

In Fashion: Fashion gift ideas from the fashion pros

by Sharon_Mosley

We're all looking for fast ideas, fast gifts and fast fashion this time of year. So when stylists like Finola Hughes, host of the Style Network's "How Do I Look" show, and Carson Kressley, star of Bravo's "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy," talk about their favorite fashion picks for holiday giving, it's time to listen up and take some notes.

SHOPPING TIPS - Finola Hughes, host of the Style Network's 'How Do I Look' show talks about her favorite fashion picks for holiday giving. CNS Photo. "Nothing says a great gift like personalization," says Hughes, who likes the possibilities at RedEnvelope.com. She also likes the personal touch of some of her whimsical jewelry collection available at QVC.com. "I have a very cute sterling key necklace that women die over," she says. "It's extremely popular."

Hughes also suggests dressing up your wardrobe or those on your gift list with special accessories.

"This season, every woman should have a brightly colored velvet clutch," she says. "The trick is to move away from boring old burgundy and emerald greens and find other non-traditional colors like citrine or fuchsia."

She also likes to comb the thrift stores and eBay searching for special pieces: "Find a nice vintage rhinestone anything," she says. "This is the time for sparkle!"

You can also give the gift of this actress and style expert's fashion advice by subscribing to her "Style Kick" magazine on Verizon Wireless. "This will beam fashion tips straight to their phone throughout the year."

Another savvy style setter, Kressley, has teamed up with TJ Maxx to offer his unique ideas on gift giving during the holiday season. And he knows just what to give that special guy on your list.

"From my many years of experience on 'Queer Eye for the Straight Guy,' trust me, I know what men want," he says. "It's the practical, yet fashionable items that he just never gets around to purchasing for himself."

Kressley's gift list for guys include shaving and manicure kits, Italian leather wallets, designer silk ties "that truly stand out," stylish leather briefcases or laptop cases, designer watches, cardigan, crew or V-neck sweaters in solids and patterns - "even cashmere," thirsty terrycloth bathrobes and slippers, and golf or ski accessories.

"Finally remember, make it easy on yourself," he adds. "This is your holiday season too."

And to make it even easier, Kressley suggests buying prepackaged gift sets such as pajamas, lingerie, soaps and spa products, shirts and tie sets, and watches all boxed and ready to go with a festive ribbon and gift card attached.

"The look is holiday magic and what could be easier in terms of gift giving?"

Sharon Mosley is a former fashion editor of the Arkansas Gazette in Little Rock and executive director of the Fashion Editors and Reporters Association.

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