

## Top Gunn

A large group of women of all ages and a few men were lined up waiting to see their idol in person on a Tuesday evening. 54 year old fashion guru Tim Gunn was the unlikely object of all the attention. As I passed by, one of them asked me, "Did you get to meet him?" as I nodded affirmatively, she replied, "You're so lucky!"

He rose to fame as a mentor to the dueling designers on Bravo TV's *Project Runway*, which garnered him a spin off show on the network, *Tim Gunn's Guide to Style*. In addition he is the Chief Creative Officer for Liz Claiborne, and has graced our fair city with his own brand of fashion advice, to the happy acolytes in attendance.

I sat down with Mr. Gunn for a chat about fashion, fame and of course *Project Runway*! No matter what you wear or where you buy it, good solid fashion advice is always the fashionista's best friend. The following are excerpts from that fascinating conversation.



### My Favorite quotes from Gunn Interview

"I can't want you to succeed more than you do."

"Don't forget that everyone that meets you is making assumptions, evaluations and judgments based on how you look."

"Style is the manner in which you navigate life and your surroundings."

"The economic downturn will help shoppers focus on not only how much they spend, but what they buy. Before purchasing anything, make sure it fits well, will work with many other items in your wardrobe, and is of the best quality." (That will make the investment a long term fashion winner.)

"I think there's no greater challenge and no greater joy than dressing real women and having them look great and feel great and be



age appropriate, without being dowdy, or remotely matronly. No one has to look like that. For a pear-shaped woman, it's always important to let your shoulders be your friend. And I'm not talking about shoulder pads. I'm just talking about items of apparel that go to the end of the shoulder. Have a sleeve as opposed to being sleeveless or strapless, because it will visually broaden you and mitigate the effects of the hip. That's a critical element with the pear shape."

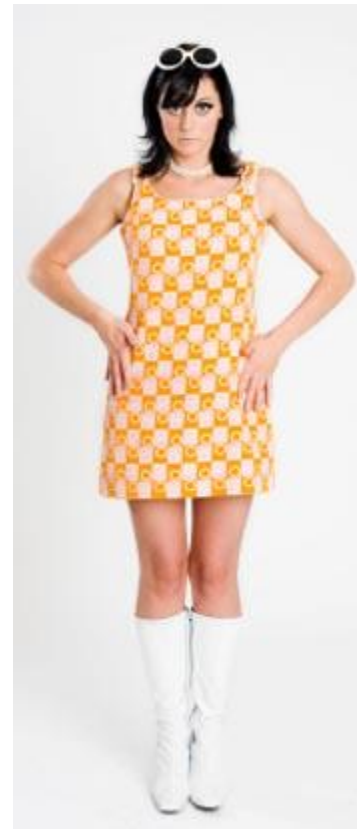
### **Mr. Gunn's Top Tips**

1. "Silhouette, proportion, and fit."
2. "Dress the body you have, not the one you want."
3. "Dress the way you want the world to perceive you."



### **Greatest moment in fashion history**

"The 60's. I don't think we've ever seen in any decade as much of a transition in how people dress. Clothes were a barometric gauge of the changes taking place in society. The miniskirt revolutionized women's fashion forever. Quite a lot of drama happened."



**Worst moment in fashion history**

“The 80’s, with their over sized shoulder pads, horrible hairstyles and out of proportion silhouettes. Not flattering on anyone!”



And now for the moment we all waited for.....who were his least favorite contestants on *Project Runway*?

“Let me put it this way, I will tell you which designer from each season I would banish to a desert island. Season 1, hands down Wendy Pepper, Season 2, Zulema, she even scared Santino!, Season 3, Vincent, annoying!, Season 4 Victorya Hong, she thought there would be more time for the challenges, and was just unpleasant throughout, and Season 5, none other than Kenley, are you surprised?”

With season 6 filmed and ready to go, Mr. Gunn said, “There is a question about who owns the rights to the show. It will either be on Lifetime or another station—it is out of my hands!”

To get more of Tim’s sage advice and style tips, pick up his new book, *A Guide to Quality, Taste and Style* for you, or as a gentle hint to a fashion challenged friend.

When it comes to the Goodwill Retail Stores and Donation Centers you have so many opportunities to put into practice his realistic advice. As he famously says, “Make it work people!”

