

A Date with Dawn

Oracle of vintage Dawn O'Porter on her new collection BOBbyDOP, limitless style and strong female characters

Journey through time

I settled on the styles for BOBbyDOP quite quickly. I think there's a good mix of party and day and they're all classic and easy to wear. I just wanted to pick shapes that people would associate with different decades. I'm drawn to the '60s personally and I think the collection will always have a strong '60s vibe, but I'll definitely mix it up with the '50s, '70s and '80s.

Literary inspiration

The geese and the Fabs and Wotsits prints on my BOBbyDOP skirts are inspired by my two books – Goose, and Paper Aeroplanes, which is about two '90s schoolgirls. The book quotes were inspired by some of my favourite quotes from my favourite books. I just love the idea of a girl sitting in a bar waiting for her date and reading her skirt. The dog walkers were just because I'm so batty about animals, so I wanted lots of different kinds of women walking different dogs.

Power dressing

All of my designs are created with the intention that you can eat a good meal and then go dancing. Two of the styles – the 'Elvin' and the 'Charlie' – have subtle shoulder pads, but they just give you that statuesque feeling where you feel up and proud. They've all been given little touches that will make you feel like the most important person in the room.

Beginner's vintage

The high street seems huge, but actually you're limited by what's in fashion. The great thing about vintage is that you're completely unlimited. You've got decades to choose from, so have a look



online at what styles and shapes you like and then go into a vintage shop and just try stuff on. The most important thing is to give yourself time. It's a different way of shopping, but what you'll do is you'll build a wardrobe full of really interesting stuff and getting dressed every day will be easier because you've put the effort into the shopping process.

A good rummage

Flea markets are the best. If you can find a flea market where there are some designer dealers as well as the cheaper stuff, you could do your whole wardrobe in a day. The UK is amazing for flea markets, but where I live in California is definitely even better, so that's where I do most of my buying for BOBbyDOP Vintage.



The 'Lou'



The 'Charlie'

Timeless finds

I have a 1965 André Courrèges number which I think should be in a museum. I wore it to the Glamour Awards two years ago and my best friend wore it when she married us. It's an iconic dress that I'll have for years. It cost me a lot of money, but I'll never regret it, because I feel like I've got a piece of history in my wardrobe. I literally weep with joy whenever I look at it.

The Bonny Banks

I was born in Dunbartonshire, in Alexandria, and my dad still lives up in Loch Lomond. I'll always love Scotland so much. So much of my childhood was about Loch Lomond and just kicking around and being on the water. I'm really emotional about it as a place.

Writing the future

I'm not working on an awful lot of TV at the moment. I'm working more on fiction. My plan is to write really great female characters in fiction, which I think we need more of. I used to just say anything and everything and have no fear, but I'm 35, I'm having a baby, I'm married; I don't want to talk about my personal life anymore. I'm still a real over-sharer though, so I've found this new release in fiction where I get to pour myself into these characters and say things that I've always wanted to say. I've just signed a great book deal with HarperCollins to launch my adult writing career, which I'm so excited about.

Go to www.bobbydop.com to check out BOBbyDOP

Interview: Cheryl Cairra