International Bespoke Tailor/ Fashion Designer Extraordinaire

Rick Bailey

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It is said that every well-dressed male has at least one good suit in his collection. Hopefully that one good suit is a bespoke Rick Bailey design which is as timeless as sand and well fitted as a credit card in your pocket. Indeed, a good suit is as necessary as the little black dress but ten times more vital and versatile as it can cover a myriad of occasions while conveying at every turn that its wearer has common sense, style, swag and of course, sophistication.





CJ Toapante



Karina Vivas

It is so satisfying to me when someone walks into my showroom and chooses from my fabric selection and a few weeks later they come back and see that the fabric that they chose has been turned into a 3 dimensional garment, sculptured to their body."

Once potential clients schedule an appointment at Bailey's New York showroom, he and his team will take them through the process from fantasy to fit and everything in between. "I guide them by first asking about the occasion and usage of the suit and then based on that with my years of expertise, I would go through the fabric selection with them, go through the lining selection and walk them through the various phases so that they can get an understanding as it could be first bespoke suit that they are commissioning."



Rey'ana Kaci Valentine

For Jamaican born Rick Bailey, a suit is simply the sexiest garment a man can own and wear. Period. It makes a statement without saying a word and denotes taste and elegance without having to leave a calling card or having an agent speak for you. In other words, a bespoke suit commands the room once you enter and has already conducted business on your behalf. This is what Bailey brings to the table and what he intends to create worldwide with his unique brand.

BUZZZ Magazine sat down with the master bespoke tailor and fashion designer recently to get some insight in the fashion industry; what exactly is the true definition of style and elegance and what he wants his legacy to be in an industry where fads, trends and fashion changes more often it seems than it takes to choose your next outfit. What exactly makes a well-dressed man and what trends should the conscientious consumers avoid and what others should they embrace.

To hear him tell it, fashion is definitely part of his DNA. Creating bespoke or a one-of-a-kind piece brings him such joy that he has dedicated most of his life to making people look and feel like a million dollars in any outfit of their preference. "Being a bespoke tailor and fashion designer, is a privileged opportunity to create unique garments for individuals.



Shakirah Campbell





When clients walk into my showroom, we greet them with champagne or any drink they prefer — after all, a first-time appointment can take up to an hour. Crafting a suit takes six to eight weeks because we're always in high demand, but quality should never be rushed. Most tailors don't do what I do — I create bespoke pieces for both men and women, tailored with precision and artistry.

To say that Bailey offers his clientele the widest variety of fabric choices would simply be an understatement as through his connections with top tier international suppliers, getting what you desire has never been a challenge. "I have a wide variety of fabric, over 500,000 fabric selection from the world's greatest mills in Italy. We even have 100% gold platinum stripe, real gold. So you know we are a cut above ordinary tailoring. I have access to everything so the possibilities when you wear a Rick Bailey design, are endless."



Over the years, I've had the privilege of working with clients from all walks of life, including high-profile names. I've styled celebrities and even collaborated on custom designs worn at major events like the Met Gala. Based here in New York, I serve a global clientele — from France and Italy to London and beyond. I've even designed for bridal parties in Africa. This isn't just tailoring — it's a luxury experience that transcends borders and expectations."

Many years ago, he received a true blessing — a guiding moment in his career — when he was introduced to a widely respected tailor known as 'Maas Hugh,' who operated an establishment in Crossroads. Eager to learn, he brought along a blazer he had crafted. After examining it, Mr. Hugh assured him that he had genuine talent. In fact, Hugh recalled seeing his name in the back of a garment once and telling the wearer, "This tailor is going to go far."





Maas Hugh took him under his wing and taught him the art of pattern making — how to adjust existing patterns and draft custom ones from scratch to suit any body type. "It was the best decision I could've made in my career," he reflects. Mr. Hugh, who held a fashion design degree from one of London's premier institutions, passed on techniques that most fashion schools don't teach — including the intricacies of figuration, the skill of adapting patterns across different body shapes to ensure a perfect drape. "Being mentored by him and receiving his stamp of approval was more valuable than any formal education.



Cory Hodge

> “A suit is simply the sexiest garment a man can own and wear. Period.”

For Rick, being a tailor is a very prestigious title; one that he wears with the utmost pride. “There is no nude society in the world and to know that I can put my clothes on people and put out something extraordinary, means everything to me. Doctors, lawyers, entertainers and others from all walks of life come to me. I dress everyone from Boxer Jay Paul to Hollywood actor Samuel L. Jackson, and they all leave happy with what I present to them.”

Indeed, it is the presentation or finished product that distinguishes him from the ordinary tailor. “Fashion is my passion and you can see it in my work. Sometimes people don’t believe that I made them. I believe I’m on the right path for the Rick Bailey designs to be a global brand and I think people should wear my customised clothes and enjoy it because it is made special for them. When people come to me, they have a smile and when they are leaving they have a bigger smile because I take pride in my work. I love fashion; it’s my life.” Currently he also does product development for several major big name brands but confidentiality precludes him from going into details.



Jake Tamarra

Though his passion for fashion is innate, his love of fashion design was nurtured and recognised very early on as his older brothers are themselves tailors who spotted his raw talent when he was not even ten years old and encouraged him to let his imagination and his tailor chalk take full flight. “It is funny that as a young child in Buff Bay Valley in Portland, I would always be in the tailor shop watching my brothers David and Michael work. I took it all in and during summer holiday one year my mom would buy fabric for my back to school pants. I laid it out as a young 8 year old and took the chalk and made marking on the khaki and said to them that I was going to cut a pant. When I was finished they said it was beautiful but I didn’t use any measurement; what I had captured was the memory vision of what they were doing. At the age of ten I told my brother David I know I can make a pants but he didn’t believe me.

One Saturday I said to them ‘Cut the pants. If you cut it I can make it’. He cut the pants and with little instruction, I completed that pants that same day and my brother turned to me and said ‘Oh my God, You are a tailor!’ When I heard that validation at age ten, there was no going back for me.”







Flavio Gomez



His brother then asked him to make four more pants and since then he has never looked back. At his last count, Bailey has crafted over 400 million! Yes you read that correctly because since age ten, the period before adolescence when other boys are busy flying kites, playing outside with their peers and generally doing things that children did to relax and have fun. Bailey was booked and busy being a young entrepreneur. While going to school, he was making garments for his peers, pants for his clothing and textile teacher at Buff Bay High School, later on he made uniforms for companies such as EX-IM Bank and VMBS so he has mastered every cut and learnt every style or fashion trend. “I know how to cut for and how to fit just about anybody. That’s one of my strong points in tailoring. I tell people I strive for four ‘F’s – fabric, fit, finish and flattery.”

His parents, he said, had always encouraged his dreams. His mother was a housewife and was treated, he stated, like royalty. It was his father however, that was the show stopper of the family and the man that everyone in the community admired. “My dad was a preacher and he had every colour suit you could imagine. He was the best dressed man in the community. Everyone admired how my father dressed.

My father never had any ‘judging’ clothes because every day he put on his Sunday best. Nice shoes, well clean in multiple colours: navy blue, chocolate brown, burgundy leather shoes. And he was like that long before my eldest brother started doing tailoring. That’s what my father did for us. When I got to the level of expertise that I could make pants to please my dad, it felt like a second distinction in tailoring as he was very particular about the fit and finish of his garments.”

> “The right shoulder length, right sleeve length and the right cut pants... it just gives more confidence to the one who is wearing it.”

And who would Rick Bailey be if not a tailor? “If I could relive my life I would still be a tailor. The next profession that I like still has to do with well-dressed men and that is law. I admire how lawyers dress. When I was in Jamaica, I had a lot of lawyers as clients including Milton and Christopher Samuda, Arthur Kitchen and many others. So if I was to live my life again, I would be a lawyer and a tailor because I would have to be the best dressed lawyer around. And it’s funny that when I came from Jamaica to New York, my first set of clients here were also lawyers.”

One common misconception about tailors he hopes to dispel is that a tailor cannot finish something for it to look as good as an off the rack garment or a popular brand. “I’m able to rubbish that thinking as my suits are the best finished garments that you can imagine.” That being said Bailey would love to see some basic improvement in the current fashion industry: “I would like to see more young men wearing more classic bespoke suit. A suit commands respect. When you walk outside and see a young man in a suit that is well cut, it is a beautiful sight.

So I want to see more young men wearing suits and wearing them properly. The right shoulder length, right sleeve length and the right cut pants. I hate to see pants dragging on the ground or breaking too much. It should be nicely sitting on the shoes. It just gives more confidence to the one who is wearing it.”





Over the years, he has mentored numerous apprentices, both in Jamaica and abroad. “Even now, guys who used to work for me back home still reach out when they come to the U.S. They’ve kept my number. If they’re cutting a garment and run into any difficulty, I’m the one they call.”

For young, aspiring tailors, Bailey offers some hard-earned wisdom. “The first step is learning the fundamentals. Master basic tailoring — understand the rules, because once you know them, then and only then can you break them. That’s what allows me to confidently tackle any garment, male or female. I understand the human anatomy, and I know how to build in the right allowances so my clients can move comfortably.”

For him, the current ‘no-nos’ in fashion are unflattering and unnecessary. “I hate to see the extreme short pants. I think it is a tacky look. Ok, you can show a little ankle but when it is five or six inches it is as if you are wearing a crop pants and it is not aesthetically pleasing to me because I know it is not sitting right. Also men are wearing their pants so tight as if they want to burst out of it. As a tailor I don’t like to see that because I know they can’t move properly and it also means that it is not draping properly. Get yourself educated about dressing well.”

And dressing well definitely involves certain items. “Other than a suit, a well-dressed man should own a nice buttoned down shirt and well-tailored pants. You can style the button down shirt with a nice jeans and nice pair of shoes and still look classy. Remember you never get a second chance for a great first impression.”

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