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Wear what makes you happy! Vanity Fair's Nicole Chapoteau on gender fluid dressing

New episode of **Rodeo Drive – The Podcast** launches today.



Vanity Fair Fashion Director Nicole Chapoteau, courtesy Vanity Fair.

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(Beverly Hills, CA, June 22, 2022)– The Rodeo Drive Committee announced today the launch of ***Wear what makes you happy! Vanity Fair's Nicole Chapoteau on gender fluid dressing***, the latest episode in Season Three of Rodeo Drive – The Podcast, hosted by **Pari Ehsan** with Field Correspondent **Jason E.C. Wright**.

Fashion used to be separated into womenswear and menswear. Today, it is much more gender fluid. “It’s really about a movement of pleasing yourself and being self aware and not you know, hindering who your true self is,” says Vanity Fair Fashion Director **Nicole Chapoteau**, “And I think clothing is like one of the first ways you can express that.”

Chapoteau joins Ehsan for a conversation about her approach to the editorial pages of the magazine, and about dressing and expressing identity – in daily life and on a celebrity photoshoot.

“It is all about personality with a touch of glam and glitz,” explains Chapoteau, adding that people often believe the actor or musician they see performing is that character in real life. At *Vanity Fair*, the manual for Hollywood and fashion, “you learn about who they are themselves and not the roles they portray.”

Wright picks up the theme of gender fluidity in fashion on a tour of Two Rodeo Drive with Rodeo Drive Committee President Kathy Gohari. They window-shop at Versace, Shinobi, Porsche Design and Westime.

At Shinobi, for example, says Wright, “their whole concept was, ‘what would James Bond wear on his weekend off’? And what would any of the Bond girls wear from his closet? So the footwear that they source and manufacture in Japan, there’s a size available for them as well as a blouson or two to borrow from the boys.”

Whether the vitrine is displaying watches, jewelry, pants suits or bags, fashion has broken away from boundaries, and is available, say Gohari and Wright, to “she or he or they.”



Two Rodeo Drive, photography by Brica Wilcox, courtesy the Rodeo Drive Committee.

Rodeo Drive – The Podcast invites listeners around the globe to hear Ehsan in conversation with some of the biggest names in luxury, fashion, art and entertainment. Wright brings on-the-ground video and audio reports direct from the boutiques of the world’s most coveted brands. The series keeps listeners around the world up to date on current developments and what’s happening behind the scenes, charting the future for this famed three-block stretch in Beverly Hills.

Production Credits

Executive Producer: Lyn Winter

Host: Pari Ehsan

Field Correspondent: Jason E.C. Wright

Scriptwriter and Editorial Advisor: Frances Anderton

Editor and Videographer: Hans Fjellestad

Theme music by Brian Banks

Production Assistant: Grace Fuh

Season Three of Rodeo Drive – The Podcast is presented by the Rodeo Drive Committee with the support of the **City of Beverly Hills, The Hayman Family, Two Rodeo Drive, Beverly Wilshire, A Four Seasons Hotel, the Beverly Hills Conference & Visitors Bureau and MCM.**

EDITORS’ NOTES

Nicole Chapoteau is the fashion director at *Vanity Fair*, overseeing fashion and styling for the publication. During her time at *Vanity Fair*, Chapoteau has styled numerous celebrities including Regina King, Jonathan Majors, Ziwe, Patricia Arquette, Kevin Costner, Billy Porter, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Amanda Seyfried, Evan Mock, Selena Gomez, and Indya Moore. Prior to joining *Vanity Fair*, Chapoteau worked as a freelance stylist and brand consultant where she contributed to *Elle*, *Marie Claire*, *Harper’s Bazaar*, *The Cut*, *Out*, and *Ebony*. Previously, Chapoteau served as the fashion and accessories director at *Allure Magazine* and accessories editor at *InStyle*. Before working in fashion, Chapoteau was on track to becoming an architect and worked at Rafael Vinoly Architects in New York City after graduating from New York University.

Pari Ehsan is the Iranian American designer and creative director, who founded Pari Dust, a digital platform for art and fashion. Pari Dust explores new ways to combine the elements of our visual world, offering windows into contemporary art, fashion, and the built environment through a unique lens. In an ever-evolving space, Pari seizes opportunities to engage in conversation with influential minds; and to collaborate with artists, brands, fairs, galleries, museums and retailers who share her vision. After earning a degree in architecture from the University of Southern California, she was nominated by The Council of Fashion Designers of America

(CFDA) for its inaugural Fashion Instagrammer of the Year. Ehsan has worked with MoMA, The New Museum, Tate Modern and brands including Chanel, Cartier, Dior amongst others. Pari embodies the nexus between art and fashion and her stories and fashion shoots offer insight into the most creative and compelling movements in both fields. She celebrates the interactions and influence of art, design, and commerce, and how they merge to define our contemporary moment.

Jason E.C. Wright is a critical-thinking educator and designer. He is author of *The Burntsienna Standards*, a manual for responsible research. He has spoken at the LA Design Festival and various global creative teams for its application. In 2018, Wright founded Burntsienna Research Society, an Institute of Design Research and Critical Thought, after twenty years in boutique retail, product development and fashion production. His courseworks and personal design projects incorporate these elements into teaching moments, objects or garments to learn from. Wright is host of 'Nobody Asked For This', an ongoing conversation series on process and cultural perspective, and is a contributing writer and moderator for panel interviews and artbook gatherings. He is based in Los Angeles, on Tongva land.

The Rodeo Drive Committee was founded in 1977 and incorporated in 1982 as Rodeo Drive, Inc., a 501 C (6) non-profit organization, that provides a forum where its members—consisting of retailers, hoteliers, and landowners—can engage, share a dialogue, and help shape the present and future of the iconic, world-famous shopping destination.

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