

Dream Study

Dream Study, the Wales Bonner Autumn Winter 2024 collection, emerges from a rich interaction with Howard University's Moorland-Spingarn Research Center. The collection is an imaginative encounter with the Howard University experience, a celebration of a shining lineage. In yearbooks from the 1990s, depictions of homecoming resound: hip-hop performances, readings from the poets, international gatherings on the campus green.

"I said; one, two, three
Black Star shine eternally"

Consciousness and opulence come together in an original take on MC style. Athletic silhouettes reflect Howard's sporting legacy, while Nappa leather aviator jackets, corduroy varsity blousons, and satin baseball jerseys enliven the academic wardrobe. Collegiate tailoring is issued with utility pockets; relaxed knitwear comes in cashmere yarns with gold fastenings. Worlds of influence come together through refined compositions: utility denim, smart shirting alongside dresses and suiting embroidered with crocheted mirrors handmade in India. Soulful exuberance continues in parkas and blousons crafted from vintage Kantha quilts. Eyewear from Jacques Marie Mage, handcrafted in Japan, adds to the expressive individual.

Heritage checks and wool duffle coats meet hip-hop icons: silver-embellished Timberland boots and a reprise of the adidas Originals Superstar in exotic crocodile-embossed leather. Meanwhile, the ongoing partnership with Savile Row tailors Anderson and Sheppard produces silk-trimmed tuxedos, melange cashmere double breasted coats, and cropped trousers in bouclé tweed. Feather brooches and necklaces crafted from artisanal beads, freshwater pearls, lapis lazuli and amethyst lovingly accentuate the evening procession.

"The stark, trimmed phrases of the Occident seem too bare for the voluptuous child of the sun, hence the adornment. It arises out of the same impulse as the wearing of jewelry and the making of sculpture - the urge to adorn."

Zora Neale Hurston, Howard University Class of 1920.

The show soundtrack features original work from musicians Rashad Ringo Smith and yasiin bey, luminaries now and forever. Inspired by the evolution of cosmic and conscious expression, it shines a light on the hip-hop sample as sounds are transposed through time and tradition. Above the beat, golden lyrics soar.

The orator – insignia-adorned, draped in amulets – walks the shining runway:

"We travel the spaceways from planet to planet
We travel the spaceways from planet to planet"

(Sun Ra, 1967)

yasiin bey

yasiin bey is an American rapper, singer, songwriter, and actor. Formerly known as Mos Def, his artistic journey started in hip hop started in the early 1990s. In 1998 he formed the duo Black Star alongside rapper Talib Kweli, releasing their eponymous debut album, featuring the singles "Definition"; and "Respiration". In 1999 he released his solo debut, *Black on Both Sides*, which was widely praised, followed by *The New Danger* (2004), *True Magic* (2006), and *The Ecstatic* (2009), all to critical and audience acclaim. Alongside his music he has had a prolific career as an actor, featuring in more than 18 films including *Bamboozled*, *Monster's Ball*, *The Italian Job* and the *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. In 2022 with Talib Kweli they released a new long-awaited Black Star album, 'No Fear of Time', produced by Madlib. Over time yasiin bey has collaborated with many of the most prominent talents in popular, jazz and hip-hop music, including Madlib, Kanye West, De La Soul, Gorillaz, Robert Glasper, Chris 'Daddy' Dave, Derrick Hodge, Freddie Gibbs, Erykah Badu to name but a few.

Sir Rashad Ringo Smith

Sir Rashad Ringo Smith is an architect of hip hop's golden age. As a teenager in Brooklyn he produced for Rakim, Queen Latifah, MC Lyte and A Tribe Called Quest. Then, Smith's unique knowledge of music history and mastery of sound technology tools laid the foundation for the elegant samples and innovative production style found on his hits like LL Cool J's "Doin It", Notorious B.I.G.'s "One More Chance", Busta Rhymes' "Woo Hah!! Got You All In Check", Nas' "If I Ruled The World (Imagine That)" and Seal's "Fly Like An Eagle". Most recently Smith has been producing, curating sounds and writing for Erykah Badu, DJ Khaled, Nicki Minaj, and Doja Cat to name but a few.

James William Blades

James William Blades is British composer and producer based in New York, whose work dissolves the boundaries between scores, sound design and music. Primarily known as a film composer, Blades honed his singular musical aesthetic working alongside some of the world's most exciting artists, including Beyoncé, Theaster Gates, Kahlil Joseph and Grace Wales Bonner. Reframing the relationship between music, sound and image, Blades has created a unique sonic language he describes in terms of landscape painting. His scores have been exhibited at Venice Biennale, Serpentine Gallery, 180 The Strand and Palais de Tokyo, and he is currently readying his debut solo productions for release. In 2023, he scored AG Rojas' debut feature, *Pare De Sufrir*, alongside Mutt (dir. Vuk Lungulov-Klotz), which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. A filmmaker in the broadest sense of the word, Blades' extensive inter-disciplinary experience marks him out as an artist in his own right, bringing an exciting and fresh approach to feature film composition.

Wales Bonner

Wales Bonner proposes a distinct notion of cultural luxury that infuses European heritage with an Afro Atlantic spirit.

Launched by Grace Wales Bonner following her graduation from Central Saint Martins in 2014, the label is informed by broad cultural research and embraces a multiplicity of perspectives.

Established as a menswear brand, Wales Bonner's soulful tailoring soon expanded to womenswear. Grace Wales Bonner has received numerous awards including Emerging Menswear Designer at the British Fashion Awards (2015), the LVMH Young Designer Prize (2016), Winner of the British Fashion Council/ Vogue Designer Fashion Fund (2019), CFDA International Men's Designer of the Year (2021) and Independent British Brand at the Fashion Awards (2022). Wales Bonner has collaborated with brands including adidas Originals, Anderson & Sheppard, and Dior.

Stockists include Matchesfashion.com, Selfridges, Net-a-Porter, Mr. Porter, Bergdorf Goodman, Saks 5th Avenue, Nordstrom, Dover Street Market International and Boon the Shop.

Grace Wales Bonner's curatorial exhibitions include *A Time For New Dreams*, Serpentine Galleries London (2019) and *Artist's Choice - Spirit Movers* at the Museum of Modern Art, New York (2023) with accompanying publication *Dream in the Rhythm: Visions of Sound and Spirit in the MoMA Collection* (2023). Grace is currently leading a four-year research project, titled *Between Critique and Hope*, at the University of Applied Arts Vienna.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Baraka, Amiri. "The Changing Same (R&B and the New Black Music)." Essay in *Black Music*. New York: William Morrow, 1968.

Eshun, Kodwo. *More Brilliant Than The Sun: Adventures in Sonic Fiction*. London: Verso, 2018.

Giovanni, Nikki. *The collected poetry of Nikki Giovanni, 1968-1998*. New York: William Morrow, 2007.

Hurston, Zora Neale. "Characteristics of Negro Expression". In *Anthology* ed. Nancy Cunard. London: Wishart & Co, 1934.

McKay, Claude. *Amiable With Big Teeth*. London: Penguin Classics, 2018.

Neal, Larry. *Hoodoo Hollerin' Bebop Ghosts*. Washington, DC: Howard University Press, 1974.

Tate, Greg. "Yabba Dabba Doo-Wop: De La Soul." Essay. In *Flyboy in the Buttermilk: Essays on Contemporary America*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2016.

Williams, Justin A. "The Construction of Jazz Rap as High Art in Hip-Hop Music." *Journal of Musicology* 27, no. 4 (2010): 435-59.

Wolf, James L., and Hartmut Geerken. *Sun Ra: The immeasurable equation: The collected poetry and prose*. Norderstedt: Books on Demand, 2005.

Creative Direction	ISSTUDIO
Styling	Tom Guinness
Show Production	GW+
Casting	Establishment
Lighting Design	LightLab
Music Director and Music Production	James William Blades at Interlude Sounds
Film	Titre Provisoire
Film Edit	Parallax
Makeup	Lauren Parsons at Art Partner using Sisley Paris
Hair	Jawara Wauchope at Art Partner using Hair Rituel by Sisley
Eyewear	Jacques Marie Mage
Wales Bonner mainline footwear	Produced in partnership with Himco
Footwear	adidas Originals by Wales Bonner and Timberland

With Gratitude to

adidas Originals, Ahmed Amjad, Aisling Connell, Akihiro Mochizuk, Akiko Ito, Albert Kingsley Meek, Almudena Roca de Togores, Anaëlle Piovesan, Anda Rowland, Anderson & Sheppard, Angèle châtenet, Anita Bitton, Anna-Sofia Eve, Archie Grant, Arman Naji, Aurélie Nedjar, Dr. Benjamin Talton, Brittany Grimes, Bronte Schwier, Caius Pawson, Chloe Hunt, Chloe Ward, Christin Ott, Christopher Wheat, Christine d'Ornano, Christopher Kirkley, Chukwuma Nwebube, Clubhouse Studio, Dale Westgarth, Daniel Mason, Dee Patel, Del-Juan Brown, Elena Toscano, Emma Billingham, Fabian Frimpong, Fédération de la Haute Couture et de la Mode, Finlay Macaulay, Fred Lamb, Gainsbury & Whiting, Geraldo Rodriguez, Harley Tallantire, Hugh Warrander, Huguette Tchiapi, Imogen Snell, ISSTUDIO, Jack Hornsey, James Nisbet, James William Blades, Jameson Pepper, Jawara Wauchope, Jebi Labembika, Jennifer Bishop, Jessica Hamenyimana, Jill Meisner, Jonny Lu, Junsei Nakahama, Kate Davies, Kenny Mutombo, Kwaku Gorleku, Lamayra Hanley Evans, LaNiece Tyree, Lauren Parsons, Léa Allary, Liam Sangmuah, Louis Appelmans, Lucy Hunt, Ly Mai, Martin Sulzbacher, Megan Dore, Dr. Michael Ralph, MJ Harper, Nerea Echebarria, Nick Murphy, Nyla Jones, Parallax, Paul Rogers, Peter Miles Studio, Rashad Ringo Smith, Riccardo Castano, Ritchie Charlton, Robbie Jr. Kwapong, Rosie Mae Harris, Serge Carreira, Sian Rowe, Simon Pankau Sirixay, Tegan Taylor, Titre Provisoire, Tom Guinness, Tom Tossey, Torben Schumacher, Victor Paré, Will Taylor, Yasiin Bey, Young, Zinzi Wilkinson.

WALES BONNER

JACQUESMARIE MAGE

Timberland 

sisley
PARIS

HAIR rituel
by sisley