

Clinton Kelly THE STYLE GURU WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR BEST SUNDAY

The style guru, author and cohost of TLC's *What Not to Wear* calls out New Yorkers on their fall fashion faux pas. Are you guilty? By **Sarah Bruning**

New York has a reputation for being one of the world's most fashionable cities, but the citizenry still runs the risk of committing any number of heinous fashion crimes—especially when it comes to appropriating the latest sartorial trends. According to fashion expert Clinton Kelly—whose latest book, *Oh No She Didn't: The Top 100 Style Mistakes Women Make and How to Avoid Them*, is out now—some aesthetic blunders are too egregious to be ignored. Here are his top five fall fashion snafus—and how you can dodge them.



1 The trend: Animal prints

The pitfall: Leopard may be one of the season's biggest trends, but it's also one of the easiest to botch. "If a woman's wearing a shapeless leopard-print top, I feel like she's just skinned a beast—like Jane of the Jungle—and thrown it over her back," notes Kelly.

The save: "For crying out loud, if you're going to do leopard print, just do it in one place," Kelly implores. "Don't ever do a leopard-print blouse with a leopard-print shoe or bag—or a bag and shoe together. That's the worst possible thing a woman can do!" If you insist on taking your wardrobe for a walk on the wild side, Kelly advises tempering the overall look by pairing the more intense piece with a simple, tailored item, such as a black structured jacket.

2 The trend: Men's skinny jeans

The pitfall: Kelly acknowledges that gents tend to have it a bit easier in the style department than their female counterparts, but it's simply because they have fewer pieces to choose from and, thus, fewer chances to screw up. One place they can really go a-foul is with body-hugging denim pants. "I think 40 is the absolute cutoff for skinny jeans, unless you're a rock star," elaborates Kelly.

The save: Sorry, dudes, but you basically have to be young and Russell Brand—thin to pull this one off. As Kelly reasons, tapered bottoms add the appearance of extra weight in the hips, thighs and rear. Unless you're a guy who's blessed with an ultra-speedy metabolism, do yourself a favor by sporting pants that fit *well*, not tight—brands like Levi's, Uniqlo or J. Crew all offer stylish, slim-fitting jeans.

4 The trend: Jumbo cozy knits

The pitfall: Kelly's main beef with extra-large sweaters is that many women use them as a lazy camouflage technique meant to mask figure flaws. "You can't just wear an oversized [top] and think that you're hiding something," he explains. "You can't layer at the expense of style!"

The save: A remedy for these potentially ill-fitting items is finding the proper bottoms. "Usually these pieces have a big pattern or even a nubby weave, so there's a lot of texture and volume," says Kelly. "They really work best with things that are simple and streamlined—a leggings, skinny jean, jegging or trouser that's got a very clean line." Belts can also help create a flattering silhouette, so long as they're plain and worn at the person's narrowest part, such as the natural waist or just below the bustline.

5 The trend: Over-the-knee boots

The pitfall: This runway-popular style is one of Kelly's biggest pet peeves. "When you chop up the line of the leg, your leg ends up looking shorter," he explains. "When your legs look shorter, you look shorter. And when you look shorter, you look wider."

The save: Accepting your body type is key: Kelly recommends that shorter gals stick to midcalf boots or high heels, lest they appear like a cartoon character. "I've seen a lot of petite girls wearing [over-the-knee boots], and in that case, [they go all the way] over the thigh," notes Kelly. "Suddenly, their legs are completely gone, and they end up looking like the cat from *Shrek*."

→YOU BETTER WORK! Clinton Kelly: *Oh No She Didn't*—Avoiding Fashion Mistakes, 92nd Street Y, 1395 Lexington Ave at 92nd St (212-415-5500, 92y.org). Sun 17 at 7:30pm; \$29.

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