



TOP ROW and BELOW: Jumpsuits made appearances on many runways for ready-to-wear Spring 2011. GETTY IMAGES



## Jump into spring

### Three reasons to love jumpsuits

By ELAINE TIONG

As we close the door on our winter woollies, we welcome in the spring sun that brings the vision of a lighter, brighter, and more fun wardrobe.

I'm flooded with a sea of fashion inspiration as I dust off my beautiful print dresses, colourful silk scarves, cropped leather jacket, and open-toe platform wedges. One of my all-time favourite spring pieces, however, is the jumpsuit—otherwise known as the romper or playsuit.

This unique trend, which originated in the late 1960s and early '70s, has made a noticeable resurgence over the last few years, appearing on the 2011 spring/summer ready-to-wear runway of many top designers.

Public opinion on the jumpsuit is somewhat mixed, and as much as it is loved by some, others loath the style and claim it to be notoriously unflattering.

I won't deny that there are some badly cut jumpsuits that create elephant hips and squashed behinds on even the trimmest figures. However, when chosen correctly, a classic jumpsuit can become surprisingly versatile.

To help persuade the critics, here are three reasons why you should fall in love with jumpsuits for spring.

#### APPROPRIATE FOR ANY ACTIVITY:

Whether it's for a touch of glamorous gardening or strenuous spring-cleaning, a casual cotton jumpsuit is a practical solution. It is an effortlessly stylish

take on work overalls that allows for flexibility of movement, and you don't have to worry about your panties peeking out when you bend over to do the weeding!

#### PERFECT FOR ALL WEATHER CONDITIONS:

The possibilities are endless when it comes to styling a plain jumpsuit. Layering it with a combination of either a vest, T-shirt, stockings, boots, or cropped jacket will make a great outfit for cooler days. Then, when the sun comes out, pair it with a big summer hat, silk scarf, and sandals for a fun and fresh look.

#### STUNNING EVENING SHOW-STOPPERS

A great alternative to the predictable floor-length dress, evening jumpsuits can be daringly glamorous and sexy. Luxurious fabrics, descendant jewels, plunging necklines, or a low-back halter are some of the things to look for when choosing your sleek and stylish all-in-one tuxedo.

There are so many fantastic options currently in stores, so get shopping and jump into a jumpsuit this spring. For something inexpensive and fun, Top-Shop always has a great selection. Otherwise, beautiful designer pieces can be easily searched for on net-a-porter.com or shopbop.com.

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The Cropped Jersey Jumpsuit by Juicy Couture (\$160) looks great for a fun day in the garden. NET-A-PORTER.COM

A light, summery playsuit from Theory (\$340). NET-A-PORTER.COM

The Belted Washed-Silk Tuxedo Jumpsuit by Gucci (\$2,160) is one of those full-length jumpsuits fit for formal occasions. NET-A-PORTER.COM



## Wearing eco-conscious clothing for Earth Month

By JESS ZAINO

With April being Earth Month, it's a perfect opportunity to explore eco-friendly designs that both look great and go easy on the environment. But "going green" doesn't simply mean wearing one of those green T-shirts that call for environmental awareness over a pair of new denim jeans.

Many think of eco-wear as consisting of ill-fitting, putty coloured clothing. Actually, eco-conscious clothing—usually made from soy, bamboo, hemp or cotton—utilizes natural materials for production and feels comfortable on the body. In a more modern sense, being eco-friendly can mean wearing simple styles while in some cases help-

ing preserve indigenous peoples' craftsmanship.

Alicia Silverstone is an actress and activist with her own unique sense of style. While she loves to wear natural, organic and simple fabrics, she never compromises easily when it comes to dressing up. Silverstone once hit the red carpet of a movie premiere in a sexy, earth-friendly black dress paired with black heels. A simple silver chain lay effortlessly at her waist to complete the eco-chic look.

New York-based RESTORE Clothing creates simple apparel with products that are kind to the environment. Their Keyhole Dress can be worn a la Silverstone and is a perfect pick for sustainable style. Add a dash of eco-friendly jewellery, either at the neck or at the waist as the actress did, and you've marched to the front line of fashion.

The concept of Maleku Jewellery, winner of the Beyond The Runway Award for Nolcha Fashion Week

2010, is inspired by the highly artistic Maleku Indians of the Northern Costa Rica rain forests. Its designer, Ileana Rojas-Bennett, takes pride in "bestowing part proceeds of sales to my beloved Maleku villages throughout northern Costa Rica."

This indigenous tribe is widely known for their fantastic wall paintings, as well as highly decorative gourds, masks, bowls, and other pieces. Unfortunately, the ethnic group is shrinking in size, but the remaining Maleku in Costa Rica, about 500 people, have miraculously managed to preserve their treasured art, time-honoured crafts, and cherished language.

"Preserving Maleku's beautiful but disappearing art, and supporting these artists in their ongoing quest to create art is crucial," said Rojas-Bennett.

Looking great while dressing eco-friendly is easy, so do your part—dress the part.



Designs by Maleku Jewelry reflect the culture of the Maleku people of Costa Rica. COURTESY OF GLOBALFASHIONBRANDS.COM

Jess Zaino is the Style Correspondent for Nolcha's GlobalFashionBrands.com—a social, online marketplace connecting shoppers to independent fashion designers and retailers through a personal shopping and discovery platform. She recommends quality fashion pieces from designers and brands associated with Nolcha in her biweekly column.

Actress Alicia Silverstone looks stylish in an earth-friendly little black dress paired with black heels and a silver chain at the waist. KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES