

Fashion faux pas(s): The ‘pretty ugly’ shoe

By  Maroefah Smith

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To paraphrase a quote commonly [misattributed](#) to Marilyn Monroe, “If you give someone the right pair of ‘pretty ugly’ shoes, they can conquer the world.”



Christopher Kane's Crocs and Prada's Teva style sandal.

According to the trendsetters over at [Vogue](#), 1990s nostalgia has brought back the popularity of the unfashionable fashion shoe, also known as the ‘pretty ugly’ shoe.

The four ‘pretty ugly’ shoes of 90s nostalgia

Vogue narrowed down the ‘pretty ugly’ shoe to the Birkenstock, the pool slide, the Teva-style sandal and the clog. The trend has since gone on to include lots more including Crocs as well as Uggs and even a [Teva-Ugg](#).

The fashion-forward all over have been embracing it and it's been making its appearance in all walks of fashion (catwalks, sidewalks).

During London Fashion Week, models sported [bejeweled Crocs](#) in the Christopher Kane spring/summer 2017 ready-to-wear collection, [2014 CFDA Fashion Icon](#), Rihanna included fuzzy and bow pool sliders in her Puma x Fenty collection and ‘[banal eccentricity](#)’ leader, Miuccia Prada showed off Prada's Teva style sandal at the [Miu Miu spring/summer 2017 RTW show](#).

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Unexpected it. Go looking for it. #Nomad #Prada365 #PradaExits #PradaSS17

A post shared by Prada (@prada) on Jan 8, 2017 at 9:01am PST

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Much like incorporating pyjamas and athleisure into everyday attire, this trend allows you to attempt a look that doesn't favour fashion over comfort.

So, if you're looking to give it a go, [Who What Wear](#) suggests that you pair your 'pretty ugly' shoe with 'eccentric' pieces like a brightly coloured jumper or printed overalls.

ABOUT MAROEFAH SMITH

Enthusiastic UCT graduate with a passion for fashion, film and words.

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