

In Fashion: New year, new fashion resolutions

by Sharon_Mosley

If you haven't changed since that holiday photo was taken 10 years ago, then maybe you're congratulating yourself. But maybe you should take a second look. It could be time to make a few changes so that by next year, you'll have a whole new reason to look in the camera - and smile.

WORLD OF COLOR - Resolve to put some color into your fashion life this year. Seen here is Hillary Swank in Burberry's newest trench from its spring collection. CNS Photo courtesy of Burberry. Here are some ways to put some style solutions into those New Year's resolutions:

- First step: Resolve to reassess your wardrobe. If your closet is 90 percent dark suits, it's time to step out of the office suite and add some more playful, casual looks. Boring is not the fashion lifestyle we're going for anymore, no matter what age or whether you're a stay-at-home mom or a CEO. Take a realistic look at what you're wearing day in and day out.

- Think about your style personality. Most of us never really do this intentionally. We may buy the same kinds of clothes over and over, but we've never really defined our style "type."

Do some meditation on your wardrobe. Are you more of a classic dresser? Like a more streamlined chic look? A whimsical bohemian? Or an out-there avant-garde fashionista? Narrow down your style preferences before you spend more money.

- Take time to shop. You might have bought all the holiday presents for your family, but now it's time to shop for a few new things for yourself. It's the perfect time of year to find a few bargains and give your wardrobe a fresh look. It's also a great time to get a glimpse of what's new for the spring ahead in resort collections that are hitting the stores now.

- Resolve to put some excitement into your wardrobe. Buy something trendy. Yes, splurge a little and buy something that brightens your winter spirits. You don't have to buy a whole new wardrobe. Maybe all you need is one thing to give your clothes a lift for the new year. A colorful new trench coat. A chic little clutch. A great pair of leopard flats. A jeweled-neck tunic. Surprise yourself with something outside your fashion comfort zone.

- Change your hair and makeup. If you've had the same hairstyle for years, talk to your hairdresser about an update - whether it's color or cut. Ditto for the makeup. There is a lot of help out there. Walk into the cosmetic department of any major store and you will literally be attacked by many helpful makeup artists. Take advantage of their expertise.

- Subscribe to fashion magazines. At least one, OK? No, you're not going to want to wear everything you see in these style books, but you will get updated ideas of what to wear and how to put it all together. Something will inspire you, and you can translate these current styles into your own wardrobe.

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

Â© Copley News Service

In Fashion: New year, new fashion resolutions by Sharon_Mosley