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# Glamour, Sex and Drama

No, I'm not talking about the latest blockbuster. These are just some of the descriptions you could use for the new season's trends, so despite the fact that autumn is well and truly on its way, there's no need to get too depressed. In fashion terms the coming season is full of colour, texture and fun with something for everyone, regardless of your body shape or personal tastes. So let's take a look.

**Retro Styling** - Continuing on from last season's vintage inspired Seventies looks, we are once again harking back to bygone days. This time it's the Forties and Sixties that take centre stage.

The Forties inspired look is all about glamour - pearls, elbow length gloves, satin pussy-bow blouses and shrugs teamed with pencil skirts and tea dresses. Hemlines are on or just below the knee and to add even more glamour, why not invest in a fedora or a fur (faux of course). This look will work particularly well on an hourglass figure, or those with a classic/romantic wardrobe personality (add this season's red lipstick to really vamp it up).

If you prefer to show off your legs, why not opt for the Sixties look? Try a two-piece ensemble in felt and wool or a dropped-waist dress with big bold buttons. Or try a coat with sloping shoulders and bracelet sleeves teamed with a polo neck, miniskirt and knee high boots, but make sure you have the legs to carry it off!

**Androgyny** - Girls dressed in masculine pinstripes, felt suiting and crisp white shirts featured in many of the catwalk shows, including Ralph Lauren, DKNY and Chanel. If you are devoid of curves this could be just the look for you. Tweeds and checks are likely to be in evidence this season and especially for this trend. Team with brogues to complete the look, but you could still add some feminine glamour with chiffon or satin.

**Fetish** - The runways were filled with everything from handcuffs to rubber

skirts and tightly laced corsets. This is most definitely for the dramatic among you, but even for the more reserved, it's possible to add a little naughty edge to your look with suggestive sheer inserts, a pair of long lace-up boots or a cinched waist belt.

**Pattern and Print** - Last season's bold blocks of clashing colours have been replaced with clashing patterns. Opulent winter florals, bird and snake prints look set to be big, together with polka dots, which I have already seen in the very first batches of early autumn collections at the end of July! Prints will also be seen in hosiery - take a look at Celeste Stein's collection at mytights.com if this is your thing.

**Jewel Colours** - No need to hide under drab colours this winter. It's true that monochrome is still 'in', but this season we have more than just black, navy and charcoal grey to look forward to. Think sapphire, emerald and amethyst, ochre yellow and teal. Add to that all shades of red from crimson to magenta and warm rusts - something for all skin tones. Time to put your LBD to the back of the wardrobe for a season and invest in some colour!

**More trends to look out for** - If you are looking for a new winter coat this year, and want to make a style statement, choose the cocoon coat or a cape. A pair of fluid trousers may well become your best friend, paired with a long tunic or a masculine blouse with a peter pan collar. If you want to add just a touch of the trend for check, you could always opt for an oversized scarf - perfect to keep out the cold on those frosty winter mornings.

**The Finish Touch** - Accessories are a must to complete your look. This season chokers are very popular, in many forms, but will only really work if you have a long, slender neck. Alternatives are slightly longer necklaces sporting birds or something with a bit of sparkle.

Soft slouchy handbags are being replaced with a neater, more structured style, from everyday bags in shiny mock croc or matt leather to small clutch bags with animal prints or opulent jewel-encrusted looks.

These are just some of the major trends expected to be making their way from the runways to the high street, at all price points. You are bound to discover much more on your next trip to your favourite stores and boutiques and rest assured that the classic staples can always be found too.



TOP LEFT : Vivella Purple Stripe Pussy Bow Blouse £185  
BOTTOM LEFT: River Island Tapley metallic blouse ; Saffia trouser £35.00

MAIN: Warehouse Camel Coat £180, Check Jacket £50, Check trousers £75, Blouse £55 Autumn Winter Campaign 2011



'Chesterfield Cape', By Phase Eight £160

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