

● Cool cause

Italian luxury brand 'Gucci' recently announced their decision to go fur-free, starting from their Spring-Summer 2018 collection.

Some say that the brand has taken this step amidst pressure from animal rights activists and because of changing consumer tastes. However, the brand's president and chief executive, Marco Bizzarri says that it was a move inspired by their desire to be socially responsible.

This step has evoked positive reactions from the global community. Member of 'People for Animals', Samhita Kashyap says, "Clothes are no more one's basic need. Today, it is all about the brand one is wearing and their status symbol. In doing so, seldom do people think about what the products are made of. A step like this by a big and established brand is definitely a good move for animal welfare. This will lead to a huge transformation in the fashion world."

However, she also points out that this can be a tactic for the brand to establish themselves as an eco-friendly label among consumers and gain their attention. "After so many campaigns about animal cruelty, people are more aware now. This has resulted in people going for eco-friendly products.



Moving 'fur' ther away

By positioning itself as an environmentally conscious brand, Gucci is perhaps trying to make use of this sentiment," she adds.

Reacting positively to this move, designer Liza Narula of 'Krasns Couture by Liza Narula' says, "The decision to go fur-free can be a turning point in the fashion world. This, in the long run, will encourage other high profile brands to adopt similar agendas and work together for the betterment of the environment. It will definitely prove to be a game-changer in the future."

Liza herself has stopped using fur and is now planning to avoid leather for her next collection.

RESPONSIBLE Global brands like 'Gucci' are moving away from the use of fur.



Liza Narula



Ritikaa Goel

"Gucci' is not the only brand to give up animal products. Global brands like Calvin Klein, Ralph Lauren and Armani too have set an example by following this policy a few years ago.

"An extremely well-established brand which has a global audience is sure to make an impact in the fashion world. They can help create awareness about animal welfare on

a global level, while also setting an example for other brands. On the face of it, while the brand seems to be supporting animals and the environment, they may have their own motive to cover up the fur controversy they were earlier embroiled in. Still, it is a win-win situation for the brand. While they are showing their humane side, they are also undoing earlier mistakes," says Ritikaa



Goel, an animal activist. All said and done, it is a welcome step by one of the biggest names in the fashion fraternity to rectify

years of animal abuse and cruelty. Hopefully, others will take note and follow suit. **Surupasree Sarmmah**

Work in style

Inspired by the American labourers of the early 20th century, the workwear trend has really taken off in recent years. With everyone from high-end designers to traditional workwear brands, banking in on the current predilection for simpler threads, we've seen a reinvention of what was typically a stagnant market.

These days, the workwear aesthetic can be considered as a wardrobe staple, comprising many pieces such as jeans, denim jackets, work trousers and boots to name a few. The key is all in the laid-back styling, comfortable fit and practicality of the clothing used. We've broken down some of the key pieces below that'll have you nailing the workwear look in no time.

Shirts

When looking for a workwear suited shirt, you should be thinking of lumberjack prints, plaid, durable materials and practical fittings. Although it's generally accepted that navy, beige, and black are among the most popular colour choices when going for the workwear look, you can typically play around with other colours if the structure and general look of the piece is reasonably utilitarian. The lumberjack shirt styles can include wearing an unbuttoned one with a white vest under-



SMART LOOK Clean silhouettes with simple accessories make for ideal workwear.

neath. Accessories wise, consider topping the look off with a beanie hat for cooler days.

Trousers / Jeans

When it comes to putting together your workwear-inspired look, the natural choice is to go with either denim or a robust work trouser. Their wide legged nature partnered with their time-enduring quality and stain resistance makes them a popular choice among industrious men who require maximum mobility and a quality pair of trousers for work.

While going for denim, wide legs as opposed to a skinny fit is the best way forward. It's going to take some getting used to, seeing yourself in wider legs again. Make use of turn ups and pair with some 'Vans Authentics' and you're gonna be nailing a classically-inspired, contemporary style.

Jackets

When styling, the workwear jacket typically pairs well

with most items in a man's wardrobe. To achieve the desired workwear aesthetic, however, it's best to maintain the clean silhouettes with simplistic complimenting items such as white t-shirts, clean workwear trousers or denim, and minimal accessories. With a trusty construction built for longevity, the workwear jacket will serve you well through the years if you care for it properly.

Accessories

Last, but not least, workwear accessories are a great way to finish off a look with an elevated sartorial flair. Beanie hats and caps are typical workwear-inspired headwear pieces, having been initially worn for practical reasons. Looking at luggage, the best way to perpetuate the workwear-inspired aesthetic is with the trusty backpack. While most can work here, a vintage knapsack bag or typical backpack is the best choice. **(Contributed by Pooja Gajraj)**

With a passion for art and social service, I left the USA—a land of my birth and education after 23 years—and moved to Karnataka—the land of my forebearers—permanently in September, 2005.

Humanities, I believed, had the answer to remove hierarchies, uplift our weakest sections, and instill an egalitarian ethos in a nation reeling from socio-economic inequality. After years of grassroots involvement throughout Karnataka, I realised that although the antidote was not too far off base, the prescription had to be written by the appropriate hand to make the necessary impact. In other words, a mid-20s social worker's words did not carry the weight a popular film actor's would. So, I gave cinema a shot.

Today, I write this piece after completing 10 years and half dozen ventures as lead actor in the Kannada film industry.

Our on-ground mobilisation across the state has been robust, and I thank the film medium for providing a platform to spread our message of equality and justice from nook to corner. But what about the injustices that exist within our own industry—what have I done to improve the livelihoods of personnel here who come from various backgrounds and persuasions?

In March this year, I—along with several respected industry members from various departments—founded the 'Film Industry for Rights and Equality' (FIRE) to help make our working environment more inclusive and safe.

FIRE's major focuses include 3 W's - women (addressing sexual harass-



Going the extra mile

Actor Chetan reflects on the issues in the film industry that are close to his heart.

ment), workers (economic benefits), and writers (creative dignity).

Sexual harassment must not be viewed as a women's issue but as an institutional one, existing in workplaces

across the spectrum since power-plays continue; acknowledgement, regulation and retributions are keys to removing this evil practice.

Due to the lopsided

access to opportunities and education in our society, the vast majority of those in Kannada film industry as well as those in positions of power — producers, directors, stars, etc — are

males. Such an andro-centric quantitative dynamic not only increases prevalence of sexual harassment like 'casting couch' and others but also institutional cover-up.

A questionable practice that continues to fester should not become more acceptable but is even more critical to rid, which we intend to do through a legally-constructed 'Internal Complaints Committee'.

Also, a large percentage of cinema workers live in economically backward conditions, with over a thousand members hovering below and at the poverty line.

Finally, the most significant factor for the success or failure of a film is its writing. To uplift the creative quotient and success ratio of our industry, we must build a 'writers' guild' that provides script certification, financial

requirements, etc. for those creative minds that not only influence the box office but society as a whole.

Also, the Kannada film industry lacks women writers who can bring a unique experience and worldview to our industry; tackling

sexual harassment may also open doors for this possibility in the future.

Though many may view the industry on the basis of what they see on screen; the few of us who have had an inside look have a responsibility to look at the industry off screen. The process of giving back has begun; and I am grateful for such an opportunity to actualise my purpose for making Karnataka my home.

Chetan Ahimsa (Sandalwood actor)

● Winter care

Keep that skin glowing

No matter what the weather is, your skin is always at risk. But there are plenty of ways to avoid the worst. And this time, with winter just around the corner, you can take that little extra care and maintain that glowing skin.

Cleanse: You don't have to wash your face extensively but cleaning is a very important factor in taking care of your skin. Use lukewarm water and use face washes that suit your skin. Don't wash your face more than two to three times a day.



Exfoliate: There are plenty of face washes that have exfoliating elements. You can use that as a scrubber and mildly exfoliate it once a week.

Face masks: You can make simple face masks using ingredients that are available at home. Some of the masks you can make at home are a papaya face pack, yoghurt and buttermilk, avocado and honey, lemon and honey and so on. If you want something simpler, just use petroleum jelly or

glycerine to freshen your skin.

Stay hydrated: In order to maintain a glowing skin, you have to have plenty of water. It's important that your skin stays hydrated. So drink plenty of water or fresh juices.

Moisture: There will be plenty of advertisements encouraging you to buy creams. Don't buy all of them thinking one of them will work. Understand your skin type and the ingredients used to make the cream. Use only the ones that suit your skin. Gently massage it on your skin and continue your daily chores.