

STYLE COUNSEL

Personal Style for Every Man

“The style is the man himself,” said the aristocratic French mathematician and cosmologist George Comte de Buffon. And his words are as true now as they were four centuries ago. How to acquire style that expresses the man you are? Editor, insider and true man of style Nkosiyati “Yati” Khumalo shares his secrets.

When it comes to matters of style, there are few to beat Nkosiyati “Yati” Khumalo, an award-winning editor and content specialist who’s made his charismatic mark on platforms ranging from print, digital and social media to events. The former Editor-in-Chief of *GQ South Africa* and one of *The Business of Fashion’s* “500 People Shaping the Global Fashion Industry”, Yati combines an insider’s knowledge of the fashion world with a love of music, tech and contemporary African talent, making him a great guide to men’s grooming, image and expression.

HOW DO YOU DEFINE STYLE?

For me, style is not just about how you present yourself, but about how you show up in the world. Style is personality made tangible through the choices you make – and those choices inform not just your appearance, but also your interactions, your taste and the impact you have on people around you.

WHAT IS YOUR INSPIRATION?

My style is something of a hybrid – a slightly relaxed, updated version of preppy. I gravitate towards classic pieces and love fabrics that work year-round, like merino wool. Navy blue is my favourite colour, and I



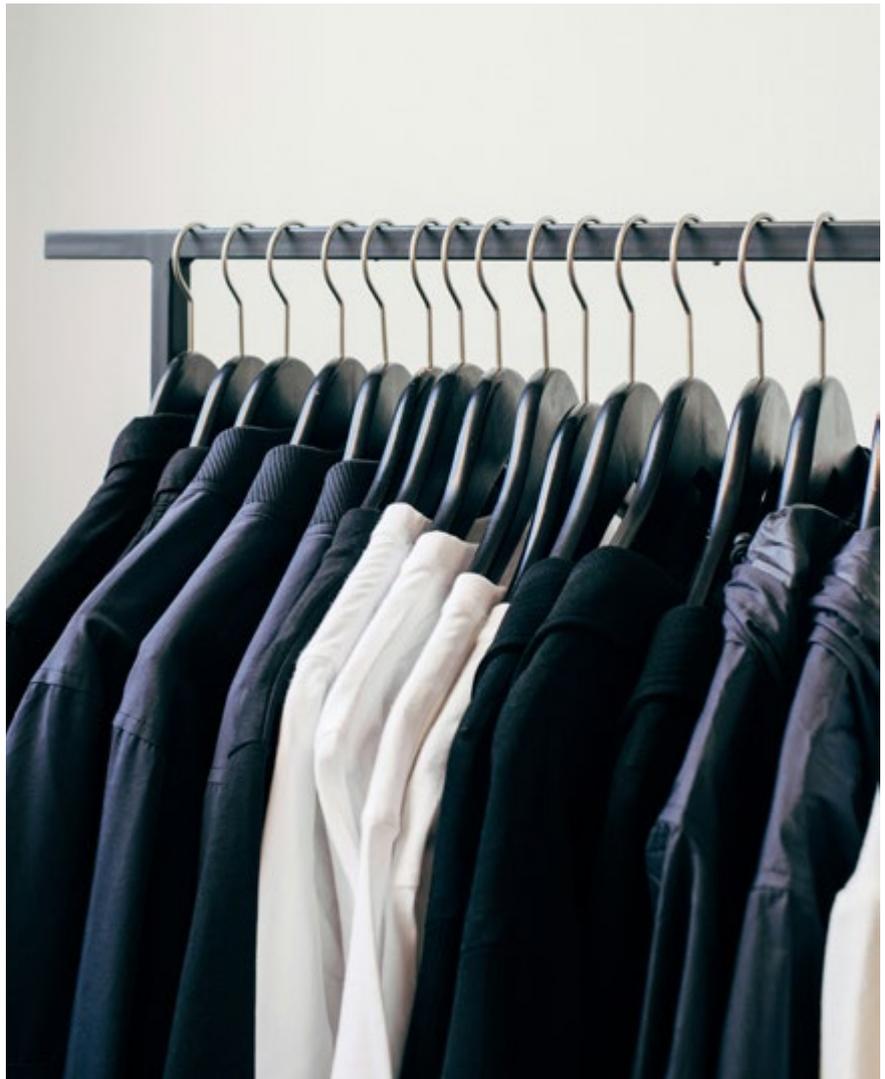
need a fountain pen, but a go-to, high-quality ball-point is great.

BEST ACCESSORIES TO BUY

Three belts work best – one brown and one black in casual style for a relaxed look, and a narrow black dress belt for more formal occasions. Sunglasses can make anyone look great, so take your time, try on many options, and bring a friend or partner for an extra opinion if you want to find a style and shape that suits your face. Analogue watches are still a man's best friend; you don't have to shell out a fortune to find a great one. If you're committed to a smartwatch, play around with various fabric straps or one or two metallic options in classic styles to elevate the look. For jewellery, have fun, but start off simple – a chain, maybe a bracelet, and a ring or two. Comfort is a key part of being stylish.

HOW HAS SOUTH AFRICAN MEN'S STYLE EVOLVED

South African men have realised that a tonne of luxury logos doesn't equate to great style, and there's more of a tendency to choose just one subtle statement piece, usually in the form of an accessory, which is brilliant.





The lesson is that you don't have to spend much to look great. I also think more men are embracing local labels, from casual to formal, and we have many wonderful choices.

YOUR BEST STYLE ADVICE?

Find a great tailor! No item of clothing looks great if it fits poorly, however much it costs, and for men, this is most noticeable in trousers and sleeves, especially when it comes to jackets and blazers. You can get almost anything tailored, from jeans to formal coats, and it's always worth the time and investment. 📍

by *pnina fenster*
/photography by *unsplash.com*