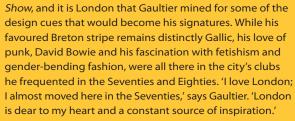


10 WHERE LONDON I JULY 2019

JEAN PAUL GAULTIER | WHERE NOW





The capital also gave rise to a friendship that endures to this day: Gaultier first spotted renowned London milliner Stephen Jones sporting a fez in the video for Culture Club's breakout hit *Do You Really Want to Hurt Me.* Gaultier asked Jones to model for him, but having broken his leg, Jones was unable to. Instead, the milliner put together headwear sketches for Gaultier's autumn/winter 1984 collection, and

the resulting sinister-looking fur felt and silk tassel fez announced Jones' arrival on the Paris scene.

For Brits of a certain age, however, Gaultier isn't just famous for his fashion. Throughout much of the Nineties and early Noughties, Gaultier was beamed into the bedrooms of millions of British teenagers courtesy of *Eurotrash*, a brash, bawdy and fabulously camp TV show the designer presented alongside his friend and fellow Frenchman, Antoine de Caunes. Naturally, de Caunes has a video cameo in *Fashion Freak Show*, but to reveal much more would rather ruin the surprise. Suffice to say, de Caunes is wearing a beautiful dress, one of the many creations Gaultier modified especially for the show.

'I was very happy to do it, because I love Jean Paul and anything that I can do for and with him is welcomed,' says de Caunes. 'In fact, when he had his big exhibition in London [The Fashion World of Jean Paul Gaultier at the Barbican in 2014], we did a crazy video for that, so it's like a tradition. The current show is witty and funny and really looks and feels like Jean Paul, but it's a different kind of musical. It details everything

about his life, his hopes, desires and craziness.'

That sense of craziness often leads to Gaultier's work being somewhat misunderstood. This is a man who, despite not having any formal fashion training, worked with legends such as Pierre Cardin, and this forged a respect for the tradition of couture that is revealed in everything Gaultier creates. 'I have never set out consciously to provoke. If you do that it never works,' says the eternal *enfant terrible* of fashion. 'I would say that I work on a tradition and turn it on its head. Even though looking at my fashion shows, some people would say that my clothes are unwearable, it is not true. I have always designed real clothes and it was with the styling that I would turn them around.' Gaultier is the ultimate showman, so the London stage seems like his natural habitat.

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