

Fashion Industry Deep Dive

Ted Talk: How Fashion Helps Us Express Who We Are and What We Stand For by Kaustav Dey

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FTT 110: Fundamentals of the Fashion Industry

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September 23, 2019

The TED Talk that I watched was “How Fashion Helps Us Express Who We Are and What We Stand For” by Kaustav Dey. In his TED Talk he talks his acceptance for the way he was and about his culture and home back in India as well as his family, more specifically his grandmother. This talk made me feel unique and empowered because what I wear represents me and only me. What I wear shows off my personality and style that only I can pull off. Other people can wear the same clothes, but no one can style it the way I can.

The part of the talk that made me get engaged the most was two things. The fact that Indian widows are not allowed to wear color but one day out of the year they participate in a festival filled with color even though they are prohibited from participating. Another one is when a designer in India was kidnapped and murdered because of the clothes he wore and produced. I engaged with these topics the most because it was interesting how much culture influences how you can express yourself and what is deemed acceptable and what’s not. Some cultural norms show you how somethings are restricted to be more acceptable to their society instead of letting the members of society be themselves.

What really stuck with me from the TED talk and what I can’t seem to get passed is the fact that a transgender woman did not receive medical attention because she was dressed as a woman even though she has male body parts. This caused the woman to die and even at the end of her life, she still wasn’t respected as how she identified and was buried as a man. This made me upset because the fact that her fashion and identity choices wasn’t accepted, she died when she could’ve been saved. Fashion has such a huge impact on an individual and the society that it can be the cause of a life or death situation because it wouldn’t be deemed as appropriate.

All in all, this talk made me think about how fashion impacts our life whether in a good way or bad way. Fashion defines a person and without it, the person doesn’t have part of their identity and they can’t express who they are.

Reference Page

Dey, Kaustav, director. *TED. TED*,
www.ted.com/talks/kaustav_dey_how_fashion_helps_us_express_who_we_are_and_what_we_stand_for.