

The HOTTEST Local Shopping venues For Guys and Gals

ISSUE: 15

When I have a special occasion to attend, I am forced to rack my brain on where to go in order to find a show stopping dress—or guys, I am sure you are at a loss too when it comes to finding a shopping venue that offers jaw dropping pieces that you can truly make a statement in. Or, forget dressing up, it's just plain difficult to find a cool top or pair of pants that not everyone and their brother will have too.... Until now! Take this handy guide with you next time you take a shopping trip and you'll be sure to end the day with a trunk full of goodies.

Obviously a privately owned boutique is one way to find a one-of-a-kind piece but not all of us have the wads of cash to support such chi-chi spots. I will hit upon those places later, in the event that you are up for a little window shopping. Keep in mind that these little places may give you some ideas on what you are looking for and/or a unique way to put your outfits together as most of these retailers are in the business mostly for their flair for fashion more than the business aspects of retail.

Discount department stores or outlet stores are a great way to get discounts on last season's styles that are still fashionably acceptable. Shop at the end of a season for discounts on items that will be new for you at the start of that season next year. I love making intermittent visits up to Aurora Farms and stopping into **Off Fifth** (330.562.2000) the Saks Fifth Ave outlet. This place is AWESOME—and if you look hard enough you will be able to score a hot designer item for up to 80% off it's original price. It's a great little hideaway if you're willing to wait for a last season's left overs. There is a girls and guys section. *GUYS note: if you want a sweet suit this is the place to go as they offer super sales on this fashion staple quite frequently.*

TJ Maxx is a great spot for slashed prices on current shoes by brand names like: Nine West, BCBG, Steve Madden, Charles David, and many others. If you like to dig then you can also find a some great separates for men and women from various designers. TIP: The best one I have found around here is the **TJ MAXX** on Chagrin Blvd. (216.831.7560) They tend to have the best selection of designer clothing. Or you can try the one right

up the street on West Market St (330.666.1195) Are you a vintage freak? Check out some local second hand shops for a deal on funky threads from the past that can work now.

These Edwardian Style blouses popular RIGHT NOW and in the 1980's with high

Ruffle Top necks and lots of ruffles would be a great thrift store find and will make you look oh-so-chic. If you really like following the trends

hunt down a pair of high waisted jeans with a bit of stretch and skinny leg—the look is very current Balenciaga—and you'll probably be able to nab a pair at the

Village Thrift (330.786.2502) for less than \$5. Other cool thrift stores around

here are **Plato's Closet** (330.649.9033 Canton, OH) where you can sell your old clothes so you

have some cash to spend on new digs. There is also **Revival** (330.762.4845 Highland Square, Akron, OH) where you are sure to score funky

retro-accessories, or **Unique Thrift** (216.631.0205 Lorain Ave. Cleveland) where the

clothes are separated by color and you can find the coolest stuff from past decades.

When you save up your hard-earned money for something truly special (as we all do from time to time) here's a short list of some cool places around our area that offer some cutting edge looks (and also have sales at the end of the season):

Indigo Nation (440.235.0010 Crocker Park Westlake, OH and Eaton Plaza Chagrin Blvd) Men's and Women's clothing with a focus on denim. The store carries many brands including Rock and Republic and Seven.

Lush Boutique (216.381.7560 Legacy Village Beachwood OH) Women's boutique with causal

and formal wear with names like Nannette Lepore and Betsy Johnson.

Nabici (216.831.1900 Beachwood Mall and West 9th St Cleveland) Men's and

Women's fashions. Very fashion forward. Focus is more on menswear. The staff is quite helpful and knowledgeable.

Knuth Shoes (216.831.9606 Chagrin Blvd.) THE BEST place for shoes. They carry a wide range of great shoes that you won't see everywhere else PLUS a stellar collection of hot fashions. (Women only)

Remember looking great doesn't have to cost a fortune. Visit these boutiques simply for the experience and chat with the store owners to get their input on what's hot this season.

Next month we're cozying into winter with a what-to-wear for the Holidays guide!



Jeans

