

# ONE STOP Vintage SHOP

Dawn O'Porter is not shy about her love of vintage shopping. Are you ready to be converted?

**T**V presenter, author and now fashion designer: Dawn O'Porter is a bit talented, isn't she?

Having just launched her first vintage-inspired collection, BOB by Dawn O'Porter, we called her to get some shopping tips and find out how hard it is dressing that growing baby bump.

## *Hi Dawn. Where does your love of vintage come from?*

I could never find a real sense of style on the highstreet; that feeling that there's thousands of everything. I like the idea that everything I find in a vintage shop is quite unique and I can dress for my personality. I discovered my own style through vintage shopping.

## *How did you dress as a teenager?*

Like everyone else, I tried to keep up with trends that didn't fit or suit me. I never felt like I had any individuality. I grew up in Guernsey, and if you tried to be an individual people just thought you were a dick, so it was better to look like everybody else.

## *Have you had any major fashion disasters?*

I have them all the time. I take risks and that means I sometimes get

halfway down the road and am like, "Why did I do this?"

## *Do you ever buy highstreet clothes?*

Yeah, I do. I don't buy vintage jeans and I'll go to the highstreet if I need underwear or T-shirts or jumpers. But if I wanted to get an outfit for a party I'd always go vintage.

## *Anything you should avoid when vintage shopping?*

I don't think you should avoid anything that you like, but I do think you should make sensible decisions about the condition. And if someone is telling you a dress is Christian Dior, and you can't see any evidence, maybe don't pay that price.

## *Some people think it's totally sacrilege to alter vintage clothes. What's your stance?*

I think that's ridiculous. If you have a piece of designer vintage that actually means something, like if it's a wiggle dress and you're reshaping it to turn it into a shift dress, then you need to question that. But making something fit you, so you can wear it loads, is a good thing.

## *What are your own favourite vintage pieces?*

I love them all really. I like my £15 polyester dresses as much as I love

my expensive designer stuff. The trick is, when you go shopping, be really selective.

## *Is it hard to find vintage maternity wear?*

I'm just getting normal dresses and taking them to a tailor. That's the thing with vintage clothing, you have to be quite lucky to find something that fits you perfectly. I normally get things reshaped a little. If I buy a £15 dress that isn't perfect, I'll spend £10 making it fit.

## *Your label BOB By Dawn O'Porter is out now. Are you a legit designer?*

Well I have my own label, and I designed the pieces, so I guess in one way I am. I didn't go to fashion school, I don't physically sit at the sewing machine and make them, but they're my vision. I know enough about dress construction to know how I want the inside of the dress to look, as well as the outside.

## *What are your favourite pieces from the collection?*

Every time I look at one I think, this is my favourite. I love that we've got 60s, 70s and 80s dresses and then the 50s skirts. I just wish that I could wear them all, but I can't right now.

Dawn's collection is available online from [www.bobbydop.com](http://www.bobbydop.com).