

HOW TO BECOME A DANDY IN A DAY

WITH PATRICK ZIZA

(Step by Step)

ABOUT PATRICK ZIZA



My name is Patrick Ziza. I am a dancer, performer and choreographer living in Newcastle upon Tyne.

In this guide I want to invite you to reinvent yourself, to explore your individuality, your aspirations and throw away social norms. I want you to explore

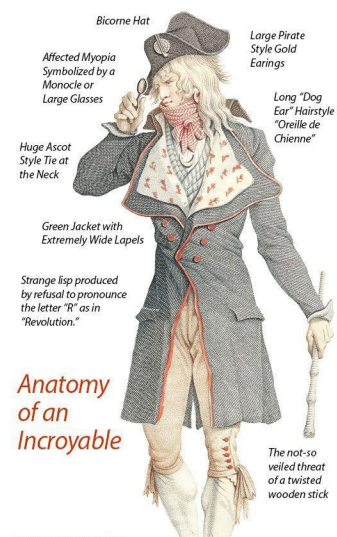
your inner-Dandy.

WHAT IS DANDYISM?

Dandyism had its roots in the Macaroni Club formed London in the 1760s by a group of rich young Englishmen who had just returned from a tour of Italy. The Macaronis championed elaborate and exaggerated styles of dress.

Before long, dandy styles popularized by the English Macaronis began migrating to Europe. In France the Incroyables (the Unbelievables) of the 1790s combined fashionable fantasy garments and English country clothes.

During the 18th century many European “Dandies” found themselves living in Africa, employed by slave trading companies. They set out to civilise African people by providing them with second-hand clothing. The men of the Congo appropriated this “Dandyism” as their own, as a defence and a provocation against slavery. From this the Congo Sapeurs movement was born



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By the 1960s and African Dandyism had become a phenomenon with prominent sapeurs campaigning for a Democratic Republic of Congo and independence from France.

The sapeur style and gentlemanly code of honour was formalised in the 1970s under the leadership of 'dapper' Papa Wemba, a rumba artist who was known for his taste in dazzling white suits and monochrome spats.

Wemba influenced a later generation of sapeurs who rose to political power through the turbulent years of the Congo and continental wars and whose subculture has now entered the mainstream.



The Girl Dandies

The “sapeuses” have emerged in the past decade. For some sapeuses, who traditionally dress in masculine suits and accessories imported via the Congolese diaspora in Belgium and France, la sape is a return to pre-colonial modes of strong African femininity; for others the movement is a means of operating as a queer woman in a nation and era in which homophobia is rife.

Around the world, Dandysim is a movement, ever evolving, always growing.

It is a form of self-expression. It is rebellious. It expresses your individuality. It is being free to wear what you want, reinterpreting and reimagining

yourself. It is fluid. It is playing with masculinity and femininity and being free from social norms. It is attitude, originality, presence and personality. It is feeling good in your own skin.

It says, “**We are here**”.

RESOURCES

Dandyism is centuries old. From the 18th Century “Dandy Fop” through Central Europe, to Africa and now all across the world Dandyism in the 21st Century takes many forms. Dandyism is creating your image, expressing your individualism.

There are many, many films, interviews and documentaries available covering the diversity of “Dandyism” around the world. Here are a few to get you started:

- **Modern Dandy: Ep. 2 | The Roots of British Style | River Island | British GQ:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1o0oZHICkb4&t=442s>
- **Aubrey Beardsley – The Art of Being a Dandy | Tate:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7MU7kvXIpOc&list=PL2AxnUB7W9fdMh0Pihp3UqTclYil9xAZ-&index=18&t=0s>

- **Shantrelle P. Lewis Talks Her Book "Dandy Lion" & Modern Black Dandy Fashion Night | BK Live:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Imk0BGyeutY>
- **Lady Dandies of the DRC: exhibition Facebook page:**
<https://www.facebook.com/sapeuses/photos>
<https://www.lightfoottravel.com/en/travelbylightfoot/congos-fe-male-dandies>
<https://www.soas.ac.uk/gallery/les-sapeuses/>
- **Congo Dandies: Natalya Kadyrova**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VTPTF2LbNVM>

Now it's your turn!

STEP 1: DECONSTRUCT WHAT YOU KNOW

Take a formal suit or something you would wear to look smart. Think about how you could change it around to make it your own. Let your personality come through your ideas. It is about deconstructing the traditional way to wear a suit or any formal attire and making it your own without thinking of any stereotypes that come with it. Re-imagine your look.



Change it. Explore. Take some risks. Nothing is off limits.

Many people are afraid of what others will think of them. Often that means they dress to please others, to blend in rather than to stand out. Clothes are one of the things we do have control over. We can choose to repress how we would like to look and dress or we can be a Dandy and express all our amazing ideas and explore a different kind of self. It is important to show who we are. To say **"I am here"**. Visibility can be powerful and inspiring and liberating.

In the world of Dandyism there is no masculine or feminine, there is no right or wrong. You are free to express your inner Dandy however you want. Just remember – it is about **STYLE** and **COOL**.

Here are some ideas:

- Wear a waistcoat on top of the jacket. It's great if it doesn't match.
- Turn up the hems and make them into cuffs showing off brightly coloured socks.
- Attach some necklaces to the belt loops as pocket chains.
- Attach each end of a necklace to each lapel and wear it outside your jacket or shirt.
- Mix and match, e.g. a brightly coloured jacket with some patterned trousers.
- A flamboyant shirt with big sleeves using bracelets to push the sleeves up and make them more puffed.
- A dress with a waistcoat or shirt on top and a brightly coloured tie.
- Baggy trousers caught in at the ankle like a cuff, perhaps tied with colourful ribbons.
- Tights or long socks.
- Wear a kilt or a skirt with coloured tights or socks and sharp shoes.
- If your jacket has a colourful lining try wearing it inside out or sew colourful material into the cuffs and turn them back.
- Shoes – if you have a tired pair of shoes – spray them silver, gold, orange, pink – bright colours.
- Turn trousers into long shorts and wear with coloured tights.
- Wear lipstick and/or nail varnish. The brighter the better.

STEP 2: WHERE TO FIND YOUR LOOK



Think outside the box. Dandyism isn't about designer sites and expensive purchases. You aren't buying a look created by someone else. You are exploring your own. You don't have to spend a fortune in order to be a true Dandy. Charity shops are a great place to start.

Get together with friends for a clothes swap. **Remember there is no masculine/feminine here.**

If you like it, try it. Turn out your drawers and wardrobe.

There's always something you can Dandy-up or deconstruct.

Use what you have already and create a flamboyant, beautiful outfit that expresses who you are.

STEP 3: POSE AND WALK



- Do you have a colourful lining in your jacket? Let everyone see it.
- Are your socks extravagant? Lift up your trouser leg and show everyone.
- Do you have an array of chains hanging from your belt? Hold them out.

Poses show off the details of your outfit. You can try out my poses or you can create your own.

You are wearing your own outfit. Pick what you want to show off about it:

- Are you wearing lipstick? Lift up your head and show us.
- Are your sleeves flamboyant? Raise your arms above your head.
- Are there bells attached to your trouser hems? Shake them at us.
- Are your shoes extravagant? Lift up your trousers legs and do a little dance.

Show off your lipstick, your head piece, your chains, your socks, your shoes, your tie, your scarf, your hat, your sleeves, your tights, your shirt, your waistcoat, the lining of your jacket.

Move, pose, move, pose. Remember your body has to change shape with every pose.

Strutt and swagger. Sway and swing. Walk forward and pose. Walk from side to side and pose. Walk back and turn. Pose. Pose. Pose. Think chic. Think classy.

STEP 4: ON THE CATWALK

When you are on your catwalk and before you walk, you always want to do a few poses.

Really show off. Be confident. Walk like you own the catwalk.

As soon as you get to the front of your catwalk you want to show off any details you have and then turn and walk back.



Turn again and show off more of your outfit.

Do more poses.

And you walk. From side to side, to the front and back and then again side to side.

You can walk however you want to just so long as you are moving, making sure you are stopping to pose, showing off those beautiful details of your outfit.

There is no right or wrong way of walking. You just need to be confident in your walk and in your outfit.

STEP 5: NOW WE DANCE!



CREDITS

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Images: Adam Goodwin, Georgia Stead

For more information on Patrick Ziza and Dandyism visit:

<https://www.patrickziza.com/dandyism>