

Springing Out of the Closet

Sir Lennox Says

BY KEVIN LENNOX

Even though weather.com shows our forecast menu to consist entirely of chilled rain served with a side of fog, wind, or worse—both, spring is, in fact, upon us. With the air of renewal in the atmosphere, I say it's time for all of us to take a moment to tackle cleaning out our respective closets—not only to make room for some fabulous spring fashions but, c'mon, you know you've been putting it off. Instead of going on one more aimless hike, starting yet another smelly compost heap or canning your 600th jar of jam, why not take the time to do something truly useful and edit that outdated wardrobe?

I don't want to toot my own horn too much, but when it comes to closet cleaning and organization I'm somewhat of a pro. I'm very meticulous about my own closet's state of affairs and can't stand when other people's are not clean and organized. Once my dear friend, Tiffany, wanted me to help her pack for a trip to Italy, which sounded like fun to me until we actually tried to find clothing in her closet. There wasn't the first hint of rhyme or reason in there, and I could seriously feel hives forming on my skirt when she couldn't even find several pieces she wanted to take on the trip. I made Tiffany give me the keys to her apartment then and there, and I informed both her and her husband, Scott, that they would return from Europe to find immaculately clean and *organized* closets. Over the next week I spent several hours redoing their storage

spaces from top to bottom—let's just say their lives have never been the same.

The first step in this process is to clean and purge. Set aside some time, roll up your sleeves and dive in with the mentality of truly trying to get rid of a few of the fashion ghosts in your closet: In my experience people usually like to have a friend there to help with a second opinion on what to keep or toss. However, if you can't get anyone, don't worry. About 90 percent of the people I have helped exorcise their fashion demons already know what they need to get rid of before we even start. The phrase I hear over and over while trudging through the trenches is "I know..."—because most of you already know the things in your closet that you don't wear, wore once and never again, or bought on a total whim that has no place in your life whatsoever.

Since I can't be there to hold all of your hands, be your own bad cop when it comes to purging and, most importantly, be honest with yourself. You know you haven't worn that crazy

You know you haven't worn that crazy party dress (or even that crazy Red Dress party dress) in at least a year, and don't try to justify holding onto it because you think one day it will be vintage and thus cool. That will never happen.

party dress (or even that crazy Red Dress party dress) in at least a year, and don't try to justify holding onto it because you think one day it will be vintage and thus cool. That will never happen. And those skinny jeans you haven't fit into since the turn of the millennium? Guess what, you're not Cher and you can't turn back time; most likely you're not going to lose the at least 20 pounds

needed to look decent in them again. Instead of trying to lose weight to keep a useless piece of clothing, here's an idea: Just lose the jeans. You know what needs to go.

Now that the great purge portion is done, you

want to move on to the organizational section. This is always my favorite part; it makes me happy to see clothing presented in an orderly, color-coordinated manner. The way I approach it is to first break the items into groups. My groups are, pants, long-sleeve shirts, short-sleeve shirts, long-sleeve polos, short-sleeve polos, etc. Within those groups I organize each category by color starting with the lightest, generally white, and working down to black. Then I go to the next category, organizing it by color as well until all of them are done. After you've gone through all your categories you should be left with an immaculately organized paean to fashion.

Finally, once your closet is organized and presentable, I recommend sizing up all that you still have in your wardrobe and looking for fashion holes you may need to fill. Do you have that perfect little black dress or the right dark-rinsed jeans to go out in? Take stock of what you do and don't have so when you're out shopping this spring you make better use of your money by purchasing things your wardrobe actually needs. If you follow these simple instructions, I swear you'll save time, money and future anxiety over what to wear.

Now that your closet is clean, check back to learn what spring trends you should fill it with—or email me for advance notice: KEVIN@THESTUDIOOPDX.COM.

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