

Give your wardrobe a greater environmental conscience

by Kathleen Whalen

Center Editor

As a consumer in today's society, I often feel overwhelmed by the immense amount of apparel in the market. Who wears it all? What becomes of it when it has been worn out? How is it made? And what effect does that have on the environment? These are just a few of the questions that have prompted mindful consumers everywhere to take an interest in the growing sustainable clothing industry.

Many of the textiles used in conventional garments have a significantly negative environmental impact. However, organic cotton, hemp, bamboo, and recycled fleece are alternatives that rival their less eco-friendly counterparts. Cotton grown using organic methods needs no harmful pesticides (which run into streams and oceans), is safer for workers, and is the most widely used environmentally-friendly textile on the market. Hemp is another material that is considered environmentally friendly because hemp plants grow quickly and densely without needing any fertilizers. In addition, hemp fibers are long lasting and require minimal processing. Bamboo,



courtesy shopbop.com

like hemp, grows profusely with no need for fertilization and the resulting cloth is biodegradable. Furthermore, recycled fleece uses plastic bottles instead of raw petroleum for its production.

Finding these materials is less of a challenge due to the increasing number of brands incorporating them into their clothing. American Apparel, already known for their sweatshop-free labor, launched a line of 100% organic cotton

Wear your beliefs on your sleeve...green is the new black.

tees last year. H&M is increasing its selection for both men and women with tops, pants, outerwear, and sleepwear made from organic cotton, recycled wool, and recycled polyester. Available in all H&M stores, the garments are marked with a special tag. Both Quiksilver and its sister company, Roxy, have recently unveiled their eco-friendly lines, which include jeans, tees, and hoodies. Volcom's V. Co-Logical series uses organic cotton,



courtesy American Apparel

vegetable dyes, organic stains, hemp, and low-impact methods of production. Rainbow Sandals now makes a line of flip-flops using hemp instead of leather. Levi's, Paige Premium, Seven for all Mankind, Del Forte, and many other brands carry organic denim, and active wear company Patagonia leads the way in the concept of recycled clothing.

Of course, these are options for those who want to green-up their closet when buying new clothes. However, one person's trash may be another's

treasure. Great unique and vintage clothes can be purchased at thrift and consignment shops. Crossroads Trading Co. is a consignment store with locations in fairly close proximity to Valley Fair Mall and Oakridge Mall. Crossroads sells gently used clothes ranging from Forever 21 to designer brands. This kind of shopping has a minimal impact on the environment as you save yet another t-shirt from

entering the 68 pounds of clothing and textiles that the average American throws in the trash each year.

Buying sustainable clothing is another way to be a more mindful consumer and reduce your impact. Shopping with the planet in mind takes a little extra effort, but every dollar you spend supporting environment-friendly apparel is the equivalent of voting for it to become more mainstream. Go ahead and wear your beliefs on your sleeve...green is the new black.

Vincent Moon on YouTube

by Adrienne Blaine

Graphic Designer

Sufjan Stevens singing from the rooftops of Cincinnati, Arcade Fire performing in a cramped elevator, and Man Man using the streets of Paris as their stage. The man behind all these and many other fantastic adventures is twenty-seven year old Parisian filmmaker, Vincent Moon, also known as, Mathieu Saura, the creator of "The Takeaway Show."

La Blogothèque's Concerts A Emporter, or Take Away Shows, on YouTube challenge the traditional boundaries of the music video industry with experimental locations, lo-tech filming methods, and independent music bands from all over the world. Moon has worked in collaboration with La Blogothèque, a French music blog, to create over eighty spontaneous music videos, usually set in the streets of Paris. Moon said, "They get instruments in their hand and I've got a camera so they play guitar and I play camera, in a way."



A. Blaine

Moon's videos intimately examine musicians and the unique energy their music creates, giving the viewer a deeper insight into the emotion of each work. "I'm not really into perfect things in their final form so when we were filming I tried to be very honest with who I am and just try to catch the rhythm of the song and be there on the same level with them."

To respect the spontaneity of the moment Moon uses, "One camera. It can be edited, but one camera is it. The main point is one camera and to respect this singular thing is very important. Two cameras would kill the viewers' experience." No tripod is used. Moon often sways to the music or lets the camera shake as he walks or runs through the street. This organic movement allows the viewer to feel what it is like to

walk with their favorite musicians. By watching one of Moon's videos viewers are invited to become a part of the background, watching performances in the street with the same connection and dislocation as any other anonymous passerby.

Moon has proven that just because his movies are meant for a smaller screen does not mean they should have less impact. "The interaction should be more important on small screen than on the big screen. When you are at the cinema...You don't have your world in it [as a member of the audience]," said Moon.

The Take Away Shows are not Moon's only projects worth checking out. Fans of the band Beirut should consider Moon's videos for their new album The Flying Club Cup a must-see (flyingclubcup.com). Moon has recently turned his website (vincentmoon.com) into a launching pad for a new video project called Temporary Areas. It is an interactive map of the world with videos corresponding to each site they were filmed at ranging from Jerusalem, Israel, to Death Valley, California. "I am trying to escape the type of filming that I would do only in the US or Europe. I just want to travel a bit, enjoy it. I am bored sometimes," said Moon. Another project chronicles music festivals each narrated by a musician talking about their approach to music and life (www.atpfestival.com). Moon is also working on his first non-music oriented documentary about people from around the world who are changing their communities. Moon hopes to feature, "new architects, new thinkers, [and] new activists in their every day life."

Vincent Moon's genius can only be appreciated by watching his videos. Links to his website and videos will be posted on elgatonews.com." (Sources: CNN News, Live Music Blog, YouTube)

Take a trip to Falafel's Drive-In

by Hank Hansen

Business Manager

At first glance, Falafel's Drive-In hardly even appeared to be a functioning restaurant; the flickering neon sign and dilapidated building seemed to suggest a small, struggling business overwhelmed by the ubiquitous chains and fast-food restaurants that surround it. But as I got a closer view of the restaurant, I saw an outdoor pavilion crowded with patrons and a line that filed from the building all the way to the sidewalk. I soon realized that Falafel's Drive-In had much more to offer than its quaint, basic accommodations.

The next detail that struck me about Falafel's Drive-In was its menu, with prices that broke high school students can actually afford. Hamburgers for only three dollars caught my eye, but the deal I decided to select was a large falafel and a banana milkshake for seven dollars. This turned out to be a great decision, because the falafel was hearty, crisp, and flavorful, while the banana milkshake was a rich and creamy masterpiece that actually tasted like fresh bananas. Along with this decadent and frugal combination, I shared a hummus and



courtesy Stephen I

pita appetizer, which is a traditional Middle Eastern dish that complements a falafel meal extremely well.

Falafel is far from a common dish and many people have probably never heard of it, but any connoisseur of delicious food will no doubt be hooked on its unique taste and consistency.

The falafel dish I had at Falafel's Drive-In consisted of falafel balls (which are made of fava beans, chick peas, and spices, rolled into balls and fried), served with tomatoes, cucumbers and a uniquely spicy sauce, all wrapped up in thin layer of pita bread. I had never had anything remotely close to this zesty combination before, but it nonetheless came together to form a rich and flavorful treat.

If there is one thing that was less than superb about the dining experience at Falafel's Drive-In, it was that the food was served without utensils and was very difficult to eat without making a total mess. However, this minor issue was only part of what made the Falafel's Drive-In experience so fun and unique, and when all was said and done I left the restaurant knowing that I would be back to enjoy some succulent falafel in the very near future.

This season's new primetime lineup

by Bryn Taylor

News Editor

As autumn approaches, TV fans can look forward to a great new lineup of programs. From soap operas, to reality shows, to sitcoms, this season has it all.

Devoted enthusiasts of Gossip Girl can find fresh drama in shows such as 90210 and Privileged. 90210 is about group of rich teens attending high school, and the episodes are set in Beverly Hills. However, the show has a potential to fail: how much new teenage drama can these producers shove down the throats of the viewers? At some point, the content may become repetitive, critics say. Privileged is based on another bunch of wealthy teenagers, and focuses on one girl who strives to attend Duke University. The conflict between the tutor and student is the main focus. Do not get too attached though; it may be difficult for the show to continue past high school once she is accepted to attend Duke. For the most part, these new dramas are filled with excitement, and are a must-see if you are a fan of Gossip Girl.

Intense new suspense series such as The Mentalist, Eleventh Hour, and Fringe attract followers of Lost, Alias, House, and CSI. The Mentalist is a detective drama that follows the main character, Patrick Jane, who works for the California Bureau of Investigation. In Eleventh Hour, protagonist Dr. Jacob Wood works as a science advisor to the United States government, rescuing people from the dangers of science gone wrong. Lastly, Transformers and Star Trek's producers have created Fringe, which tells a story about an attempt to prevent the spread of an unknown lethal disease. Fringe is intended to be a combination of House and X-Files. These suspense-filled shows are

likely to be the new hits of the season, and will impress even the most critical fans.

Sitcoms and comedy shows this season include The Ex List, Worst Week, and Kath and Kim. The Ex List is a strange twist on a romantic comedy, which follows the life of a woman who dates all of her ex-boyfriends again. Although not a healthy model for relationships, the show seems to be packed with humor and awkward yet comic embarrassment. Worst Week is a comedy based on the British series The Worst Week of My Life, featuring classic family conflicts between soon-to-be newlyweds. As soon as the groom's future in-laws go on vacation with the bride and groom, disaster strikes in the form of blatant humor. Kath and Kim is a spin-off of a hit comedy show from Australia, depicting a divorced mother and her teenage daughter living in the suburbs. The comedies and sitcoms of this fall are worth the time taken to watch them; critics assure the audience that the shows will have you rolling on the floor in laughter.

The top reality shows this season are very similar to their predecessors such as Deadliest Catch and Project Runway. America's Toughest Jobs parallels Deadliest Catch, but has in store some exciting new footage of extreme jobs. Stylista is a reality show related to The Devil wears Prada, with the Elle magazine director as the scrutinizing boss judging the competitors. Whichever stylist wins the tough competition receives a position at Elle magazine, a lease on an apartment in New York City, and an allowance at H&M for one year.

From the highly advertised 90210 to the intense Eleventh Hour, many of the shows appearing this fall are certainly must-sees.

(Sources: tv.com, television.aol.com, hollywoodreporter.com)