

Who Are You Wearing? Kiri Christmas Special

[Who Are You Wearing? Theme Song]

Kiri: Hello and welcome to this Christmas edition. Jo can we put some like sleigh bell sounds in the background?

[Sleigh bells]

Welcome to this Christmas edition of Who Are You Wearing? A podcast hosted by me, Kiri Pritchard-McLean where I chat to the most stylish people I know about style and clothes and fashion. Now before we do the interviews we always ask a couple of quick warm up questions and I have been asking people, what does your household wear in Christmas? And these are some of the answers that we got over the year. We thought they were just too brilliant not to put out and also it's a good thing that you can listen to today to drown out your [gasps] horrible family [laughs] or lovely family. Either way we've all had enough by now haven't we? So let's kick off with Laura Whitmore who is so Christmas, cut her and she will bleed tinsel.

In your house growing up or now do you have like Christmas day outfits? So like clothes that you'll put aside, especially new ones and be like this is what I'm going to pop on, on the day?

Laura W: Oh my God I'm so happy you said that because we always had a Christmas day outfit. I grew up with just my mum but mum is the youngest of 13 children. So Christmas day is a day of visiting all the cousins and all the aunties and uncles. And it's a big day, it's like go from house to house. And a lot of my mum's family live in the one area in County Wexford so we can kind of do the rounds quickly. But you always needed a new outfit it's just a thing. But now my other half, like one Christmas he had a takeaway Chinese. Do you know what I mean? Like he doesn't really experience Christmas the way I do it.

Kiri: [Laughs]

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Laura W: So this year I was like, because I couldn't go back to Ireland like last year so I was like 'What's your Christmas day outfit going to be?' And he was like 'What? I don't know my pyjamas' I'm like '[Draws breath shocked] What?! You need a separate Christmas day outfit, it has to be done'. And he was like that's the one day I make no effort, it's the complete opposite for him. But I did make him get out of his pyjamas. But yeah for me it just felt like it was a fancy day and probably because it's the day that I meet so much family.

Kiri: Yeah of course so you want to be like best foot forward Sunday best, all the cousins are going to see.

Laura W: Yeah maybe it's an old school Catholic thing of going to church on a Sunday. Even if we don't go to church on a Sunday you still kind of have to dress that way for Christmas day.

Kiri: I always thought it was a northern thing but then a lot of the north is quite Catholic and has lots of Irish influence as well in Liverpool and Manchester.

Laura W: Yeah most people are Irish if you go back far enough. There's a bit of Irish in them somewhere down the line.

Kiri: [Laughs] And it's that that we can thank for Christmas day outfits.

Laura W: Yeah that and that alone.

Kiri: You heard it here first thank Ireland for Christmas. It's a bold statement but you know what? Anything Laura Whitmore would say, I just go along with. Now Sindhu Vee isn't from Ireland but that doesn't stop her really leaning into the extra nature of Christmas.

Sindhu V: Yes me and the children, everyone has to have a Christmas outfit because at Diwali you have to have new clothes, it's part of the religious part of it. So obviously at Christmas my mother always just sent new clothes for

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the kids. The kids were like 'Why the fuck are we wearing this Indian wedding set at Christmas?' I'm like 'Actually your grandmother sent it, just wear it'. And then as they got older they wanted dresses and trousers, not like Salwar Kameez and kurta and Diwali and then Christmas again. And they accused my mother of trying to take over Christmas which she did. So yeah we have new clothes. And I buy clothes so I always have a new outfit. I have an Indian outfit for Diwali which mummy always used to sent. And then I have a new outfit. Always something kind of special and new for Christmas. Yeah of course.

Kiri: Oh I love it.

Sindhu V: It's so nice.

Kiri: Of course Sindhu is glamorous on the day, of course! Now my heart wants to be Sindu but my head? Well that's with Aja Barber's choices. Do you celebrate Christmas in your house?

Aja B: We do, we do yeah.

Kiri: Do you dress differently for Christmas?

Aja B: We don't at all. Like my family is very, very casual about the holidays. I think the only thing I turn to on holidays like Christmas is wear stretchy pants because I know if I don't I'll regret it when the eating's done. You know what I mean? [Laughs]

Kiri: [Laughs]

Aja B: But I don't have like a dressy special pair of stretchy pants for the occasion [laughs].

Kiri: Stretchy, the only dress code there should be on Christmas day. Sofie Hagen is up next chatting about an adorable tradition with her sister.

Sofie H: It's become a recent thing that me and my sister will wear matching pyjamas.

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Kiri: Oh I love it, I absolutely love it.

Sofie H: Yeah we'll buy it specifically, like a new pair of pyjamas a year and we'll wear it on Christmas.

Kiri: I love it. Because Christmas day clothes to me, I think it's quite a northern thing but it will be a whole outfit bought especially for, the first time you wear it is on that day. You don't pull together fun stuff you already have, it's for Christmas day. So that sounds like you...

Sofie H: But also you have Christmas day, we do Christmas eve.

Kiri: Oh yeah of course.

Sofie H: So during the Christmas day it's just wear whatever because the real event is in the evening on the 24th.

Kiri: And is that when you put your pyjamas on?

Sofie H: Yes.

Kiri: The joy of the yes at the end of Sofie's outfit description. Ah just gorgeous. We've got another PJ fan now with Kris Hallenga, because it turns out, 'tis the season to get rebellious.

Kris H: I love just hanging out in my pyjamas on Christmas day. And when I was little, because I grew up in Germany and they like make a big deal of for them Christmas eve is their Christmas day. And everyone dresses up and everyone like they have a nice dinner and stuff. And I don't know why but I just decided to rebel against it one year. I just didn't like this whole pretence of it. Like I just thought, why do we have to dress up? Like who are we dressing up for? What is this? And so I rebelled against it and wore a shell suit [laughs].

Kiri: [Laughs]

Kris H: And it was this glorious shiny pink, purple and blue number. And in the photos I just look so ridiculous

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alongside my sisters who are wearing these pretty dresses. And my mum who has like done her hair and stuff. And there's me in my little tracksuit. I don't know what I was thinking at the time, only that I just didn't want to dress up. I thought no, today is a shell suit day. But yeah I was born in the '80s so maybe that was why.

Kiri: [Laughs] It's in your blood, you can't help it.

Kris H: Yeah.

Kiri: Such a flammable choice for a festival with a lot candles and open fires in. [Laughs] But Chris is a bold one. OK next up, I confide in Kiell Smith-Bynoe about a really sneaky thing I did and now we can finally reveal how dark I am as a girlfriend.

Kiell: I only wear Christmas socks at Christmas.

Kiri: That shows so much discipline it's unreal. In fact since doing this podcast someone else told me about that and I have hidden all of my partners socks and pants that are Christmas themed way in a bag and then I'll sort of present them to him in like December and be like 'Look it's more special now rather than you wearing it all year round'.

Kiell: [Laughs]

Kiri: But he must never listen to this episode [laughs].

Kiell: [Laughs] Does he look for them? Is he like 'Where are they?'

Kiri: No that's the thing, he's got fucking loads of pants and socks so there's absolutely no need for it.

Kiell: Right [laughs]. 'Get that off it's July'.

Kiri: Yeah [laughs]. I regret nothing and I've since handed him the bag of socks and pants and he was like 'When did you do this?' he didn't know that information so I didn't tell

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him, so he can't look out for it next time. But he was genuinely glad of it. So there you, so it turns out just like sneaking around behind your partner's back is actually the way of a long sustained and happy relationship. Don't ask any more questions. So here's TeTe Bang flying the flag for comfort and when you go as big with outfits as her, it does make sense.

TeTe: Do you know what? Christmas day I always just stay in my pyjamas because for the biggest treat is just like being comfortable.

Kiri: Yeah.

TeTe: Because so much of my life I'm uncomfortable when I'm in drag. So like my idea of like a special day is just like not dressing up at all.

Kiri: [Laughs]

TeTe: Which is probably a bit off as well.

Kiri: Next up I'm chatting to Sara Pascoe about Christmas outfits and I don't think it goes in the direction that you think it will.

[Who Are You Wearing? Interim Music]

Kiri: Do you have Christmas day outfits in your house? Like an outfit that you buy and then put on specifically?

Sara P: No. My family didn't really celebrate Christmas at all so historically I've not been a Christmas person. And then I think there is two reasons I would not do it now. One of them is, I'm going to say this is going to sound really like, just the ethics of having an outfit for just one day Kiri. Or having a new outfit, mm? I don't know if I approve.

Kiri: [Laughs]

Sara P: So that would be a small thing. Even Christmas jumpers with Christmas shows they'll say 'Everyone will have a

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Christmas jumper' and they're made of like plastic, acrylic and you just always feel so terrible about it. And the other reason is I hate dressing up, like I hate fancy dress and those kind of things. So I know the joyful thing about for some people which would be, it's my Christmas day outfit, I feel so special, I be like ugh, no. [Laughs]

Kiri: [Laughs]

Sara P: Do you dress up on Christmas day?

Kiri: No this is the thing that I'm thinking is in the UK a slight north/south divide. It was definitely not a thing growing up in Wales. We would get new clothes on Christmas.

Sara P: Yeah you might get pyjamas like Christmas, but you'd wear them all the time, not just Christmas day yeah.

Kiri: Yeah. Whereas I think it's quite a northwest thing to have, you buy an outfit that you know you're going to. It's almost like Sunday best, that you're going to wear. And you'll wear it after that.

Sara P: OK.

Kiri: So it's less Christmas jumpery. It's more like oh you put your best on.

Sara P: Best dress.

Kiri: Best dress yeah.

Sara P: OK that makes much more sense I do understand that. And actually what would happen in Essex is you might have exactly like Sunday best or like I don't know how early people would pack a suitcase before a holiday. But there's a very Essex thing of you get new clothes for the holiday which means they sit in a suitcase for eight weeks. And it's just vests and pants but you don't open them, you don't crack into them until holiday. Or swimming costume that's for holiday. And you might have like a couple of dresses, that would be the thing for

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Christmas, you just save it for Christmas and then it would just be one of your dresses yeah that does make more sense.

Kiri: Yeah OK. That is how Essex does it. And Manchester in Stephen Bailey's house? Now then I kind of feel like I know the answer to this already because you're very northern babes. Do you have Christmas day outfits in your house?

Stephen B: [Laughs] Yes. Of course!

Kiri: [Laughs] Give me a quick, what is an absolutely standard Stephen Bailey Christmas day outfit please?

Stephen B: So it's always like a bad pun. So it tends to be either a green or red version, I'm obviously in green. And the latest one was 'Merry Christmas get Gail Platted'

Kiri: So you go for a Christmas jumper, that's what you go for?

Stephen B: Oh yeah sorry Christmas jumper. All the same, something that suits the entire family if you will.

Kiri: [Laughs] Love it. Love Stephen. Seye Adelekan is the most stylish human in the world, surely he's not going to ruck a Christmas jumper?

Seye A: This past couple of years or last year at my parents' place mum always has a chest, there's a stash of Christmas jumpers so it's just like I just picked one from there.

Kiri: [Laughs]

Seye A: It barely fit but it worked.

Kiri: Oh I love it that's so cute. A little stash of Christmas jumpers, that's so adorable.

Seye A: Yeah bless her [laughs].

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Kiri: Turns out the Christmas jumper gets everyone. Now I love this next answer from Rosie Jones because it means you're about to get a new word.

Rosie: My style is really weird. Because day to day I do wear dungarees, I do wear Doc Martens, but then I love being ultra feminine. Especially when I do telly shows. I like to play into the idea that I'm a cute little feminine disabled girl so when I come out with ultra filth it comes out of nowhere. So yeah on Christmas day I am probably my most feminine. So we're talking glitter, sparkles and yeah I love wearing a cute little dress. And actually about five years ago I didn't own a single pair of trousers, all I wore was dresses and everyone calls them Rosie dresses. Because I've got a small waist but massive tits so there's one style of dress that goes in at the waist. So yeah on Christmas day I will be wearing usually a navy blue sparkly Rosie dress.

Kiri: [Laughs] Love it. I know exactly what the Rosie dress is in, it's like a skater dress that kicks out and it's got lots of movement in the skirt. I know exactly what a Rosie dress is, I know exactly what it is.

Rosie: Yeah.

Kiri: Yeah the Rosie dress and you know the type. And you always have to call it that from now on, that's a rule, Merry Christmas. Now Susan Wokoma is about to get creepy on us.

Susan W: Yeah we had to get dressed up for Christmas day. Oh God. So when we were kids, I think this happens quite a lot but particularly with Nigerian parents in the UK, they dress their children like little sickly Victorian children. Like spooky ghosts.

Kiri: [Laughs]

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Susan W: [Laughs] So we're just all dressed as like really spooking fucking ghosts. These black kids in Elephant and Castle just like 'Hello mama' like it was the fuckin' weirdest. So once we grew out of that it was like you had to wear something nice. You had to wear a bit of makeup. Like my mum, I mean over the years she didn't give a shit, so I was a bit like, should I give a shit? But yeah definitely up until I think about the age of 12 there was outfits that had to be worn.

Kiri: Love it.

Susan W: I don't know where they got them from [laughs].

Kiri: Did you look like those dolls that like creepy men who live on their own have where they've got like ringlets and everything's got like Peter Pan collar? [Laughs]

Susan W: Yes. I literally there's a picture of me, I think it's my birthday at school which wasn't my birthday because my birthday is New Year's Eve but they obviously did like a pity cake for me. And I was just there with ringlets, like ringlets just like 'Hello master, I'm just here in the cellar'. Like it was, when I look at those pictures I'm like I look like a ghost.

Kiri: [Laughs]

Susan W: How is that possible? Just these dresses. I find them hilarious, like some of the outfits I'm like what? There's one of me like in proper bonnet and like thick tights. And this must have been July, I'm like what the fuck? Just put this ghostly child around E Street Market, fuckin' weird anyway. Yeah [laughs].

Kiri: [Laughs] I cannot stop laughing about her ghost outfits at Christmas. Who puts a bonnet and wool tights on a child in July? Now as you'd expect Siobhan Murphy goes extra at Christmas. Do you have in your house Christmas day outfits, like new outfits for Christmas day?

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Siobhan: Oh my God I love this question. Yeah I always make a big massive effort on Christmas day. So there's always a lot of glitter, a lot of sequins, there's always like some kind of like fancy headband. So actually my friend, one of my best friends he's a textile artist so he actually makes these amazing creatures out of fabric and they're just like absolutely wonderful and he's got books out and everything. But what he does is he always makes me these like headpieces and like fascinators. So he'll go around the car boot sale or charity shops and he'll pick something for 20p and it could be like a big star. So that's what he made me this Christmas. So literally I've got this big star on this headband which I wore with like a sequinned cape. So yeah I do, I absolutely love.

So I'm the total opposite of me husband in pretty much every single way possible. So I absolutely love Christmas. So I go to town like decorating the house from top to bottom. Getting in loads of food, drink, I love that whole social element. But obviously a big part of that is you know, going out to people's houses. Making dinner, making food and that whole dressing up, yeah I absolutely just love it. But if I mention to my husband that he's even got to wear a Christmas jumper he'll be like 'No I'm not wearing that' [laughs] Whereas I'm like full reindeer ears are on there. I bet you're the same though aren't you? I bet you go to town at Christmas too?

Kiri: Yeah love it, absolutely love it. Love the whole thing about Christmas like. Even like the house, like you get to go extra on the house as well. Yeah my whole year is just waiting for Christmas to happen.

Siobhan: Oh really is that totally your favourite season then? Oh right.

Kiri: Absolutely.

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Siobhan: So there's lots of twinkly lights and Christmas trees everywhere and yeah. Do you even decorate your bedroom?

Kiri: I haven't got there yet. Because we've sort of moved into this house in the last year. But the last few years we've got two Christmas trees. Because my partner is 6'3" and wants one taller than himself.

Siobhan: Oh my gosh.

Kiri: And I want a real one and you can't get both. So we have one big one as you come into the house. And then we've got my one which I put all my favourite baubles on and he puts everything on his. So he's very into it as well. So the house is just I'd say a bit much.

Siobhan: [Laughs] No it's never too much, more is more. And especially at Christmas I think you can really go to town can't you? Proper like that film National Lampoon [laughs] when he's like putting on the lights, literally like the whole like street, everyone is out of electricity because he's put like all these crazy lights up all over the house.

Kiri: [Laughs]

Siobhan: Yeah I love that film actually but yeah I think Christmas is, I think if you're going to go to town at any time of the year, Christmas is a good one isn't it to work on? [laughs]

Kiri: Yeah. A headpiece for Christmas! I'm nicking that idea. And in fact head over to Instagram and see what I've decided to rock because she's genuinely inspired me and I've got a headpiece that needs an outing anyway. So if you look at my Instagram you're going to see what I've decided to wear for Christmas. Siobhan's right though, go extra, why not? It's Christmas. I hope you have a lovely day today whatever you're up to and we'll see you next

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Monday with the first episode of series 2 of Who Are You Wearing? Bye.

[Who Are You Wearing? Theme Song]

More sleigh bells here Jo, thank you.

[Sleigh Bells]

Who Are You Wearing? Is produced by Jo Southerd. The artwork is by Mari Phillips and the music is by Ani Glass. This has been a Little Wander Production.

[End of Podcast]