

DRESSED TO THRILL *Gustav Temple and Winston Chesterfield*

PEACOCK SEASON

Dandies old and new are retaking the streets of London

A BRIGADE of smartly suited gents sporting pocket squares, fedoras, waxed mustaches, even a jabot, line Savile Row, chanting, "All we are saying/Is give three-piece a chance." The rather civilized protest against Abercrombie & Fitch—for daring to propose opening a children's store here—may have failed, but it is indicative of the whimsical revival of an English archetype: the dandy.

Protest organizer Gustav Temple, editor of U.K. magazine *The Chap*, has been witness to the flowering of dandyism's current *nouvelle vague*, which can be seen in full bloom at events like the Grand Anarcho-Dandyist Ball (Dec. 7). Temple says, "Each time [new attendees] come to the events they're dressing slightly better than the last time, and they're starting to affect mannerisms—[Oscar] Wilde-ian wit and all that."

Screenwriter Ray Frensham, voted Most Eccentric Dandy 2012, agrees. Decked out in a three-piece suit with monocle and top hat, his attire affirms his proclamation: "I'm toying with Regency at the moment." But he's not striving for historical accuracy. He

believes dandies take "the best of everything, and add their own spin"—in his case, red spats from the 1920s.

The trend seems to be taking hold with the teenage set, too. Zack Pinsent is an up-and-comer who appeared on the scene a couple of years ago at the tender age of 17. "He's got 100 Regency waistcoats, makes his own capes and is extremely camp and witty," raves Temple. Pinsent is already positioned among the senior ranks of Frensham, Temple and others in the pages of *I Am Dandy: The Return of the Elegant Gentleman*, a new book by New York photographer/writer team Nathaniel Adams and Rose Callahan. And Pinsent may be a favorite for this year's Most Eccentric Dandy honor.

Yet beware of calling him—or any of the aforementioned proud peacocks—a dandy. Says Winston Chesterfield, a 20-something researcher who is trained as a lawyer and is a dandy model and blogger: "Dandy is a title, like a knighthood, and you can't give yourself a knighthood."

—SHANA TING LIPTON

DANDY OUTFITTERS

Where to get kitted out in London

DASHING TWEEDS SHOWROOM
5 ST. MARK'S CRESCENT
dashingtweeds.co.uk
Guy Hills presents brightly colored
tweed for the 21st century

FAVOURBROOK
19-21 PICCADILLY ARCADE, JERMYN STREET
favourbrook.com
Men's waistcoats and accessories

HORNET'S OF KENSINGTON
2 & 4 KENSINGTON CHURCH WALK
hornetskensington.co.uk
A mix of second-hand bespoke and
British classics, plus new labels for the
modern gentleman