

KATE FINNIGAN

The Style Maven

Friend of faux

I have a history with faux fur. When I was four or five my grandma bought me a zig-zagged grey and white fur chubby. Picture me, in the late 1970s, at church. I was quite the starlet. Softer than any of my teddy bears, it was my absolute favourite thing for years. Something of its glamour must have lingered in my subconscious, because when I was a teenager – and a Dr Marten-ed, scruffy one at that – the very first item of second-hand clothing I bought was an off-white 1960s faux-fur cocktail jacket in a swingy cut with cropped bell sleeves. It cost £3 from Oxfam and has never left my wardrobe. Never! Yes, these days, like Elizabeth Taylor in her latter years, it's a bit tired, but it's always been the best thing to drape over a black dress for a winter party.

If you haven't got something furry in your life at the moment, this is the season to remedy that. Given the quite unpleasant amount of real fur on catwalks and the number of celebrities wearing it, this also seems to be the time to get back into the real-fur market, although I can't imagine why you would. Particularly – but not solely –



because faux is now being done so well. Remember when it was called “fun fur”? We should bring that label back, because it has never been more appropriate. The best faux I saw at the London shows was Simone Rocha's, but there are also labels dedicated to the fun of faux fur. Shrimps, which makes 1960s striped coats and beautiful biker jackets, is the trendiest by far, but there's a wealth of them doing various takes on fuzz and fluff in

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amazing colours and combinations: Unreal Fur, Faux England, Helen Moore.

You don't have to commit to a coat. All the fashion girls have been opting for scarves, tippets or collars. Even bags. Look out for Helen Moore's Multi Vixen scarf (helenmoore.com) or the Pluto collar by Shrimps (shrimps.co.uk). The secret of faux fur this season is to underdress it. A scarf with a slouchy V-neck wool jumper and jeans: that's the way to keep fur cool. ●

Three Best FAUX-FUR PIECES



Striped scarf, £68, by *Maison Scotch*, from Nordstrom (nordstrom.com)



Burgundy shrug, £59.99, by *Faux England* (faux.uk.com)



Striped tippet, £100, by *Charlotte Simone*, from Harvey Nichols (harveynichols.com)