With the ultimate shopping season upon us, we called for backup. Our secret weapon? Industry heavy-hitters who shared their favourite looks, must-have items and shopping strategies to keep you on track (and on budget) this fall. Here's how they spend it.

BY VANESSA TAYLOR / PORTRAITS AND POLAROIDS BY JESSICA BLAINE SMITH



HER STYLE

Polished with an edge. "I leave it open to interpretation, since I like to mine for different styles, trends and decades."

FALL WISH LIST

"Peter Pilotto printed skirt with kicked hemline and matching puffer jacket, Valentino rock stud pumps with double ankle strap in black and nude, and I always stock up on Joe Fresh and Equipment blouses."

SHOPPING PHILOSOPHY

"Really do your research. I rarely pop into a store just to see what they have. It helps keep me focused and avoid spending money on stuff that I don't really need. This is especially helpful if you encounter a pushy sales person. Don't spend a lot of money on those super directional trendy pieces that will go out of style next season. Buy less, but better quality. Try cheap-chic brands like Zara, H&M and French Connection for quick updates."

BEST BUY

"I picked up a white wool Burberry Prorsum tuxedo from an outlet store in Buffalo. It's the perfect size, impeccably cut and makes me feel like Bianca Jagger circa Studio 54. It was originally \$2,800 and I got it for about \$500.'

BEST ADVICE

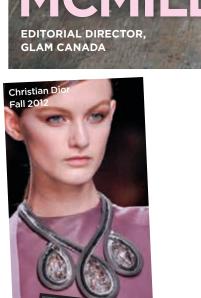
Clutch: Céline Shoes: Manolo

"If you're going to spend money on something, consider the cost-per-wear. It helps me assess whether it's worth the price. Not for one minute do I regret ponying up for a Chanel 2.55 leather handbag. I will wear that bag every season, with every outfit, day or night until I die-and then I'll be buried with it."

Suit: Maje T-shirt: Old Navy



handbag



MERCHANDISER, **TOPSHOP**

HER STYLE

High-Impact. "I take big bites out of fashion. I'm not one to gradually wade into trends."

FALL MUST-HAVE

"Collar necklaces. Any and all found in silver, gold, neon or rhinestones. My high fashion pick is Aurélie Bidermann from her Fall 2012 collection.

FALL WISH LIST

"Céline's classic medium flap bag in royal blue. I've been stalking this bag for some time, but I just adore it in the deep cobalt. Can I afford it on an editor's salary? Hell, no!"

SHOPPING PHILOSOPHY

"If you love it, buy it. If it's expensive, leave the store and stay away for a few days. If you keep thinking about it, then you probably should own it. Wait until it goes on sale or search for a better deal online. The key: never spend more than you have in your bank account. My credit card only sees the light of day when I'm shopping in a foreign country or online."

BEST ADVICE

"If you tend to get overwhelmed by department stores, switch to boutiques. The merchandise is well-edited, easier sales floor navigation and friendlier associates."

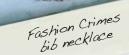


AND BEAUTY EDITOR, **CANADIAN LIVING**

Necklace: Expressions exclusive to The Bay

SENIOR FASHION

- Jacket: Zara
- Pants: Hudson Blouse: Cos
- Shoes: Ash **Bag: Yves Saint Laurent**
- Watch: Marc Ecko Jewellery: Tiffany &
- Co., Links of London. Topshop, Forever 21, J.Crew, vintage ring



Edgy-Girly. "I was a bit of a tomboy growing up, but now I love wearing dresses with interesting cuts and bold prints or patterns. I like to ground it all with a heavy boot, spiked earrings and big hair."

INSPIRATION

Julia Sarr-Jamois, fashion editor at Wonderland magazine. "She blends Parisian cool and London eccentricity with such ease and I adore her for it."

FALL MUST-HAVE

"This massive Jeremy Laing scarf from his Fall 2011 collection. It has an image of a burning hand talisman that I love by artist Scott Treleaven. I'm also on the hunt for the perfect vintage camo jacket."

BEST ADVICE

"Take advantage of personal shoppers or sales associates in stores. They always seem to know cuts, fits and any other detail that you need."

