

SCOOP

FASHION

## Patti Smith: an icon by Caryn Franklin



Singer Patti Smith revolutionised the music scene in the Seventies and Eighties thanks to her unique

fusion of rock and poetry but it was her trademark androgynous look (she famously shared clothes with her boyfriend of the time, photographer Robert Mapplethorpe) which established her as a style icon. To mark the release of *Outside Society*, Smith's music from 1975-2007, and the return of the androgyny trend (see our shoot on page 84), we asked Caryn Franklin, fashion expert and co-chair of All Walks Beyond The Catwalk (allwalks.org), to pen a few words about the singer's influential style.

"When Patti Smith released *Horses* in 1975, I was a 14-year-old Bowie fan and he was all the woman I needed. I soon learned he was a she. And although Smith's raw mix of poetic protest and angry rock left me unmoved, rare glimpses of her rakish angularity and ragged hair - projecting a style my mother would have witheringly pronounced 'unladylike' - sealed my attraction to the concept of 'mannish woman'.

The sartorial alchemy of loose ripped up jeans, ties, button-ups,

blazers and boots definitely offered a cooler, shadowy advance on the sugary-sweet glam get-ups I wore at the time.

More accomplished in the early Eighties, I channelled Smith (the "Godmother of Punk") with Grace Jones and Chrissie Hynde thrown in for good measure.

And I never lost a moment's sleep over whether I should change something about myself to look more like er... Cheryl Tiegs. For Ms Smith and her band of wily brunettes were the ultimate pathfinders for girls like me who didn't do 'pretty', 'fluffy' or 'dolly'.

Good then that this decade-crossing trendsetter is back with a greatest hits album which inspires a renewed appetite for androgyny, courtesy of designers such as Moschino, Stella McCartney, Alice Temperley, Chanel and, of course, Paul Smith who listened to her music as he designed his autumn collection.

Today, young women's desire to dress up and swagger has been sold back to them as a set of unachievable ideals. They could really do with a rousing soundtrack while they confront the pumped-up beauty portrayals and advertising brainwash on the terrors of getting older. *People Have The Power* after all!"

*Outside Society* is out now (£8.99, amazon.co.uk)



SEPTEMBER 4: THE EVER-COOL SMITH ATTENDS LAST WEEK'S VENICE FILM FESTIVAL

PATTI SMITH CAPTURED BY THEN-BOYFRIEND ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE IN 1975

LONDON FASHION WEEK

## Our essential LFW accessory? A design-inspired Range Rover

This Friday signals one of the most important weeks in the calendar for the *Stylist* fashion team as the s/s 2012 shows commence. Over the next five days, they'll be sprinting to around 10 shows per day with Jonathan Saunders, Mary Katrantzou and Burberry

(where Rosie Huntington-Whiteley is rumoured to walk the runway) topping the list. It may sound like a breeze but ensuring they're ready to take their places at Vivienne Westwood in former meat market Smithfield followed by Topshop at Waterloo

Station is no easy feat. So the team has enlisted the help of Range Rover which has provided them with a car to get around town in. Fittingly, the new Evoque model is available in three designs inspired

by some of autumn's biggest trends. The 'Prestige' nods to the futuristic styles seen at



RANGE ROVER'S EVOQUE: THE STYLIST TEAM'S LFW HORSE AND CARRIAGE

Balmain. 'Dynamic' follows the optic colour shock mood (part of Paul & Joe and Erdem's shows) while the refined elegance at Calvin Klein and Valentino was the inspiration for the 'Pure'. Fashion genius.

From £28,000; landrover.com