

STYLE SHEET FOR ANYTHING GOES: THE GENTLEMEN

This show is set in 1933 and there is a distinct style that goes with it. There are a number of key things (in no particular order) about the style of the 1930s:

- During the early part of the decade, men's suits were modified to create the image of a large torso. Shoulders were squared using wadding or shoulder pads and sleeves were tapered to the wrist. Peaked lapels framed the v-shaped chest adding additional breadth to shoulders.
- There was a rise in the popularity of the double-breasted suit, the precursor of the modern business suit. Masculine elegance demanded jackets with long, broad lapels, two, four, six or even eight buttons, square shoulders and ventless tails.
- Generous-cut, long trousers, with very high waists compared to today, completed the look. These suits appeared in charcoal, steel or speckled gray, slate, navy and midnight blue.
- Stripes and checks were very popular
- Blazers were worn in summer
- Ties with tie studs and tie bars
- Trilbies and fedoras – a man must always have a hat
- Brogues (plain or two-toned) and Oxford shoes i.e. had toe caps
- A distinct gangster influence. Gangsters, deliberately projected an image of “businessman” but, they didn't choose typical business colours and styles, but took every detail to the extreme. Their suits featured wider stripes, bolder checks, more colourful ties, pronounced shoulders, narrower waists, and wider trouser bottoms. They topped their extreme look with felt hats in a wide variety of colours.
- Hair: short back and sides, deceptively long and wavy on top, definite side parting with lots of Brylcreem; clean shaven (only Ronald Coleman and Clarke Gable could pull off the moustache!)
- Tails with white tie and white waistcoats for the evening
- Long loose overcoats
- Film essentials include: Gold Diggers of 1933, 42nd Street, Grand Hotel and Top Hat. More recently, Gosford Park.

- Style icons included:
Ronald Coleman,
Edward Prince of
Wales, George Duke of
Kent, Ivor Novello,
Clarke Gable, Cary
Grant and Dick Powell

