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Interviewee: Mother

1. Where did they grow up and what is the time period.

“I grew up in Brooklyn, New York and in the 1990s there was a lot of different fashion trends going on”

2. Was there anything that influenced your style or fashion choices?

“There were many different things that influenced my fashion growing up. For one I think living in New York had an effect on the things I wore and how I wore them. The people that I use to be around would also play a part in what I would wear because everyone wanted to be so fresh and in the latest fashion. Although that still didn't affect me too much since I still usually went for the cheaper clothing. I didn't have the money to go out and buy the latest designer clothing brands but I did take inspiration from any outfits I would see. I also remember loving and wearing a lot of what I guess was sportswear. I would love wearing different tracksuits and those windbreaker material type of clothing which was so in style back then. If I had the money back then I would have probably bought every color I could.”

3. Was there any pop culture that influenced you during that time?

“There were so many different things that could have influenced my style back then and pop culture was probably the biggest. In the 90s shows like Martin, Fresh Prince of Bel-Air, The Cosby Show, Seinfeld, Boy Meets World, Full House, Family Matters and so much more all had a bigger influence than I ever

realized. These were some of the shows I knew and loved and even though I didn't notice it as much at the time, looking back at it now I can see that these shows were basically dressing me. I would see my favorite character in a nice bomber jacket or a pair of overalls and want to go out and buy it for myself. I even remember doing that for my favorite singers and musicians back then.

There were so many fashion icons like Michael Jackson, Prince, Mariah Carey, Madonna, Whitney Houston, and so many more. I definitely wasn't able to afford some of the crazy outfits they would put on but they were so iconic and inspiring that how could you not want to go out and buy something just like them."

4. What was your favorite outfit? Describe the style

"My favorite outfit would have to be the denim overalls with a white or black shirt under them because it was so simple but a very fashionable look at the time. I didn't have a specific brand of shoes I would wear but they were also usually just a plain white or black color. It was such an easy-to-wear outfit that didn't take much thought but made me feel as if I wearing something trendy and in style."

5. How did you express your individuality or desire to fit in with a particular group? How was that reflected in how they dressed?

"I never really cared to fit in with any particular group so I would definitely say I was expressing my individuality. I didn't have the money to afford the more expensive clothing at the time so I wore what I could and didn't care what others had to say about it. Sometimes I would get influenced by what others were wearing but that would be because I personally like what they had on and would

want the clothing for myself as well. I think all the people I was around back then were like that as well and didn't necessarily wear things just to fit in. They would wear what they liked was happening within fashion at the time and be proud of it."

6. How would you describe your style and how has it changed over the years?

"My style now is definitely much more simple and casual. I don't pay attention to what's happening to fashion nowadays and mostly stick to wearing whatever I feel looks nice. It has changed over the years because of how much less I let the outside world affect what I wear. Although that may be making the clothes I wear boring or less up to date with others, I am okay with that and feel comfortable knowing that what I wear is my choice and no one else."

Conclusion

There are so many different factors that contribute to one's fashion and each one of those factors can drastically change your look on fashion. For example, where you live can change how you are dressed and what type of clothing styles you are exposed to or even being in different social classes. People in the higher social class tiers tend to be the ones who set trends and create styles that slowly trickle down to the lower classes. However, I believe that that the most important factor of all is who you are as a person. Whether you are susceptible to society's definition of what fashion is or not is what makes you decide on what to wear and how to wear it.

References

Elaine Stone & Sherly A. Farnan (2018) *The Dynamics of Fashion*

(D. Smith, personal communication, September 24, 2021)