

DAVID BOWIE BIOGRAPHY

David Bowie had a huge influence on youth, especially during 1970s and 1980s.

Bowie was born on 8th January, 1947, in London. He showed creativity and strong interest in music and art when he was a child. He learned to play various kinds of musical instruments and learned from songs of famous artists. At high school, Bowie studied art, music and design, including layout and typesetting, which greatly contributed to the success of his career in the future. He once formed his own band and created several singles. However, these works were not satisfying enough for the music industry, and failed to gain commercial traction that he wanted.

In the 1960s, to avoid confusion with another singer called Davy Jones, he changed his name from David Robert Jones to David Bowie, which is inspired by Jim Bowie. In 1967, Bowie released his first self-titled album, which wasn't successful at that time. Later in the same year, he started studying at the London Dance Center. He studied dance and dramatic arts under Lindsay Kemp. This experience gave him the incredible ability of dancing and visual presentation. It also enabled him to do further exploration in arts. In 1969, Bowie released the single "Space Oddity" which was his first success. It was popular in both UK and US, and gave him some exposure and popularity in the music industry.

The 1970s was the golden time of his career. In 1972, Bowie created a science fiction character called Ziggy Stardust who came from Mars. He released the album "The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars" and played the role of Ziggy Stardust for a period. He had bright reddish orange hair and no eyebrows. He wore various kinds of bodysuits that made him look like bisexual. This became one of his representative looks and it was a huge success. It attracted a lot of people because of its innovative glam rock style, rich visual presentation, social commentary, sexual explorations, and Bowie's unique appearance and sound. This is also the style that will be further discussed in this project. Later in this decade, he released some more glam rock albums and they all became popular. During this time, Bowie's career as an actor also went well. He appeared on many movies, such as "The Man Who Fell to Earth" and "Just a Gigolo". At the beginning of this decade, Bowie married Mary Angela Barnett and had a son later. At the same time, he never stopped playing with his gender and sexuality. David Bowie was definitely one of the most popular superstars in the 1970s.

In the 1980s, Bowie did more explorations in music. In 1980, he released album "Scary Monsters (And Super Creeps)". This album was highly acclaimed because of its significant artistic value. He also had another new character to play in this decade, and this has greatly contributed to the success and popularity of his albums. In addition, he continued his career as an actor. He took a role in lots of movies, such as "Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence" and "The Hunger".

In the 1990s and 2000s, Bowie kept exploring different music styles. He released several albums, including the style of industrial and jungle. However, he was not as popular as before. He got married with model Iman in 1992. Bowie has never stopped music making within his life. He released his last album "Blackstar" in 2006, two days before he passed away because of cancer.

David Bowie has tried various things and had an interesting life. He was a great singer, songwriter, actor, and fashion icon. He has significantly contributed to music and fashion industry throughout his life. He could foresee what would happen in both fashion and music and interpret them to be accepted by the majority people. He has greatly contributed to exploration in different styles of music and fashion, especially in glam rock and sexually ambiguous fashion.

Glam rock is a style of music mixed by many sorts of music, such as rock and pop music. Glam rock musicians often wear exaggerated makeup, big platform heels, flamboyant garments with sparkles and feathers. They play with their gender and sexual orientation. They break rules and don't look like what is in tradition. Glam rock is against the mainstream of rock in the 1960s. They opposed current sober rock and roll performances and brought a sense of theater and more possibilities back to rock. They are called 'rebelling against the rebellion' by Robert Palmer. Glam rock had influences on various types of music, especially on funk look in a few years.

GLAM ROCK

INFLUENCE

on

"STREET STYLE"

ANTIClockwise

Image 1:

David Bowie playing Ziggy Stardust, 1973.

Image 2:

David Bowie fans outside Earls Court, London, 1973.

Image 3:

David Bowie fans outside Earls Court, London, 1973.

Image 4:

David Bowie fans outside Fairfield Halls, London, 1973.

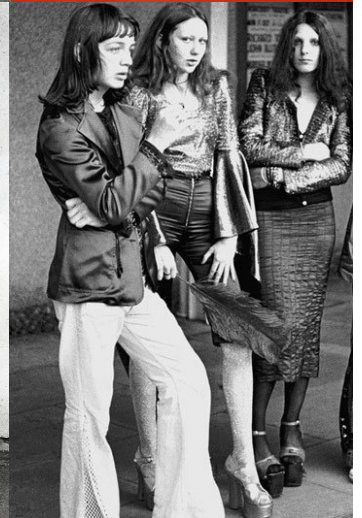
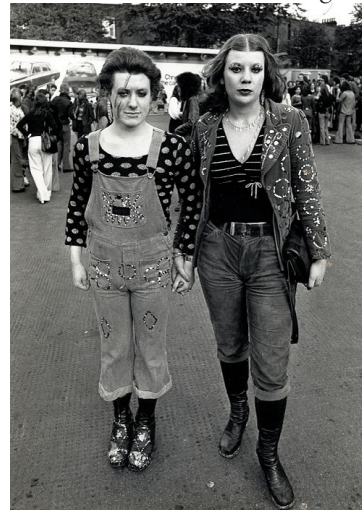


Image 1

This is one of David Bowie's most famous outfits as Ziggy Stardust. He has bright reddish orange medium-length hair, shaved eyebrows. He wears platform boots and close-fitting striped bodysuit with shaped collar, shaped shoulder design and deep V neckline.

Image 2

The girl on the right has medium length hair just like Ziggy. She wears dark lipstick and light eyebrows to imitate Ziggy's makeup. Her garments also imitate Ziggy's bodysuit. She has a striped inside top that has similar pattern as his bodysuit as well. The top has deep V neckline which is very similar to Ziggy's. Her jeans are tight to imitate the close-fitting appearance of the bodysuit. The girl on the left has fluffy hair right on top of her head just like Ziggy. She also has a lightning bolt sign on her face to imitate Ziggy's another classic makeup. Two girls both wear boots like Ziggy. In addition, they both have a lot of sparkles on their garments and accessories, which show the strong influence of glam rock on their outfits. At the same time, both of their outfits are less exaggerated. They interpret Ziggy's look to be more practical, more adapted to everyday wear and everyday life.

Image 3

Two girls in the image have mid-length hair Ziggy hairstyle. They make their eyebrows very light to imitate no Ziggy's shaved eyebrow. Their tops have deep V neckline and shaped shoulder design borrowed from Ziggy's bodysuit. They both wear big platform heels just like Ziggy. Both of their outfits show a strong influence of exotic, rebel Ziggy style. At the same time, all of the elements borrowed are interpreted and shown in a less exaggerated, more daily wear way.

Image 4

The outfits of two girls on the right are greatly inspired by Ziggy. They both wear platform heels borrowed from Ziggy's look. They shaved their eyebrows to imitate Ziggy. Their tops both have deep V neckline like Ziggy's bodysuit. Both girls wear tight pants/skirt inspired by the Ziggy's close-fitting bodysuit. In addition, they both have a lot of sparkles on their garments, which show the strong influence of glam rock. At the same time, their outfits are less exaggerated than Ziggy's. They borrow some elements from him and make it more adapted to daily life, look like more of everyday fashion.

INFLUENCE on Fashion Designers & Major Brands



Image 5, L'official Magazine, 1970s

The lady's makeup in the fashion photo borrowed a lot of elements from Ziggy. She imitated Ziggy's no eyebrow appearance. In order to be accepted by the mass market, her eyebrows were made to be very light in color rather than be completely shaved.

The garment also shows Ziggy's strong influence in fashion. It borrowed the strip pattern from Ziggy's bodysuit and transform it to be less exaggerated, more simple. It now has less color and looks more elegant and fashionable from mainstream fashion perspective.

The lady in the image wears high-heeled shoes to imitate Ziggy's platform shoes that allow people look like higher and more powerful. High-heeled shoes are used rather than platform shoes to be accepted by mainstream fashion and to interest more people, instead of interest only a certain group of people who love glam rock.

Generally speaking, this outfit borrowed a lot from David Bowie's Ziggy look and its street style, and interpret them in a less complex, less rebel, in a more elegant way, to be accepted by more people.

Two ladies' outfits both show influence of Ziggy.

They have either yellowish or reddish orange hair tributed to Ziggy's representative bright orange hair. Rather than using Ziggy's hairstyle, they have trendy hairstyle by the 70s to adapt to the mass market. This makes the whole look more elegant and fashionable. In addition, to imitate Ziggy's makeup, they want to make their eyebrows invisible. They chose to make them extremely light instead of shave them completely, in order to be accepted by the majority people.

For the lady on the left, she wears a dress with very colorful dot prints. It s inspired by colorful strips on Ziggy's bodysuit and transformed to this less exaggerated, more everyday wear but still in a colorful way. On Ziggy's bodysuit, red, blue, green, yellow, white colors were used. The garment wore by the lady used exactly same colors for its dot prints. The designer transferred these colors to occupy less space on the garment, therefore to be less dramatic and more cceptable for the mass market.

For the lady on the right, she wears a garment with complicated colorful pattern. It feels to be exotic, which is also the impression Ziggy gives people. To balance the feeling of exotic with mainstream fashion, they used a normal silhouette and a black background color for this garment. So it looks impressive and not too exaggerated, which makes it a nice choice for the mass market.

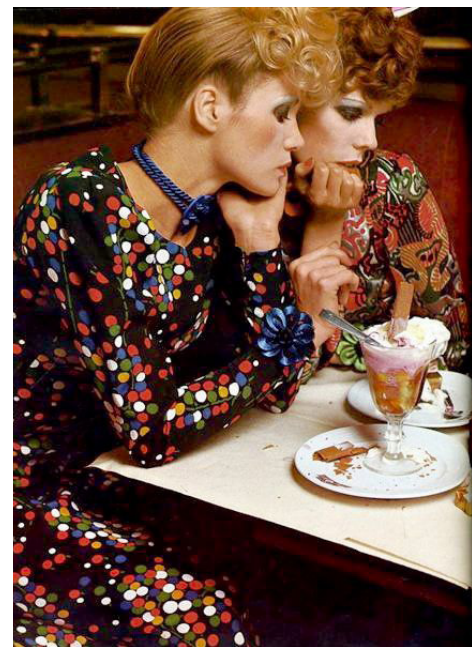


Image 6, Willy Van Rooy and Wallis Franken, French Elle, 1974.

INTERPRETATIONS on Nowaday Runways



Image 7, Gucci Runway, 2018

This outfit shows various elements borrowed from Ziggy Stardust played by David Bowie. First, the model's hairstyle and hair color are inspired by Ziggy's. The model's hair is light orange, which is tribute to Ziggy's representative reddish orange hair color. It is transformed to be lighter in color and more natural by Gucci to adapt to current mass market. The shape of hairstyle borrowed imitate Ziggy's as well. It is high in the middle and short at sides of head. It is

transformed to be less flowy and more masculine, to look more powerful to build a strong independent image of woman. Besides, the model is imitating Ziggy, aiming at having no eyebrow. In order to be accepted by the majority, she kept her eyebrow and made them very light in color instead of completely shaving them, to create that no eyebrow effect.

The model wears a bold color dress and decorations with silver sparkles, this shows a influence of glam rock by Bowie and his Ziggy Stardust character. As a matter of fact, glam rockers often wear garments that are daring in both colors and silhouette. To be adapted by the majority, Gucci only used bold colors without daring silhouette like bodysuit to avoid being too exaggerated.

In addition, this outfit includes a pair of platform shoes, which is one of Ziggy's essential items. Gucci kept the height of platform, changed the shape of shoes and add some decorations with sparkle to make them more fashionable from nowadays mainstream fashion perspective.

The whole outfit in the image gives an impression of exotic and bisexual, which is similar to what Ziggy's outfit makes people feel. Ziggy's look makes him look more feminine as a man, while this Gucci look makes the female model look stronger and more powerful as a woman. This may also be easier to be accepted by the mass market since a lot of current fashion consumers are independent powerful women.

The hairstyle of model borrowed some elements from Ziggy. She has bright orange color which is obviously inspired by Ziggy's reddish orange hair. There are some hair next to and behind model's ears to imitate Ziggy's hair length. At the same time, Junya made some changes on model's hairstyle to adapt to current market tastes. It is shorter, neater and more square, with fringe above eyebrow which is very trendy at present.

Model's eyebrows are covered with silver paint, this is influenced by Ziggy's no eyebrow appearance. Silver paint are applied to add more futuristic effect.

The dress in the image has a irregular shape, which shows Ziggy's exotic influence. It is layered at the bottom, which create the impression of exotic and alien. At the same time, the dress does not looks too exaggerated. It looks fashionable and sexy with the use of leather and transparent fabric, and the ripped tight pants at the bottom, which are accpetable by current mass market.

In addition, the model is wearing a pair of tight boots just like Ziggy, to increase height therefore look like strong and powerful. The difference between them is, Ziggy's boots has big platforms, while the model's boots has high heels rather than big platforms. This makes the model's outfit more modern and adaptable for current market.

Just like Ziggy, the model's whole outfit looks bisexual and exotic in a less colorful way. It can be accepted by the market because it's sexy, fashionable and powerful.



Image 8, Junya Watanabe Runway, 2017

Source of Images

Coverpage Image, Album cover shoot for Aladdin Sane, photographed by Brian Duffy, 1973.

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Image 1, David Bowie playing Ziggy Stardust, 1973.

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Image 2, David Bowie fans outside Earls Court, London, 1973.

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Image 5, L'official magazine, 1970s.

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Image 6, French Elle, 1974.

(The origin link of the image can't be found. This is the pinterest URL where I find it.)

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/546061523542385889/>

Image 7, Gucci Runway, 2018.

<https://www.vogue.com/fashion-shows/fall-2018-ready-to-wear/gucci/slideshow/collection#81>

Image 8, Junya Watanabe Runway, 2017.

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