



'Bob' used to be a bloke's name. Now it's 2007's hottest hairdo or Cate Blanchett in drag, says Paul Ewart



**WHEN I CLAPPED EYES ON MOVIE STILL FROM THE RECENT BOB DYLAN BIOPIIC**, with an unrecognisable

Cate Blanchett as the young Dylan – complete with wig, shoes, leather jacket and, ahem, sock appendage – it occurred to me that women seem to be enjoying the best of both worlds. From Cate's coveted acting roles (she's also played *Hamlet*) to the androgynous collections on Autumn/Winter 2007's catwalks, women are scrabbling to get into men's garb both on and off camera.

In the early part of last century women took away the last vestige of menswear – the trousers – and made them their own. Now the mannish trend, which has held court over designer collections for several seasons, has culminated in a plethora of lasses donning waistcoats, tailored tuxes and Oxford bags, further illustrating their intrusion into our little lot.

Now don't get me wrong, it's not that we've a problem with it, in fact it's quite flattering that you regard our style fit to be stolen, but, if you turn the tables, what progression has men's fashion made into the world of the fairer sex?

Aside from the kilt, the skirt has never really taken off in the western world – we all remember the scorn David Beckham received after his dalliance with a sarong and black nail varnish. If one of the world's most fashion-forward men can't get away with it, then who can?

So women can encroach upon menswear as much as they like whilst the bland alpha male majority hold the rest of us back? Frankly, I'm annoyed.

Photos: Getty Images, Rex Features

**ABOUT OUR COLUMNIST**

**\*** Paul Ewart has more handbags than the *Grazia* team put together. For that we love the *Ahlan!* super-stylist (as well as being a teensy bit jealous)



**OW TO...  
YEAR ANDROGYNY**



Whether you want to go the whole hog in mannish get-up or simply put a boyish spin on your style, you can pull off the look with a few key pieces. The cornerstone is a tailored blazer or tux – think classic Armani or Ghesquière's sculptural jacket du jour for Balenciaga. Make like Madonna or Posh and add some slouchy mannish trousers – perhaps with some braces à la Marc by Marc Jacobs – or take the cigarette pants route. Whatever the combination, keep it feminine by accessorising with killer heels.



**FAG HAG**  
Cate Blanchett gets scarily into character in her latest film role as Bob Dylan

I'm not suggesting that your fella takes to the floors of Trilogy in a fringed Bottega Veneta mini-dress, but guys, come on, a little imagination please! A Vivienne Westwood brooch here, an Hermès pocket square there; if our ancestral fops and dandies were doing it, why shouldn't we?

The news that Tom Ford is designing dish-dashas is a start and I'd urge all men to invest in a manbag – and I don't mean one that comes in camouflage complete with an assortment of gadget utility pockets. Get your hair coloured, have a facial and above all, push some boundaries. Remember, having the prettiest plumage of the bird world hasn't done the peacock any harm. ■

