



David wears mustard fedora with vintage tie trim.

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ALL CUSTOM-MADE HATS BY BOYLAN'S BROTHERS  
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# *A head in style.*

The right hat will balance your features, accentuate your personality and help you stand out from the crowd. Headwear specialist and hat maker Rosie Boylan talks us through the finer details.

**DNA: People seem to have most trouble with the size of a hat – it's either too big or too small (a lot of shops have great looking hats but only in one-size-fits all). Are we looking in the wrong shop?**

**Rosie Boylan:** In the halcyon days hats were individually fitted and sold in specialty hat shops with fractional fitting scales. Everybody knew their own head size and the salespeople knew about heads and hats. Today hats are often sold as fashion accessories in clothing shops, where the salespeople know little or nothing about fitting a hat. A quality hat will come with centimetre scales of fit (generally between 55cm through to 64cm), measured around the head circumference above the brow line. Good fit in a hat means it will not blow off in the wind, sit too low on the head if it is too large or create a pressure line against the forehead if it's too small. The modern fit is often achieved with elasticised bands or with

generic sizes: small, medium and large. Many people who are new to hat wearing don't know how to fit a hat or even place it on their head to the best effect. Generic sizing certainly doesn't help. Needless to say, one size fits all is but a dream.

**Are there particular styles that suit particular people?**

Hat styles are designed to suit different face shapes. When styling a hat, the hatter will consider your sensibility, body proportions, facial features and colouring before selecting an appropriate style. The whole person needs to be taken into account, not simply their height and body shape. A range of hat shapes and colours, with differing crown heights and brim widths, are fitted to determine the most flattering style. A well-styled hat can enhance your best features and characteristics.

**Many people resort to a baseball cap simply because it is easy and generic. There is**

**nothing wrong with a baseball cap, is there?**

Some say the baseball cap is the symbol of 20th Century mass global consumerism. They're casual, can be flattened and are easy to carry around. They can look great on young heads but don't suit all face types (particularly those with long jaws or round faces) as they squish down on the forehead, accentuating rather than balancing these features. Baseball cap peaks tend to cast a harsh, unflattering shadow over the face and are bad news for people with big ears. As the world redefines itself, men are more confidently choosing a new look.

**Most of us have only one hat – how do we choose that one hat to go with all our different clothes?**

Most people have at least three hats. Usually a beanie for the cold, a straw hat for the sun and probably a cap or two. Often these are purchased solely as functional items. Until now style or suitability hasn't been a priority. >>



David wears black velvet homburg and James Tudor boxer briefs.

>> Colour is an important criterion when choosing a hat. Colour selection should firstly complement your hair, skin and eye colour. The choice of either a cool or warm colour depends on your colouring, dress tones and the season. Charcoal and soft greens are versatile and can work with cool or warm dress colours. Lighter tones will best reflect the heat in summer. Black is dramatic but can overpower some faces. Having a couple of hats with differing colour palettes gives you more flexibility and should cover most grooming variations.

#### **What are the trends in hats this season?**

The snappy and smaller brimmed trilbys and fedoras are currently popular in felt or straw and suit most face shapes. Bright cloth hats are popular for more relaxed looks. Rather than wearing what is deemed fashionable, you could take a more individual approach and wear the trilby or fedora with a twist. A truly bold approach is to simply wear what suits you and enhances your best features, without deference to fashion or trends. This will express your sartorial confidence and personal integrity. Recently in Japan, I was delighted to see Japanese men wearing winter hats with bold feather trims while the European summer styles are colourful with bright prints and striped trims.

#### **How much should we pay for a hat?**

Hats can be very inexpensive. That said, a growing number of men are prepared to pay a premium price for a quality hat that will serve them well through fashion's seasonal shifts. Quality is always reflected in price – though price doesn't always reflect quality. When considering a purchase, lay down some standards: it should be beautifully constructed, fit you well and compliment and balance your facial features. Also, a good hat will counterbalance body proportions. Depending on the style, brand and quality, expect to pay as low as \$50 for a mass-produced item, a mid-price of \$150 for a quality hat or as much as \$200–\$400 for high quality or specialty trimming. A good hat that will last you a long time is definitely good value in any economy.

#### **Is there any way to avoid “hat head” after taking your hat off?**

A lot of men really jam their hat down hard on their head and then if it is hot sweat like crazy. If a hat is secure (but not too tightly fitting) and has some space in the crown, hat head won't be a problem.

#### **Are hat makers still called milliners?**

There are hatters who manufacture and sell hats and there are milliners who design and hand-construct hats. Hats made to order are referred to as “bespoke” hats. Traditionally, milliners have made women's hats and hatters

have mass-produced or retailed men's hats, but these distinctions have become blurred. Many contemporary hat companies cater to both men and women and with the relaxation of dress, functional streetwear styles suit both. I offer both a bespoke hat-making and styling service. I workshop different styles on clients to find what shapes and colours best suit then go on to discuss what they would like to be made.

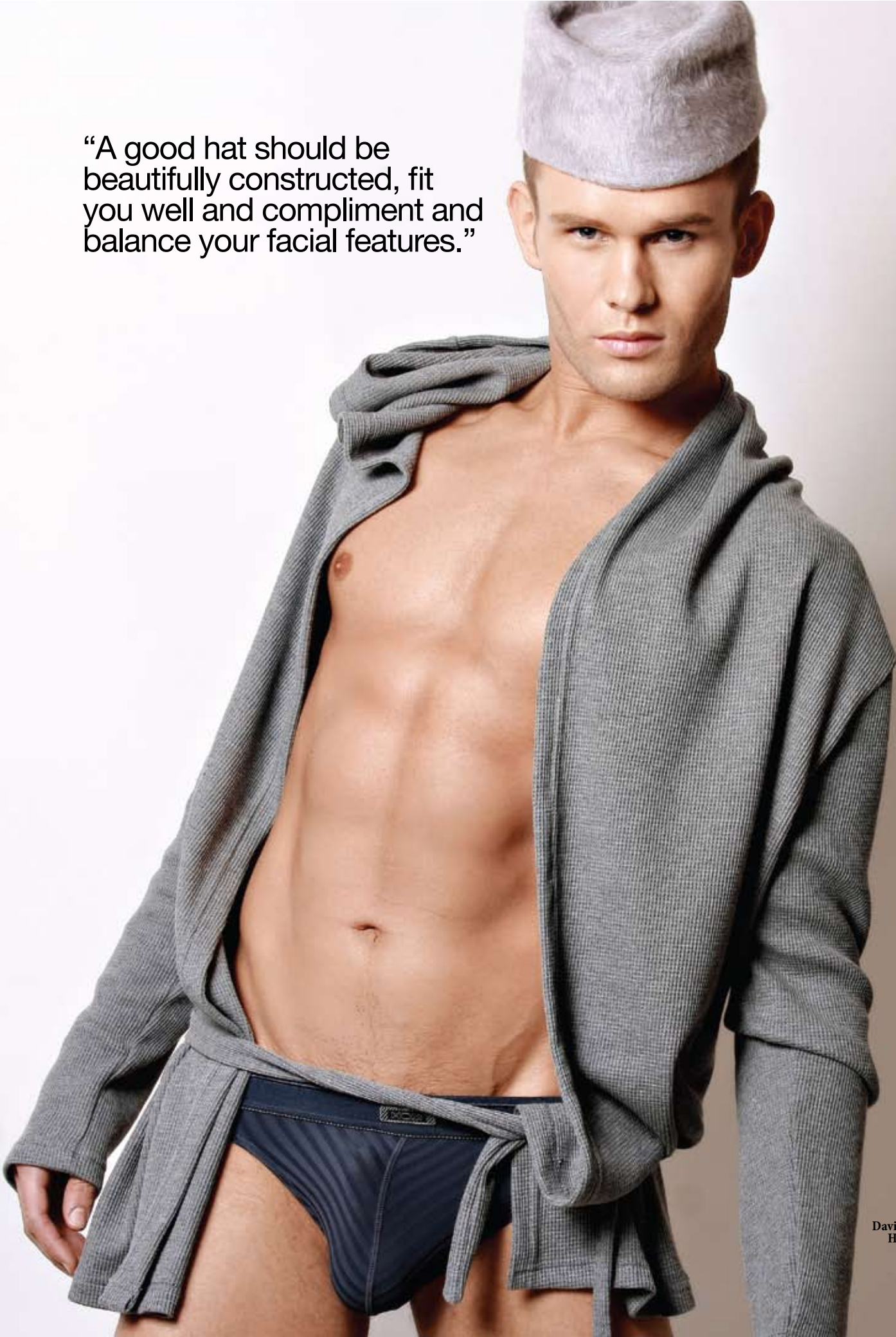
#### **Hats are becoming fashionable again in casual wear. Do you see them returning to formalwear as well?**

Men are re-engaging with the hat as an identifier, a distinctive expression of the individual. Dressing has become more casual and generic so hats are a good way to assert contrast and edge. People notice a hat – “That's a cool hat you're wearing,” has always been a great conversation opener. Like stilettos for the woman, a killer evening hat can be very alluring, give you a lot of mileage and make you a crowd standout. Throughout the centuries, in all cultures, hats have been a favourite item of dress. Men have adorned their heads for either function, flamboyancy or understated style. Whichever way you go, people will notice. Care for your hat and make it your own. ★

Go to [rosieboylan.com](http://rosieboylan.com) for more.



“A good hat should be beautifully constructed, fit you well and compliment and balance your facial features.”



David wears silver toque,  
HOM briefs and Tidus  
Van Hua cardigan.



David wears two-tone Panama  
and River Island suit.



David wears vintage black-and-white raffia trilby, James Tudor briefs and Tidus Van Hua jeans and cardigan.





David wears black velour homburg.

“Like stilettos for the woman, a killer evening hat can be very alluring and give you a lot of mileage.”



David wears silver toque and Tidus Van Hua shirt, jeans and cardigan.





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