

5-MINUTE Q&A

Cara Saven

We've noticed that you love sneakers – what do you normally wear them with?

I finish off almost every outfit with coloured sneakers. I love them. The brighter the better! I wear them with denim, dresses, dungarees, skirts... Basically when my feet aren't in open-toed shoes or slippers they're in bright sneakers. I'm super into Puma at the moment, but I'm not brand loyal. Last year Saucony did it for me.

What does your favourite pair look like?

I go through stages, but at the moment it's a pair of Ralph Sampson high-top Pumas in maroon and white. They feel so '80s and retro, and look fab with ripped mom jeans. I'm hard on my shoes, so they look wrecked after a year. I probably have six or seven wearable pairs on the go.

What do you keep an eye out for when you are shopping for yourself?

I always look for something that's a bit different, either in colour or shape or fabric. When it's a bit different, it stands the test of time and can be worn outside of the trend. I also look for classics like the perfect white T-shirt or a great-fitting pair of ripped jeans. My work is quite physical and I'm often on building sites, so I also look for comfort.

Who makes the best basics?

I'm an H&M jeans girl as they are a perfect fit for me and I love their high-waisted style. The best white tees last year were Cotton On... I'm still looking for this year's one. But Zara usually has a decent tee at some point in the season.

If you could buy only one new item for summer, what would it be?

The perfect cozzie. (I'm a total beach bum!) I'm obsessed with one from Beachcult. I bought from them last year and lived in it, so I bought another one now. It's a full

piece with a small opening on the tum and it's very high-cut. I also love high-waisted bikini bottoms with a skimpier top. I usually find great cozzies at Rip Curl.

Any items in your wardrobe that you are attached to?

I have a knitted beanie that has been on my head for the past 10 winters. I am so attached to it that I once re climbed a mountain when I thought I had dropped it. It's the perfect shade of grey and it was originally from the kids' section of Earthchild, would you believe? And I don't have a small head. Must have been a fault... worked well for me.

Any vintage shops worth a mention?

When I was in my late teens there used to be an amazing shop on Lower Main Road in Observatory called Victor Victoria. I would go there every Saturday and I'd always strike gold – authentic German cotton anglaise dresses and shirts, and leather jackets for an absolute steal. I still have a few pieces from that time.

What's one thing you'd never wear? I'm not a high-heel girl at the best of times but there is something about a heel with jeans that really isn't me.

Maybe it's the combining of formal and casual that throws me. The joke is that I was the formalwear footwear buyer for Woolies for three years! My partner who bought footwear for casual was the one who wore heels and I never did. It worked, somehow.

Is there anything you look back on and cringe?

Um, almost everything! My wedding dress, everything I wore to art school, most of my maternity wear. I find that if it's anything further back than a year, I cringe.

