

# ***Tailored for You: The 2025 Met Gala's Celebration of Black Dandyism***

*By Lily Allen*

Can fashion make a strong statement of resistance and identity, or is it just about looks? This subject was raised by the May 5th, 2025 Met Gala's theme, "Superfine: Tailoring Black Style," and dress code, "Tailored for You." This year's program explored the rich tapestry of Black dandyism and how fashion has traditionally served as a platform for rejection of social conventions and self-expression.

The show at the Met, which was curated by Monica L. Miller and was influenced by her groundbreaking book 'Slaves to Fashion', followed the development of Black dandyism from the 18th century to the present. It emphasised how Black people have traditionally used fashion to question and reinterpret racial, gender, and class narratives in addition to using it for fashion.

Tailored elegance filled the red carpet. The mood was created by co-chairs A\$AP Rocky, Colman Domingo,

Lewis Hamilton, Pharrell Williams, and Anna Wintour, who all wore outfits that honoured the subject. Notably, news reports announced that A\$AP Rocky and Rihanna were expecting their third child.

Many guests embraced their afros, kinks, and curls, making natural hair the main attraction. One notable example was Colin Kaepernick's iconic afro, which stood for pride and the lasting influence of Black dandyism.

The selection of designers showed a notable change. Nearly half of the participants were dressed by independent and Black-owned labels, indicating a shift in high fashion towards more inclusive representation. The industry's changing landscape was demonstrated by the high representation of designers such as Grace Wales Bonner and Ozwald Boateng.

The theme of the Met Gala was a celebration of Black culture, tenacity, and artistry rather than merely fashion. The event and the exhibition demonstrated how fashion can be a potent medium for forming identities, communicating stories, and subverting social norms.

By the end of the evening, it was evident that the 2025 Met Gala had accomplished more than a mere show of wealth. It provoked discussions about identity, history, and the transformational potential of fashion. The Gala's embrace of Black dandyism not only paid tribute to the past but also cleared the path for a more diverse and thoughtful fashion industry in the future.