

Interview Writing Assignment

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BUF 1101: Intro to the Fashion Industry

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Interviewee: My Mom (Blanca Aguirre)

8 Questions

- **What age were you 20 years ago? Where did you grow up? What were the 2000s like for you?**

“Well, I’m 49, 20 years ago I was 29. I am still young, just a little wiser. I came to the United States when I was 13 years old, and came to New York to work, so I would like to say that I grew up here. The 2000s was a great time. When I had you, I learned a lot about myself and motherhood during those years.”

- **How would you describe Fashion 20 years ago? Do you believe there was a significant “environmental” influence affecting fashion (Psychological, Sociological, etc)? How?**

“The fashion style back then was a little weird. I don’t know what happened or what shifted, but, in the early 2000’s everyone, I feel like, was dabbling and finding out what style popped more and made a statement. I do think psychologically and maybe even sociologically, like how you explained it, did affect the way a lot of people in the 2000s dressed. The younger generation started influencing and changing the style; people also got bored and wanted to try something different. I used to work at a sewing company in the ’90s and early 2000s— I saw a big shift in clothing and manufacturing. You know, Birtney Spears, NSYNC, even Disney Channel, etc. They were all huge, and I feel like they influenced fashion a lot back then. I even collected some clothing pieces and stored them for you.”

(They were 2 off the shoulder sequined tops from New York and Company, some baggy jeans from GAP, and a blazer-like vest.)

- **How would you describe your style 20 years ago? Did your economic status affect your style? Did a show or something else influence your style?**

“During the 2000s, my style didn't change much. I would style you more than I would style myself, honestly. My go-to outfit was always wide-leg pants, with a small top like a halter top or a long-sleeve shirt, and either a strappy heel or boots. I would like to say my style wasn't affected by my economic status, but during those times, I couldn't buy high-end brand-name clothes. As I mentioned, I used to work at a sewing factory; during the week, I would work there, and during the weekend, I would clean houses in the Hamptons in New York. Most of the clothes I wore were second-hand or given to me by the women who lived in the houses I used to clean. Most of their clothes, although high-end, would look like regular clothes people around my neighborhood would wear. I remember everyone was wearing halter tops, spaghetti strap dresses, little purses, jackets with fur at the end, baggy jeans with big t-shirts, the whole thing. Celebrities like Jennifer Lopez and Salma Hayek were very much my inspiration. I loved their style.”



(2005, My mom and I at a birthday party)



(2003, My mom and I at a family get-together)



(2002, Celebrating my 1st birthday)

Conclusions

While interviewing my mom, I noticed and related much of our conversation to the first and second chapters of the reading. When talking about the 2000s and discussing whether there was a “big” environmental influence affecting fashion, my mom went into depth about believing that the younger generation influenced and started these new “trends.” When she had me in 2001, she constantly watched Elmo, Disney Channel, and many other kids' shows with adults and celebrities as guest stars. She claims that the actors and guest stars always had terrific and laid-back outfits that she loved. It made her start looking for clothing that stood out, made her look young, and could be viewed as “trendy.” In chapter one of our reading, it talks about trends and how urban or street culture could influence fashion and its change. (Stone, E & Farnan, S. A. (2018).

When speaking about trends, we went into a deeper conversation about how her style could have been her trying to fit into a particular “group.” My mom wanted to dress in a way that made her feel young. In Chapter 2, group acceptance is discussed, and how fashion is people trying to be individual and belong. (Stone, E & Farnan, S. A. 2018). When we talked about social status and if our economic status at the time affected her style, she said it didn't because she could still wear what she liked, even if it were thrifted, given, or bought. I do believe, as mentioned in Chapter 2, that consumers make the change and decide what becomes popular and what is not. My mom and I talked the whole day when I sat down and interviewed her. I knew since I was little, she saved me pieces of clothing to wear in the future. When I saw them again, the style seemed so current and trendy. This made me realize how much of a cycle fashion is and how it'll keep repeating.

References

Stone, E., & Farnan, S. A. (2018). *The Dynamics of Fashion* (5th ed.). Fairchild Books.