

april
2016

FASHION

the Model Issue

Their
LIVES
On & off
DUTY

+

Canada's
NEXT
WAVE

Accepting
Autoimmune
Disease

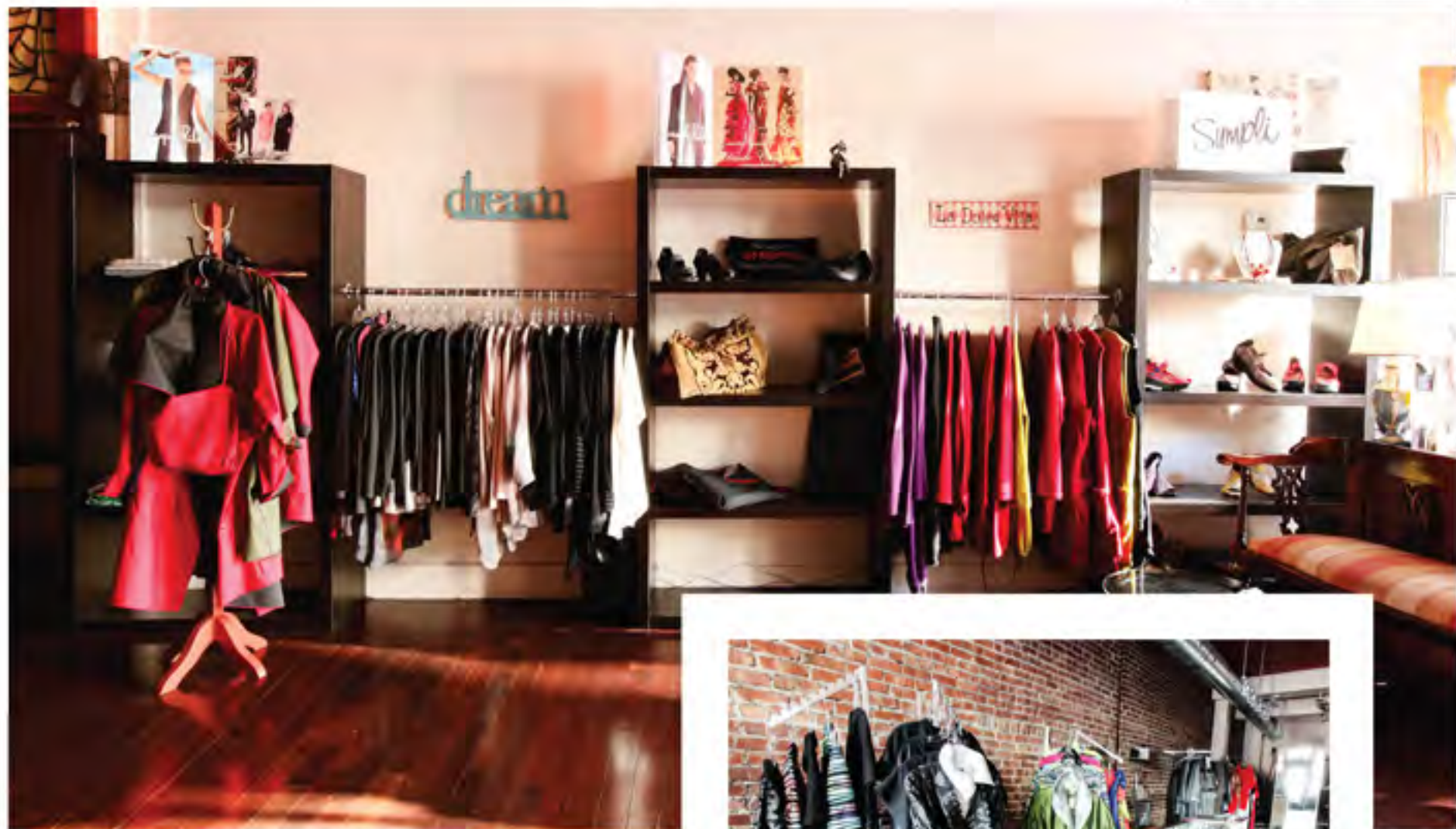
SOO JOO
PARK

*The Model
who Started
When others*
RETIRE

*How to
Wear.*

Denim
NOW





The Insider Feature

OPPEN'S

4828 BOUL. ST-LAURENT, MONTREAL | 514.844.9159 | OPPENS.CA

In the heart of Montreal's Plateau neighbourhood, Oppen's is a fashion oasis that offers the ultimate shopping experience with specialty sizes from 12 to 26.

A style powerhouse and the owner of Oppen's, Beverly Oppen has a keen eye for detail and design. With over 25 years of experience styling the women of Montreal, she uses her knowledge to source an eclectic selection of international and Canadian designers, showcasing the latest trends for her clients.

Thanks to the fashionable and welcoming staff, clients feel at home the moment they enter the boutique. Its quirky, cozy ambience draws you in, while the colours, textures and styles of the collections pique your curiosity.

The spring collection at Oppen's is about natural, cool fabrics available in organic linen, cotton and raw silk. Keeping the palette neutral in bone, bark and metal allows the whimsical splashes of colour to delight and surprise. There's an earthy '70s feel to the collection, keeping it comfortable and easy to wear. Don't forget to check out the jewellery collection from Glamjulz. It won't disappoint!

An exciting new addition to Oppen's is Anne-Marie Chagnon's jewellery collection. Valued for its ingenuity and originality, her pieces are made in Quebec and sold around the world.

FASHION is not about size; it's about finding the groove, look, shape, balance and silhouette that works best for your body. Come find your style at OPPEN'S!





THE GALLERY-LIKE SPACE AT VANCOUVER'S LEONE

I don't often attend red carpet events (OK, never), but I did walk down a reddish carpet once. It was my then-boyfriend's high school prom, and in my small hometown it was tradition to parade into the event amid flashing cameras as smiling parents, tearful grandparents and gawking friends cheered us on. It was by no means the Met Gala, but in my white column dress, featuring a front-slit skirt and tonal sequins on the bodice, I sure felt like an A-lister. But these days, Hollywood's leading ladies aren't just reaching for those tried-and-true columns. The award season's best-dressed lists highlight everything from traditional (strapless) to trendy (jumpsuits). The lavish gown is still an evenin-

gwear essential, but there are also other ways to wow. Kiernan Shipka, patron saint of red carpet cute-chic, made waves at the 2015 Emmy Awards with her two-piece Dior ensemble, an embroidered off-the-shoulder top and skinny black trousers; Emma Stone dazzled in a strapless Lanvin jumpsuit at the 2015 Golden Globes; and, at this year's People's Choice Awards, Dakota Johnson opted for a sparkly crop top and form-fitting maxi skirt by Armani Privé.

When it comes to after-dark dressing—on and off the red carpet—it seems few rules remain. Yet in spite, or possibly because, of this newfound “do you” freedom, shopping for special events has become more confusing than ever. Forget about formal and black tie—now we have to adhere to ever-more baffling dress codes (fancy ranch, Gatsby chic). What

FROM LEFT:
KIERNAN
SHIPKA, EMMA
STONE AND
COCO ROCHA

are the new rules for dressing up when anything goes? "We're seeing a trend toward less embellishment," says Beverley Lerner, buyer and co-owner of Andrews, a designer boutique in Toronto. "There's more use of interesting fabrics." Take the Spring 2016 microfibre-knit cocktail dress by Canadian label Greta Constantine currently carried at the boutique. "It's almost like a scuba fabric, which adds structure—it sculpts to the wearer's curves," she says. "It has a real architectural look." Beverly Oppen, owner of Montreal plus-size shop Boutique Oppen's, echoes this interest in unexpected fabrics: "I have pieces in matte jersey for spring, like jackets and long sheath dresses."

But traditional fabrics aren't exactly passé. Lace has made a comeback this spring. "It's definitely appropriate for dressy occasions," says Mical Lim, womenswear buyer at Leone, a high-end clothing boutique in Vancouver, referring to Prada's gold lace T-shirt and pleated skirt hanging on its racks. "There's a lot of lace, both in separates and dresses and as trim," she says.

While there will always be fans of the "one and done" dress, Oppen, Lerner and Lim all have clients who are looking for eveningwear alternatives. So does Debbie Patrick, co-owner of Something2Wear in Calgary. "Two-piece outfits can be an easier fit than a dress, especially if your top and bottom sizes



detourFOCUS



A SPRING
LOOK AT
LEONE

differ," she says. You're also getting good value, she adds, as you can wear the two pieces separately with different outfits. "We've been seeing a lot of the maxi skirt, and not just paired with a crop top. A sleeveless turtleneck in viscose or silk works, too," says Lerner. "Another new look is a soft, draped-front narrow pant with a sleeveless blouse." For dinner or an informal wedding, opt for a wide-leg trouser paired with a lightweight sparkly sweater. "This spring, pants are much fuller and wider—a great look is a wide pant with a short jacket," says Oppen.

Spring's runways may have been awash with countless trends, but individualism continues to rise to the surface. "Choosing an outfit that reflects who you are is very important," says Oppen. "In any size, some of us want to blend and some of us want to stand out." Lim agrees: "We always keep in mind body shape and what the client is comfortable in." Look for eveningwear pieces that play up your best assets, like an off-the-shoulder dress or top—both key trends this season. Show off your décolleté with a plunging V-neck, or try something with a low-cut back for a modern twist. When shopping for special occasion looks, it's also important to

enter the fitting room prepared. Patrick suggests bringing multiple undergarment options with you. "It will make you look and feel better," she says. A pair of heels will give you a better idea of the final result, too, since getting a sneak peek at your entire look can solve the to-buy-or-not-to-buy question. If you try something on and it's not a perfect fit, don't just write it off. "With eveningwear, almost everything needs a little tweaking," says Lerner. "Sometimes an alteration makes it perfect." One might even say red carpet-ready.

Where to shop:

BOUTIQUE OPPEN'S *4828 Boul. Saint Laurent, Montreal, 514-844-9159, oppens.ca.*

Exclusive to Oppen's are party-perfect pieces by Quebec designer Pierre Poisson.