...NOT IN THISDAY STYLE? THEN YOU'RE NOT IN STYLE

AKINTUNDE ROTIMI JR
SPEAKING FOR THE HOUSE

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EDITOR’S LETTER

Hello June

This past week was a whirlwind of events, from celebrating President Tinubu’s first year in office to, yes, you heard right: a new national anthem.

First of all, Congratulations, Mr President! The push continues, and with it, we hope for an improved standard of living.

While many of us are still wrapping our heads around the need for this particular change, I say it’s time to get with the program and start humming along to the new rhythm of our nation.

What’s new on your end? Can you believe it’s already June? It feels like the year has sprinted past us. I still vividly remember “detty December” and all its festive chaos like it was yesterday. Where has all the time gone? It’s as if we blinked, and the calendar pages turned on their own. How are you all holding up? That really is a valid question, considering. I know, It’s been that kind of year. But if you’re reading this while breathing just fine, then you’re winning, and sometimes, that’s all that matters.

Right now, staying positive is key, and we must remind ourselves that this is just a phase, and like they say, “This too shall pass.” You know that quote about labor pains and the sweet feeling that comes after delivery? Yeah, I can’t quite remember it either, but let’s just say this is shaping up to be one of those moments. And speaking of moments, June is shaping up to be quite an interesting one. Funke Babs-Kufeji has drawn up a list of trends we’ll be wearing this month, and yes, it’s a must-read, especially if you are a fashion girl. Trust me, there’s nothing better than putting your best fashion foot forward.

Oh, and for all you seafood lovers in Lagos, we have highlighted some restaurants with great seafood options. You should take yourself out for a treat.

If fashion and food aren’t your thing, how about scents? Have you ever wondered what your go-to scent says about you? Trust me, it’s worth a read.

How’s your weekend going? Are you taking it easy, or is the pressure on? Remember, it’s all about finding that balance, soaking in the moments, and embracing whatever comes your way.

As we wind down the first half of the year, I wish you Godspeed as you prepare for the next.

Here’s to whatever lies ahead: may it be filled with moments of joy, laughter, and maybe just a tiny of chaos. After all, that’s what makes life interesting, right?

Love,

Konye

COVER NOTE

Akinfe Ogunmiyi is a young Nigerian parliamentarian, public policy, development, and strategic communication professional currently serving as the Honourable member of the Ekiti North 1 (Ikole/Oye) constituency. He holds the position of spokesman for the 10th Assembly and is chairman of the House special committee on media and public affairs.

The final rites of Olufunke Ogeah

Friends and family of the Ogeah’s and Koya’s recently gathered together to give a befitting farewell to their wife, mother, sister, and friend, Olufunke Ogeah (nee Koya), as she was laid to rest. The final rites began with a service of songs held at the Finchley Methodist Church in London, then straight to an evening of music and tributes held by her closet friends to honour her kind and gentle soul.
ARISEPLAY ORIGINALS PRESENTS

AWARDS CONTENDERS

An inside look at global movies creating the most buzz in the run-up to awards season

NYAD

SOCIETY of the SNOW

Saltburn

THE CROWN

MAY DECEMBER

LAWMEN BASS REEVES

RUSTIN
Friends and family of the Ogeah’s and Koya’s recently gathered together to give a befitting farewell to their wife, mother, sister, and friend, Olufunke Ogeah (nee Koya), as she was laid to rest. The final rites began with a service of songs held at the Finchley Methodist Church in London, then straight to an evening of music and tributes held by her closest friends to honour her kind and gentle soul. The family then held a service of songs and a funeral service at Trinity House Church in Victoria Island. She was finally laid to rest at an intimate ceremony at the Vaults and Garden burial grounds in Ikoyi as family and friends bid their final goodbyes.

May her gentle soul continue to rest in peace.
THE FINAL RITES OF OLUFUNKE OGEAH CONT'D

PASTOR ANDY OSAKWE
MONISOLA FAGBEMI
SUBOMI OYENUGA, RONKE RINU & BOLA ODUKOMAY A
TILEWA ADEBAJO
TOKUNBO ENABOIFO
TOYIN SMITH
TOLU IGHODALO
LOOKMAN DUROSIMI-ETTI
NGOZI ONYIA
UNOMA GRANT
ADA AKPATA
VICTOR & CHILEME HAYES
VICTORIA AWOSEMO
WOLE OSHIN
TONY & NKOYO RAPU
LANRE TEJUOSHO
STAN MUKORO
TITI OSHIN
SADE AFOLABI
SAN DELE & BOLA BELGORE
SEYI AKINWUNMI
TOYIN PINHEIRO
SADE & DEMOLA ALI
NIKE & BAYO IBIROGBA
KEMI OFILI
DUPE OYELEYE
STEPHEN KOLA-BALOGUN
BOLA BELGORE
KAYODE ODUKOY A
LAI ORIOWO
MUYIWA FAGBEMI
FEMI OLUBANWO
TITI CONCAL VE, NGOZI ONYIA
DOYIN RHODES-VIVOUR, ADA AKPATA & EDWINA SENAY A
FRANK AIGBOGUN
ADEOLA AZEEZ
SAFAX/MARRIOT TEAM
ADEYEMI-BERO
BIMBOLA ONAGORUWA
SOLA SERIKI
SEUN MOUKAN
ADEYEMI-BERO
BIMBOLA ONAGORUWA
SOLA SERIKI
SEUN MOUKAN
Nigerian Philanthropist and lawyer Gbenga Oyebode, and members of the Ford Foundation board of trustees, hosted a welcome dinner in Lagos to honour Darren Walker, the President of the Ford Foundation who was in Nigeria for a four-day official visit. The event celebrated Walker’s achievements in philanthropy and his ongoing commitment to West Africa as well as his love for the Arts. Held at the Lagos upscale restaurant ‘Gras’ in Victoria Island, the dinner brought together prominent Nigerians and High-Net-Worth individuals who are making a difference in philanthropy, governance, finance, arts, and education.

Discussions throughout the evening centered on trends and innovative approaches in philanthropy, women and youth empowerment initiatives, the importance of arts and cultural preservation, and the establishment of strategic partnerships to drive long-lasting positive social change.

AN EVENING WITH DARREN WALKER

5 WORKPLACE TV SHOWS TO BINGE ON

Workplace dramas and comedies have, over time, carved out a special place in the hearts of viewers. These series transport us into the everyday clatter of office settings, making us part of the crew. Whether it’s drama, comedy, romance, or even a little legal action, there’s no shortage of captivating shows that mirror our work lives with a twist of entertainment. Here’s our curated list of five must-watch workplace TV shows from around the globe:

The Office
Topping our list is the iconic sitcom that redefined workplace humour from 2005 to 2013. Starring the likes of Steve Carell and John Krasinski, this series takes you inside the quirky day-to-day operations of a paper supply company. With its unforgettable characters and side-splitting scenarios, it’s a binge-worthy classic that never gets old.

Suits
Ever fantasised about striding through the halls of a top law firm? ‘Suits’ brings that fantasy to life with its slick portrayal of Manhattan’s legal eagles, featuring sharp wits, sharper attire, and a dose of office romance. From 2011 to 2019, this show made viewers wish they could throw on a tailored suit and talk legal jargon with the best of them.

Castle and Castle
Experience Nigerian legal drama with ‘Castle and Castle’. Streaming on Netflix, this series is rich in drama and intricate plot twists, starring industry giants like Dakore Akande and Richard Mofe-Damijo. It’s a perfect pick for those craving a dose of international flair in their viewing schedule.

What’s Wrong With Secretary Kim?
No list would be complete without a touch of K-drama magic. This charming series blends humour with heartfelt moments, charting the story of a narcissistic CEO and his indispensable secretary. It’s a tale of realisation and romance, ideal for newcomers to Korean drama or long-time fans alike.

Becoming Abi
This fresh hit from 2022 follows Abi as she manoeuvres through the cutthroat lanes of an advertising agency. Featuring a dynamic cast including Bolu Essien and Akan Nnani, this series is a modern take on corporate climbing and personal growth.

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BRIDGING BORDERS FOR AFRICAN EXCELLENCE

Reminiscing on this year’s Africa Day celebration, Access stands tall as a pillar of unity and progress. Our collaborative efforts have transcended borders, advancing initiatives that uplift communities and empower generations. Join us in commemorating this journey of unity and achievement, as we continue to build a future where African excellence knows no bounds.
AKINTUNDE ROTIMI JR
SPRING FOR THE HOUSE

Akintunde Rotimi Jr. is a rising star in Nigerian politics. As a dedicated young parliamentarian representing the Ekiti North I constituency, Rotimi has quickly made his mark in the House of Representatives. Known for his eloquence, he serves as the Spokesman for the 10th Assembly and leads the House special committee on media and public affairs. His legislative initiatives have spotlighted his readiness and capacity for significant impact, earning him acclaim as one of the young parliamentarians to watch in 2024.

Coming from a family with a rich legacy of public service, Rotimi continues a familial tradition of dedication to faith and nation. His late father, Honourable Chief Akintunde Rotimi Sr., was a noted Second Republic parliamentarian and activist who collaborated closely with Chief Obafemi Awolowo. Today, Rotimi Jr. follows in his father’s footsteps, forging his path in the political landscape.

In a compelling conversation with Funke Babs-Kufei, Rotimi shares insights into his political journey, his dedication to his constituents, and his ambitious efforts to drive positive change.

Why and how did you get into politics, and why do you think it’s important for the younger generation to get involved in Nigeria’s politics now?

My journey into politics and public service has been a long one, which can be traced to many influences. Right from my primary school, Corona School Victoria Island, Lagos, I remember we were taught to serve and be socially conscious, with initiatives like our jumble sales, which mandated every student to bring used toys and clothing for charity. These early influences shaped my worldview from a very young age. Likewise, attending Kings College Lagos was also a key factor for me. Aside from my secondary school years, our alumni community is also very vast and provides an opportunity for lifelong relationships with mentors who have gone before you. So, from a young age, I was surrounded by many mentor figures and immersed in an environment that emphasized the virtues of public service, integrity, and social responsibility. People like the late Albert Okumagba, Olorunyomi Suku, Chief Philip Awo, Mr. Olumide Adefarati, and many others inspired and continue to inspire me.

Growing up in a family with a rich history of activism and public service, I witnessed firsthand the diligence and commitment to excellence my mother brought to her job as an educator and civil servant. Macman Modupe Rotimi, as a Corp Member in the first set of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), was one of 12 people honoured with a presidential award by the then Head of State, General Yakubu Gowon.

I also saw the profound impact that dedicated leadership can have on society. My father, Hon. Chief Akintunde Rotimi, Sr., served as a parliamentarian in the Second Republic, and his unwavering commitment to justice and equity deeply inspired me. He also instilled in me a love for Ekiti, my homeland, and was instrumental in meeting many Ekiti leaders in my early years.

Leading lights from Ekiti State, such as Sir Rami Oomsoro (now late), Arc. Folu Adeke (now late), Prince Julius Adekunle Adejuyigbe, Otunba Niyi Adeboye, Alajeua Segun ON, and Dr. Kayode Fayemi, as well as many others, have had a profound impact on me.

Of note, my relationship with my mentor and benefactor, Dr. Kayode Fayemi, the former governor of Ekiti State, has been instrumental to my growth in politics. I have also been privileged to be mentored by and work closely with Erula Bisi Fayemi, the former First Lady of Ekiti State. Her role as one of the foremost advocates for social inclusion and protection of women has impacted my work.

As a Christian, I have also been impacted by the teachings of people like Pastor Pju, Oyeyemi, Pastor Tony Oyegbile, and Pastor David Adegbesola, who are gifted in inspiring and facilitating the role of the church in producing impact and change in every area of society. I believe it is crucial for the younger generation to engage in politics now more than ever. Our country is at a pivotal juncture; the energy, innovation, and resilience of youth are indispensable for driving the transformative changes we need. Young people bring fresh perspectives, a willingness to challenge the status quo, and an innate understanding of contemporary issues.

You have held various leadership positions since your time at the University of Badar. What valuable lessons did you learn in student leadership that have helped you today?

Serving as President of the Nigerian Universities Geography Students’ Association (NAGUSA) was a transformative experience that honed my leadership skills and deepened my understanding of collective action.

One of the most valuable lessons I learned during that time was the importance of collaboration, especially in implementing ideas that might have seemed ahead of their time. Leading a diverse group of students required strategic thinking, empathy, and effective communication.

A key takeaway from that period was the necessity of creating a shared vision and rallying people around it. This experience taught me that true leadership is about inspiring others to believe in a common goal and working together to achieve it.

This lesson has been invaluable in my political career where building consensus and fostering unity is essential for driving legislative and social progress. Moreover, it underscored the significance of integrity and accountability, which continue to guide my approach to public service.

More so, I had the opportunity to lead a faith-based organisation called the Fathers House Project, which gave me the opportunity to work with several people to address societal ills that are still rife today, especially outmoded.

I remember working closely with the late Emeritus Prof. Olumuyiwa Awe, who was one of the founders of the Pyrates Confraternity and, at the time, the Chairman of the Unihan Anti-Cultism Campaign Committee.

As Spokesman of the 10th Assembly, what are the key legislative priorities of the 10th Assembly, and can you share any updates on the efforts to give Nigeria a new constitution?

The 10th House of Representatives has eight key priorities: Strengthening Good Governance, Improving National Security, Law Reform, Economic Growth and Development, Social Sector Reform and Development, Inclusion and Open Parliament, Influencing Foreign Policy, and Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability. These agenda areas are carefully crafted to align with the Executive’s 8-point Agenda, identify legislative measures critical to enabling the Executive to achieve its vision for Nigeria, and address the challenges facing the country today.

One of the most significant undertakings of this Assembly is the effort to give Nigeria a new constitution that truly reflects the aspirations and realities of our diverse population. The Constitutive Review Committee is chaired by the Deputy Speaker, Rt—Hon—Benjamin Kuku, my predecessor as Speaker of the House.

I am also proud to serve as the Ekiti State Representative on the Committee at this time. We have concluded the first phase of receiving memoranda, and we are currently reviewing about 305 memoranda received from various stakeholder groups as well as 112 member bills.
Lawmakers are not the most popular amongst Nigerians for many reasons, and rightly so. As the House Speaker and Chairman of the House Committee on Media and Public Affairs, how are you addressing historical issues of poor perception and trust deficits between Nigerians, your colleagues, and yourself as a representative?

The trust deficit between the people and their representatives is a significant challenge that requires deliberate and sustained efforts to address. It doesn’t matter that this Assembly is made up of about 75% new members and an unprecedented number of young parliamentarians led by Hon. Olamijuwonlo Alao-Akala. As the House Speaker, with my deputy, Hon. Chief Philip Agabe, and other Media and Public Affairs Committee members, I am committed to enhancing transparency, accountability, and effective communication between the House and the public.

One of the key strategies we have employed is increasing the level of engagement and openness with our constituents. Our Speaker, Rt. Hon. Adebayo Shittu, PhD, has also been helpful, under him, we have initiated several debates, stakeholder engagements, public consultations, and the use of digital platforms to ensure that citizens are informed about legislative activities and can provide feedback.

Furthermore, we are working to reform internal processes within the House to promote efficiency and responsiveness so that every transcript the public has with the House has the challenges their previous negative perceptions.

One year on, would you say the House has positively impacted the lives of Nigerians?

Reflecting on the past year, the House of Representatives has made significant strides in positively impacting Nigerians’ lives. Our legislative actions have focused on addressing key issues such as economic recovery, security, healthcare, education, and social welfare.

While there is still much work to be done, our progress so far is a testament to our commitment to serving the Nigerian people. We remain focused on delivering tangible results and continuing to drive meaningful change in the years to come.

What are some of the bills you have set in motion, and why? What measures have you employed is increasing the level of engagement and openness with our constituents?

Following in my father’s footsteps as a parliamentarian is a profound honour and a responsibility. I do not take lightly. It is a testament to the enduring legacy of public service and commitment to the common good instilled in me from a young age.

What message do you have for young Nigerians who aspire to follow a similar path in public service?

To young Nigerians aspiring to follow a path in public service, believe in the power of your voice and the impact of your actions. The future of our nation lies in your hands, and your active participation in shaping that future is crucial. Be willing to challenge the status quo, stand up for what is right, and work collaboratively to achieve common goals. Be willing to challenge the status quo, stand up for what is right, and work collaboratively to achieve common goals.

What does it mean to you to be in a position to represent the aspirations of Nigerians?

Many would argue that the National Assembly and the President need to address the historical misstep and have argued over the years that they have changed the anthem in 1978 in the first place. Furthermore, as far back as July 3, 2014, the National Conference, which had 452 leaders of thought from across this country, debated and recommended that this position be taken. There has been a broad consensus among civil society actors and other stakeholders before now that this move should be taken.

It is important to note that before May 29, 2024, there was no law on our National Anthem not even the constitution. This is the first time our national anthem has been codified in any legislation, and it was thought through, I know and appreciate that there are issues around how quickly it was passed and whether that should be a priority for lawmakers. I can assure you that we are far from unproductive from the House of Representatives, which has passed over 80 bills so far in the 10th Assembly. I encourage Nigerians, especially younger generations, to please not jump on the bandwagon to criticise this one issue because it’s popular.

You were born during your father’s tenure in the position you now occupy. How do you feel walking in your father’s steps, and what legacy do you hope to leave behind?

Following in my father’s footsteps as a parliamentarian is a profound honour and a responsibility. It is a testament to the enduring legacy of public service and commitment to the common good instilled in me from a young age.

My father’s dedication to justice, equity, and the welfare of his constituents serves as a guiding light in my political journey. I hope to leave a legacy of transformative leadership and lasting impact. I aspire to be remembered as a leader who championed the cause of the marginalised, fostered unity and inclusivity, and worked tirelessly to improve the lives of my constituents.

I am proud that long after his demise in 2017 and even longer since he left office, many still speak fondly of the positive impact he had on our people. Ultimately, I want to inspire future generations to engage in public service and to continue the work of building a just, prosperous, and harmonious society.

What is your definition of a fitting tribute to your father?

It is a testament to our commitment to serving the Nigerian people. We remain focused on delivering tangible results and continuing to drive meaningful change in the years to come.

What is your opinion about the bill that proposes reverting the national anthem to the old one?

So far, my bills and motions have reflected issues I am passionate about. The central theme of my campaign and political ideology is 'Building a Kinder Society That Leaves No One Behind.'

This can be seen in my efforts to repeal and re-enact the Discrimination Against Persons with Disability (Protection) Act, 2013, which aims to create a more inclusive and equitable society for all Nigerians, particularly those with disabilities. There is also a proposed amendment to the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board Act (Amendment) Bill 2023, which seeks to change the structure of our exams from a ranking test to an aptitude test, allowing for results to be valid for at least three years.

I have also sponsored the Code of Conduct and Tribunal Act (Amendment) Bill 2023, which aims to make it mandatory for public officials to declare liabilities and not only assets so we can have a clearer picture of the financial position of public servants before and after their tenure of office. I also have The Victims’ Rights Bill and Related Matters 2023, aimed at protecting the rights of victims of violent crimes, amongst many others do I have about 30 bills at different stages of the legislative process in just one year of the 10th Assembly.

Thank you for your time. I trust you are looking forward to Nigeria. We wish Thee as the official National Anthem, It is a reversion to the anthem previously used by Nigerians in the immediate post-independence era between 1960 and 1978. It evokes a sense of patriotism and has lyrics more fitting to the aspirations of Nigerians.

We all need to come and go but come trend keep recurring. As we go into the new month of June, we have scoured different runways to bring to you the trends that will be hot all through the months of June, July, August, and September, and they are.

WHAT WE WILL BE WEARING THIS MONTH

By Funke Babs-Kufowor

We all trend come and go but come trend keep recurring. As we go into the new month of June, we have scoured different runways to bring to you the trends that will be hot all through the months of June, July, August, and September, and they are.

METALLICS

Did someone say metallics were just for the holidays? We are adopting a more laissez-faire mindset and extending the party vibe with glittering decorations and gold and silver accents that are sure to lift any gloomy day.

SHORTS

If you packed up your shorts for the months that passed, now is the time to pull them back out. Short shorts, Bermuda shorts, darlin shorts, saxo shirts—you name it—it’s on the list of trends to wear right now.

THE COLOUR RED

The Barbies con craze is over, now we can say hello to wines and red and not just a touch but head-to-toe all bright shades of red.
MUST-VISIT GALLERIES AND MUSEUMS IN LAGOS

From the mesmerising contemporary masterpieces to the echoes of traditional Nigerian art, the following galleries and museums are not just places to see but experiences to be lived. Here’s your insider’s guide to the top art havens in Lagos that are absolutely worth your time.

Nike Art Gallery
This five-story kaleidoscope, founded by the legendary Nike Davies-Okundaye, is a treasure trove of Nigerian and West African arts. With incense wafting through the air and a serene ambiance, explore everything from pottery and ancient Yoruba carvings to vibrant textile art. The contemporary pieces, spotlighting icons like Ben Enwonwu and Nnenna Okore, are true showstoppers, making Nike Art Gallery a paradise for art lovers.

African Artists’ Foundation (AAF)
AAF is a dynamic hub where art meets ambition. Since 2007, this non-profit has been at the forefront of promoting contemporary African art through exhibitions, workshops, and more. Whether you’re browsing through their extensive art books or participating in their innovative programs like the National Art Competition, AAF is a powerhouse of cultural enrichment.

Omenka Gallery
Located in the upscale Ikoyi neighbourhood, Omenka Gallery is where fine art gets a new definition. This elegant space showcases Nigerian and international artistry, tied closely with the Ben Enwonwu Foundation. Whether you’re admiring a sculpture, a painting, or photographic art, Omenka’s exhibitions are always cutting-edge. Their in-house shop is a bonus, offering unique art books for your collection.

National Museum Lagos
Spread over three floors, this place tells rich stories of Nigeria’s past with diverse exhibits from ethnographic displays to historical artefacts. Despite facing challenges, it remains a cornerstone of Nigerian heritage and offers a comprehensive glimpse into the country’s soul through its art and artefacts.

Terra Kulture
Founded by the visionary Bolanle Austen-Peters, Terra Kulture celebrates Nigeria’s diverse cultures. This cultural hub in Victoria Island is more than just a gallery; it’s an experience, complete with a craft shop, restaurant, and theatres. The art on display is as diverse as Nigeria itself, making it a perfect spot for anyone eager to dive into the world of Nigerian arts.

Rele Gallery
In the heart of Ikoyi lies the Rele Gallery, a contemporary art space known for its vibrant and innovative approach. This gallery isn’t just about displaying art; it’s about creating a conversation through art talks, workshops, and film screenings. With a cozy café and a quaint bookshop on site, Rele is a great place to unwind and absorb the creativity that Lagos has to offer.
5 RESTAURANTS IN LAGOS WITH GREAT SEAFOOD OPTIONS

By Bukola Amoboye

Workplace dramas and comedies have, over time, carved out a special place in the hearts of viewers. These series transport us into the everyday chaos of office settings, making us part of the crew. Whether it’s drama, comedy, romance, or even a little legal action, there’s no shortage of captivating shows that mirror our work lives with a twist of entertainment. Here’s our curated list of five must-watch workplace TV shows from around the globe:

1. Ocean Basket
   Located in Victoria Island, Ocean Basket offers a delightful seafood dining experience. Known for its fresh and delicious seafood platters, this restaurant serves everything from calamari and prawns to succulent fish and mussels. The relaxed ambiance makes it a perfect spot for casual dining and special occasions.

2. Kingfisher Africa
   This restaurant (in Lekki) is a gem when it comes to seafood. Offering a variety of dishes like lobster, king crab, grilled fish, prawns, and lots more, Kingfisher is a top choice. Its outdoor seating area and picturesque ocean views add to the overall charm, making it a must-visit.

3. Yellow Chilli
   The Yellow Chilli, located in Victoria Island and Ikeja, is a beloved spot for seafood okra and peppered prawns also come highly recommended. The Fisherman’s soup, a spicy and flavorful seafood stew, is quite popular.

4. Tilapia and Tinz
   Located in Victoria Island and Ikeja, this restaurant serves everything from calamari and prawns to succulent fish and mussels. The restaurant’s cozy and elegant setting is ideal for a relaxed meal with friends.

5. Lagoon Restaurant
   Situated in Victoria Island, Lagoon Restaurant is known for its eclectic menu and vibrant atmosphere. Here, you’re guaranteed great seafood and great cocktails. The restaurant offers diverse seafood dishes, from sushi and sashimi to seafood ramen and grilled fish. Their Japanese-inspired dishes, such as Japanese fried rice, Beef, chicken, and Salmon Teriyakis, are particularly popular.

SPRING CLEANING FOR YOUR MAKEUP BAG: TIPS FOR A FRESH START

Makeup has expiry dates, just like food or any other product, but unlike most other products, some makeup don’t have a clear ‘use by’ or ‘best before’ date on the packaging. This lack of visible shelf life, combined with the fact that makeup can be pretty expensive, means that many of us are guilty of holding onto our makeup for far longer than we should. A recent survey found that almost 80% of women keep their makeup for longer than the recommended period, with the worst culprits being lipsticks, with 81% holding onto them for over a year. While holding onto makeup for longer may seem harmless, it can have nasty consequences. We should all have a makeup clearance at least once a year. If you can’t remember when you last used one, then it’s the day! If you need clarification on what you should throw away, keep reading because this will guide you through the process.

Decoding Expiry Dates
If you can’t find the symbol, here’s a general guide for how long you should keep certain products: mascara (3-6 months), liquid eyeliner (8 months), foundation (6-12 months), concealer (6-12 months), powder (1-2 years), blush and bronzer (1-2 years), eyeshadow (1-2 years), lipstick, and lip gloss (1-2 years), and nail polish (1-2 years).

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Decoding Shelf Life
All cosmetic products have a symbol on their packaging that indicates the product’s lifetime after opening. This is known as the PAG (period after opening) symbol and is shown as an open jar with a number and the letter ‘M’, indicating the number of months the product is safe to use after the packaging has been unsealed. It is important to take note of this symbol, as using products beyond their shelf life reduces their effectiveness and may also cause irritation, infection, or bacterial contamination.

Items To Throw Out
Several items of makeup have shorter lifespans after opening that should be checked. Here are some ways to help determine if your makeup is expired or unsafe:
- If the texture, colour, or odour has changed.
- If water has accumulated on top of the product.
- If the product has dried out or started to crack.
- If water has accumulated on top of the product.
- If you have used the product after an infection or irritation.
- If the product has been exposed to high temperatures, which can cause the water content or any chemical change to occur.

Unsafe Cosmetics
It’s important to be aware of expired or unsafe cosmetics signs to prevent any adverse effects if used. Of course, not all cosmetics have a set expiration date, but it is important to recognize when they are no longer safe to use. Here are some ways to help determine if your makeup is expired or unsafe:
- If the texture, colour, or odour has changed.
- If water has accumulated on top of the product.
- If you have used the product after an infection or irritation.
- If the product has been exposed to high temperatures, which can cause the water content or any chemical change to occur.

Keep Your Collections Fresh and Tidy
It’s okay to love makeup and have an extensive collection but keeping it clean and organized is important. Take some time to review your products and be honest with yourself about what you are using, which may be old and expired. Look at what you have and realistically consider if you are using all these products. If you last used a product six to eight months ago, chances are you won’t be using it again. Keep your makeup stored in a cool, dry place, as humidity can damage products and cause them to break down faster.

Makeup has expiry dates, just like food or any other product, but unlike most other products, some makeup don’t have a clear ‘use by’ or ‘best before’ date on the packaging. This lack of visible shelf life, combined with the fact that makeup can be pretty expensive, means that many of us are guilty of holding onto our makeup for far longer than we should. A recent survey found that almost 80% of women keep their makeup for longer than the recommended period, with the worst culprits being lipsticks, with 81% holding onto them for over a year.
Curating a stylish wardrobe is essential for every woman. It simplifies everyday dressing, making it easier to choose an outfit and saving time. While women tend to have tons of outfits and accessories they barely wear, it will help to have a few basic things with which you can curate multiple looks and attend any kind of event.

Here are twelve timeless staples every woman should own:

1. The Little Black Dress (LBD)
The Little Black Dress is a classic piece, and it is no wonder that it is number one on our list. It can be dressed in heels and statement jewelry for an evening out or paired with a blazer and flats for a professional look.

2. A Tailored Blazer
A tailored blazer instantly elevates any outfit, adding sophistication. Whether thrown over a simple T-shirt and jeans, paired with a blouse and skirt, or over a dress, a well-fitted blazer is a must-have for both casual and formal occasions.

3. Jean Trousers
As a woman, there’s no reason why you shouldn’t own at least two to three good pairs of jeans. You can choose between skinny, straight-leg, or bootcut jeans, depending on your preference. Depending on how you style them, jeans work for both casual and corporate-casual looks.

4. Black Pumps
Every woman needs a pair of black pumps in her shoe collection. They are the go-to shoe for formal events, business meetings, and nights out. Select a heel height you are comfortable with and a style that complements your wardrobe.

5. Cute Tops
Get some cute tops perfect for that night out with friends or romantic partners or just your regular casual day out. While you can get neutrals, you can also dig them in colours that complement your skin. These basics are the foundation of countless outfits, pairing seamlessly with jeans, skirts, and blazers.

6. Pencil Skirt
A pencil skirt is a timeless piece that highlights your silhouette and works well in professional and formal settings. So, if you’re a “corporate baddie,” this is for you.

7. Multipurpose Tote Bag
A multipurpose tote bag is essential for its practicality and style. It should be spacious enough to carry your everyday essentials, including a laptop if needed, and versatile enough to transition from work to weekend. Again, we recommend a neutral colour, especially black or espresso brown.

8. Cute Mini Bags
Now, you have a tote that can serve you in just about any situation; it’s time to add mini bags to your collection to serve you on special occasions. These chic bags complement just about any causal look.

9. Comfortable Ballet Flats
Ballet flats offer a comfortable alternative to heels, suitable for casual and formal settings. Look for a pair with good arch support in a neutral colour to complement a wide range of outfits.

10. Button-Down Shirt
A crisp button-down shirt is a versatile piece that suits many occasions. It can be dressed up with a statement necklace and a skirt for a formal look or worn with jeans for a more casual style.

11. Jewellery
To top off your overall look, go for pieces that tickle your fancy, whether statement or casual. You should at least have the basics, including a watch, bracelet, necklace and earrings.

4 VIRAL BLUSH TRENDS
BEAUTY INFLUENCERS ARE CURRENTLY OBSESSED WITH

1. Draping
Draping is a technique that takes blush beyond the cheeks and up towards the temples, creating a lifted, sculpted look. This trend, reminiscent of the 80s, uses blush as a contour alternative, giving the face a more youthful and vibrant appearance. Influencers use this method to add dimension and warmth to their faces, often pairing it with a natural, dewy foundation to let the blush take centre stage. Popular shades for draping include peach, coral, and soft pinks, which blend seamlessly into the skin for a natural flush.

2. Sunset Blush
The sunset blush is a simple but beautiful technique that involves mixing two shades of blush and a liquid highlighter. It is achieved by placing both shades of the blush right on the cheekbone and a swipe of the highlighter just above it. Blend upwards, and the result is just as the name suggests “Sunset.” It gives a pretty, dewy, gloowy look.

3. Youjin Technique
This technique uses blush as eyeshadow, creating a lifted, sculpted look. This trend, which is reminiscent of the 80s, uses blush as a contour alternative, giving the face a more youthful and vibrant appearance. Influencers use this method to add dimension and warmth to their faces, often pairing it with a natural, dewy foundation to let the blush take centre stage. Popular shades for draping include peach, coral, and soft pinks, which blend seamlessly into the skin for a natural flush.

4. Boyfriend Blush
This technique markets blush as a multi-purpose makeup product. You can use either a liquid blush or a pigmented lipstick for this. This technique uses the blush as eyeshadow, contour, lipstick and cheek blush.

Gone are the days when people were afraid to use blush for fear of looking like a clown. Now, the blush has made a major comeback, becoming a key element in makeup routines and beauty influencers have been having a field day showcasing innovative ways to wear it. Here are four blush trends that are currently taking the beauty community by storm.
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