



We See

What We See
Changes
Who We Are

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Fashion

By WITNESS Youth Staff

Fashion has existed since the beginning of time, traveling through the Middle Ages and consequently impacting everyone it encountered, profoundly. It is evident that it has taken its toll on our everyday life in today's society.

It influences us to be daring and bold; it intrigues us to be different, to stand out. It lets us live out our wildest fantasies; to be a designer or to succumb to the lust of silky, sleek clothing that romances our bodies and fits so comfortably. It tends to become entwined with our most inner being and reveals our deepest desires, passions and frenzies. It helps us to be wonderfully flirty with some leather, to stave off natures of shyness and isolation.

It is a style that comes and goes, intriguing the mind; fashion is appealing and tempts all of our senses. It is anything that highlights our body features to enhance our beauty from the crown of our heads to the soles of our feet: such as clothing, perfume, jewellery, and lip gloss. Therefore, we need to dress modestly to always showcase purity anywhere we go as young men and women, because fashion is our culture, it is our lifestyle.

Fashion changes us in more ways than we could even imagine, from those edgy eye shadows, right down to those elegant shoes.

Fashion is so hypnotizing that it has an electric pull on your mind, like when you buy without thinking about the cost. It even propels you to hallucinate, to hear the jewels speaking, "you want me baby, you know you do, I will look so good on you."

Fashion is so powerful, it's as if you the individual are the puppet and it is the puppeteer that takes control over your will and being. It's like it knows our deepest desires and brings to pass what we don't normally do; it makes us do this with sly precision and manipulations. Putting on your make-up is the perfect example: the blush, the eyeliner, brows, lips - then there are the finishing touches. Your mind registers "Jackpot" because your face is the lottery.

Make-up gives an all new identity, like playing magic with the brush and powder - your fairy godmother. Have you ever wondered why your quiet friend at school, say a girl, chose to dress up extravagantly at a Halloween party, and a boy who is a nerd chose to be a prince at a masquerade ball - kinda like the nutty professor who transforms into a being by drinking a potion. In that sense it gives us a new identity, it transcends us from a nerd to an exciting person everyone wants to get to know.... reckless, wild, and totally beautiful.



Film maker Ginger Theisen viewing photos with WITNESS youth during summer film camp.

What We Take In is Who We Are

By WITNESS Youth Staff

In this world we all live in, scientists have discovered many things and through their discoveries, facts and ideas are made. Some of the first and greatest discoveries were called Laws. These Laws are statements that describe, predict, and perhaps explain why a range of things happen the way they do. My favourite of all Laws is Newton's Third Law of Motion, which states "when one body exerts a force on a second body, the second body simultaneously exerts a force equal in magnitude and opposite in direction to that of the first body." This Law affects everything, especially us humans, and I think it's even relevant to us and music.

Look at it: if you listen and enjoy a gospel song, your mood and thoughts then align with gospel and everything related. When I listen to

rap or hip-hop, I feel invincible and on top of everything. And some people reminisce about their past loves when they hear R&B. So what do we feel when we hear "She say she want me squeeze her breast dem like the trigger of my gun?" There would be mixed answers, but the truth is that it sparks that sexual part of our brains. There are some people that are OK with having their brain be stimulated sexually in public, while others puke a little at just the thought of someone actually calling "Benz Punany," by Vbyz Kartel, music.

I believe that without self-respect and self-control one will easily take in and become like the music and behaviour of the artist that sings these violent and vulgar songs. What you take in and absorb becomes who you are.



WITNESS youth director prepping young actor for filming during film camp.

Gender Inequality

By WITNESS Youth Staff

Women have been degraded and cheated of their selves, their rights and their opportunity to pursue independence.

Since the dawn of time, it has been this way for women. It has been said that man is above and woman is beneath. Man is the superior being who was created to control woman.... To do what he wants, when he wants, to whomever he wants... to our womenfolk, at any time he pleases.

Women were never treated as human beings, a person with feelings and needs. No they were treated like dogs, like scums of the earth, when in actuality some of the men were the barbarians whose actions towards women rendered them the ones deserving of such treatment. The truth was that the men were slave masters, the women the slaves. They weren't treated with respect, love and compassion, etc. No, they were treated with disgust and insolence.

To most men, women were mainly created to give them pleasure as a sex tool, as stay-at-home moms who do chores and take care of the children. They are there to support their men, to cradle them when they are down, to tell them that they must not give up when a tough situation arises, and to pamper them with no affection in return.

A great percentage of men believe that women are created to be controlled, that they

need permission to talk, to eat, to drink, and to wear certain clothes, from the 'all great superior being' that God has created. What utter nonsense, if I can say so.

During the years, however, things have changed drastically, and for the men these changes were a tad destabilising. Women started speaking against men, forming groups, holding meetings, and carrying out various tasks such as rallies and marches for the freedom to be man's equal. Women were fighting for their liberty, their right to be educated, to have choices and in the end be all that they can be, and much, much more. This was possible because women stood up for what they believed in and refused to conform to men's ideas about women.

From this we can see that women have some amazing attributes by being freedom fighters: bold, passionate and determined to bring about a change for the future generation, so as to make them comfortable and to have the luxury that they were deprived of. Therefore, women have made a substantial and profound change in how women were being treated. We have seen that Guyana's Women Leadership Institution (G.W.L.I.) was founded because of the increasing need to educate women. It was mainly created to help women participate in effective decision making, to be more competent, and more decisive.

"What we see changes who we are." – JR

Are you a witness or victim of violence? You are not alone. Make your anonymous call to Help & Shelter today and speak with a live counselor on 227-3454 or 225-4731.