because there is "nothing like your scuffed up old comfy pair".

The Chuck Taylor Washed Canvas shoes come in colours such as pink, turquoise and baby blue, with stained sole and toe caps, and dirtied, thinner laces.

They cost a mere £55 (about R756) – definitely more expensive than buying a second-hand pair.

But at least this is one trend you can get for free. Just continue wearing your current shoes, rain or shine, and you'll achieve the new fashion soon enough. – Daily Mail



WHAT KIND OF SHOES DO MEN LOVE TO SEE YOU IN?

Your Crocs might be comfy in the kitchen, but they seriously dent his idea of you as a vamp. Helen Grange finds out what footwear gets him going, and doesn't.

SO YOU'RE a shoe woman, with dozens of pairs in your wardrobe and an eye for shoe fashion? But the question is, how many of them look good on you from a man's perspective? You love all of them, but do your heels rock his world like they do yours?

A good person to get the skinny from on this is designer Errol Arendz, who says he often gets men in his stores buying what they deem to be the perfect pair of shoes for their partners.

"Some men have very specific tastes when it comes to purchasing shoes for women, and the tendency is toward shoes with a sophisticated and sleek design," says Arendz.

Radio 5fm's DJ Franky would be typical. "I like my lady in casual shoes during the day, or sneakers while she's running errands. But when she's out at dinner or at an event I like her in heels, preferably stilettos," he says.

That's not to say classic styles are always men's default position. "The more fashionable guy might follow trends and buy a more adventurous shoe," says Arendz.

TV actor, writer, producer and heart-throb Anthony Oseyemi agrees. High heels make women look "confident and powerful, a big turn-on for men".

"We love it when the heel shapes and defines their calf muscles. It drives us crazy," he says.

A word of warning, though. Be discerning about how often you wear high heels, because aside from the risk of bunions and blisters, research has found that women who wear high heels for at least 40 hours a week end up with weakened calves.

So classic designs are a winner, but what colours do men like? This might come as a surprise to women whose mothers warned them about red shoes, because red – and black – are what they prefer, for the same reason your mother raised the alarm. "In men's minds, red and black are subtle hints to one of their sexual fantasies," says Arendz.

If red it is, then make sure the shoe isn't garish because, he adds, "men find sophisticated and classy women a lot sexier than a girl who reveals a bit too much. So a pop of red to show your naughty side is what I'm talking about".

Arendz says a peep-toe high heel is a great choice "as long as your toes and feet are perfectly manicured with a pop of colour on the toes", which of course also applies to any type of sandal.

Oseyemi agrees, warning: "If your toes are slightly longer than normal, then don't wear peep-toe shoes. There's nothing worse for a guy than seeing a woman rocking the perfect outfit, only to see her toes pulling off a cliffhanger: It's just not sexy".

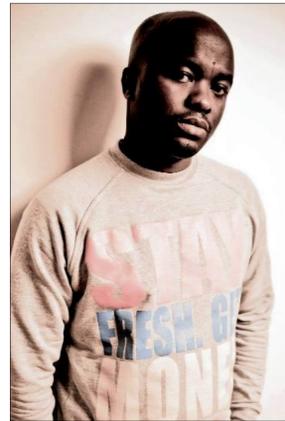
Tacky plastic heels, chunky shapeless shoes, and women who can't walk in sky-



Fashion designer Errol Arendz



TV actor Anthony Oseyemi



DJ Franky

high heels are a definite turn-off. "Men want their women to wear sexy platform, wedges for summer and a good pair of knee-high boots or ankle boots for winter," says Arendz.

Chunky often also applies to the platform-soled shoes currently in fashion. "Personally, I don't like a shoe which is too bulky on a woman's foot. A sexy shoe with a thin heel and a slight or no platform which elevates the woman wearing them is much sexier."

And baby doll shoes with a strap over the bridge of the foot? "Baby Doll shoes are a very cute girly type of shoe. If I see a girl in them I always think she's either single, or 13," says Arendz.

As winter approaches it's a good idea to heed the rules regarding boots. "Beware of boots that fit too tight around the calf. If you really like the boots, but can't quite fit your calf into them, then take them to a cobbler who can sew in an elastic wedge at a minimal cost. Also avoid boots that make your ankles look fat," warns Arendz.

Cowboy boots, he adds, will "never go out of fashion and if worn correctly drive men wild".

In case you were wondering, there is a fairly consistent market for women's shoes among transvestites. Says Arendz, "they tend to go for bigger sizes, so any shoe which gets produced in a size 8. And style-wise, anything, really".



Brooklyn Coal boots from Errol Arendz, R1 690



Olivia Coal shoes from Errol Arendz, R1 190



Angela Midnight boots from Errol Arendz, R1 290



Beth Brick shoes from Errol Arendz, R1 230

Errol Arendz shoes are sold in his stores nationwide (call 021 461 1385 for stockists), but are also available online at www.errolarendz.com

FACEBOOK VOXPOP

To get an insight into the everyday man's take on the shoes we love, I put it out there to my male friends on Facebook. Here are some of the comments that came back, showing that heels are not for every man:

"I'm not that observant of what women put on their feet – or perhaps I just don't look that far down! However, I think any shoe that limits movement for the sake of fashion is a no-go. Shoes need to walk a line between functionality and elegance."

– Brent
Plain, simple flat shoes. Flashy, bling and heels don't do it for me. But I don't like those librarian looking shoes. – Linden

High heel boots are nice – Siphon
No wedges, especially cork ones! – Lloyd

Heels play a role in accentuating the female anatomy. I like sexy stilettos and silk stockings – Lavan
There are heels, and then there are heels! The heels women wear today make me wince – first for the floor; if it's good wood, then for the

number of accidents that such dangerous footwear can cause. Definitely prefer the unshod woman. A wild Wiccan galloping across the plains of mystery and illusion. – Alun
I must admit I have always tended to regard women's shoes in much the same way I do their hairstyles – it's not being done for me, but for her. – Alameen

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QUEUE, renowned for style, quality and comfort, presents "Lady Glam", a selection of top looks for autumn/winter 2013. For more information, visit www.queueshoes.co.za or call 021 531 5450.



Queue gold dust point stiletto, R499.



Queue Wild Alice black suede heels, R499.

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