

## The all-male view

OK. I can't deny that trainers may be more comfortable than a pair of patent stilettos or thigh-high boots when running for a bus, but they don't do a girl any favours. To appear at her best, a woman has to sport heels (unless she is a librarian, one of the 'sensible-shoes brigade' or both, when a pair of brown brogues or flat pumps will suffice. Here I go again. Stop me Annie!).

Relatively speaking, a woman's legs are longer than a man's in proportion to her total body-length. So, whatever general shape she has, it is made more attractive by lengthening this feature. This is the beauty of high heels. They accentuate the thighs, lengthen, slenderise and tone the calves and create a more alluring posture with the buttocks and breasts pressed outwards and the belly held in. Just take a look at Marilyn Monroe teetering along the platform in *Some Like it Hot*.

So, when I talk about footwear here, I really mean sexy footwear.

## The styles that work

For those of you who read issue 1 of SHM, there is a recurring theme – colour. Again, as with basques, the shoes that really, really work are black. Red is a distant second – 'red shoes, (or red hat) no knickers' as the old saying goes – but white and silver also feature. Brown is too rural and rustic to have pizzazz and all other colours of the rainbow and beyond simply don't cut the mustard.

Not surprisingly, then, black is the preferred choice for that sexy look – not only in its own right, but black can be worn with any outfit. The femme-fatale look requires black shoes – and a Goth wouldn't wear anything but.

This applies for men as well as women. Black gives a solid foundation to the whole body image. It is almost like a statement that says 'I build my lighthouse on rock, not on sand.'



Which brings me to the 'hooker look'. Ladies of the night the world over have recognised the impact of accentuating the length of their legs with high heels as they advertised their wares – and if you're feeling like playing the tart, the right shoes are a must. Ironically, 'working girls' sport appropriately 'fuck-me' shoes when on duty, while working **women**, who spend their earning hours on their feet

### TIPS FOR GOOD SHOE WEARING

#### Ladies

- ☞ Wear the highest heels that your legs can sustain
- ☞ Don't get drunk when wearing the above heels – or you'll fall off and make a spectacle of yourself. This applies especially to wedding receptions and when leaving an Essex pub around midnight!
- ☞ Always wear stockings. Tights just don't work with any shoe type. You could possibly get away with hold-ups, but, really, you should have the sussies as well
- ☞ Never, never, never wear trainers unless you're preparing for next year's Marathon – and even then, only wear them when it's dark!

#### Ladies and gentlemen

- ☞ Unless wearing amazing knee-high (or higher) boots, don't wear shoes with laces. Wear slip-ons just in case the knots become too difficult to untie when required and 'the moment' is gone!
- ☞ Never consider Wellington boots unless you're digging for victory at the allotment or you are a Welsh hill farmer with rather recalcitrant sheep
- ☞ Always look after your shoes and keep them as clean as you can. This is not a joke – a lot can be told about a person by the way that they maintain their footwear

#### Gentlemen

However short you may be, don't wear lifts in your shoes 'cos you'll just look a pillock when you take them off. Remember, we're all the same height when lying down...

as opposed to their backs, wear functional footwear. As such, the wearing of high heels is an indicator (for ordinary girls, that is) of **not** working – of lovely, decadent leisure... and having fun!

While there are high-street shops that offer sexy shoes and boots, there is an increasing number of fantasy footwear specialists. One of the most impressive is Fantasy Shoes of Barking who supplied some of the images that accompany this feature.

Their web-site is [www.fantasysshoe.com](http://www.fantasysshoe.com)  
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