

# THE TWO-PIECE SUIT

**Two-Piece Suits, the new alternative to the jacket and tie, offer new freedom of movement and expression. They can help you feel independent, and open new points of view.**

by Howard Bloom

Imagine for a moment that you're a man accustomed to leading a Bohemian life, and that suddenly you become a businessman. To sell to people, you've got to let them know that you're reliable and respectable. Now your clothing is dictated by necessity. You've got to wear some variation on the basic *Suit-and-Tie*.

Now every sensible man, no matter how conservative, recognizes deep down in his psyche that the suit-and-tie is as archaic a bundle of clothing as a chain mail tunic. After all, what's the first thing that happens when a man gets into his office? He takes off his jacket. In other words, he takes off his suit. For without a jacket, his suit is reduced from a \$150 impression-maker to a twenty dollar pair of pants. What's more, when a man gets down to hard work, the proverb says that he rolls up his sleeves, and the movies say that he

loosens his tie. Why? Because the suit-and-tie is hot and uncomfortable. It gets in the way.

And if the suit-and-tie is too hot for the ordinary male in his climate-controlled office, you know what it's like for him out-of-doors in the summer. The suit is roughly analogous to the piece of aluminum foil within which a turkey becomes a roast.

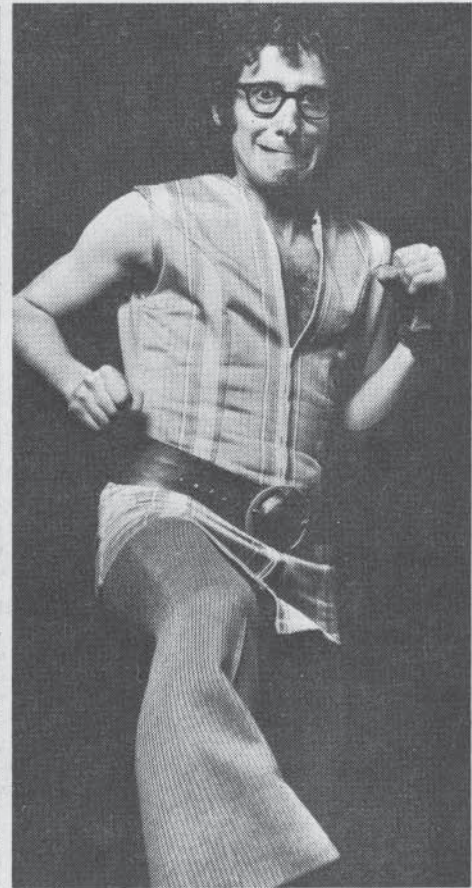
Now, if I have convinced you that the business suit is a piece of packaging whose only practical effect is to hinder or torture a man, you may very well ask what I propose to replace it with. After all, the business of making a living usually forces one to look responsible. It's a rare man who can earn his daily bread while looking like a hippy. Thus, let men, from this day onward, wear the garment which I have christened THE TWO-PIECE SUIT. The two-piece

suit consists of a pair of pants and a short sleeved or sleeveless shirt made to match. Since pants and shirt match, it is obvious that they were made to go with each other. This careful pre-planning is a sure symbol of responsibility. The coordination of the clothing also implies that some designer is responsible for the suit. A designed suit is expensive, hence it indicates that the owner has money, also a symbol of responsibility. The owner of a two-piece suit may look unusual, but he may also look responsible enough to get a job. Especially if he is surrounded by flocks of other responsible men in two-piece suits.

Well, here you are in your new two-piece suit. Don't you feel an awful lot cooler? Aren't you glad you shed your suit-and-tie?



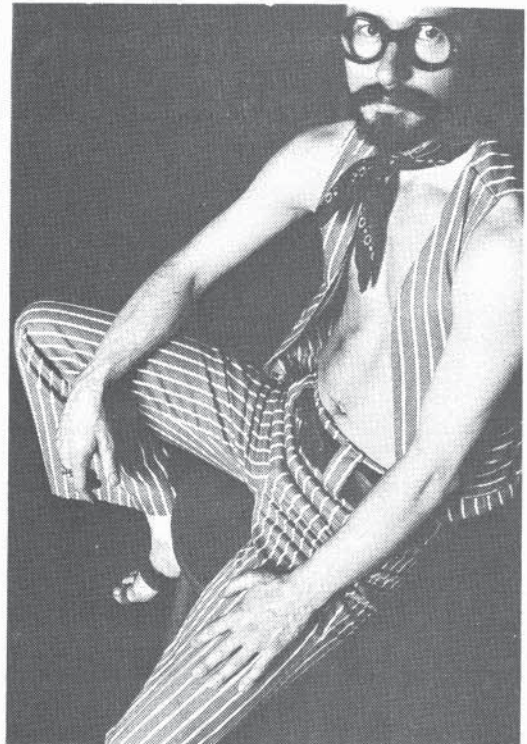
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In a Two-Piece Suit you can show your muscle, be flexible and flee.



## THE TWO-PIECE SUIT



### Designer of the Two-Piece Suit: Susan Harris

More than most post-unisex clothes, Two-Piece Suits are virile. The belted tunic models smack of Prince Valiant and the Space Patrol. If you've ever envied a wall its paper, you can dress in a Two-Piece batik. And the ventilated-vest versions show generous portions of hairy chest.

**“The business suit is the most unbecoming garment a man can wear.”**

“Western men have had very little freedom in clothing. In the first place, they don't realize that men don't necessarily have to wear pants. In other cultures they've traditionally worn skirts and women have worn pants, all very successfully. The Indonesian man's sarong is an example. It's much more practical than Western dress. There's a slit in the front for climbing trees or whatever, and it can be tied up like a loincloth or even as a wrap. The business suit is the most unbecoming garment a man can wear because it hides all his best parts. But the sarong shows men's shoulders and rear ends and the outlines of their legs, which are all very attractive. On the whole, men have better looking legs than women. They should at least wear knickers more. And they shouldn't worry about looking effeminate. After all, Scotsmen in kilts are never called faggots.

“The necktie's another piece of unbecoming clothing. But at least it sometimes provides a spot of color. Only “modern man” in the West limits most of his clothes to gray, black, brown and navy. It's a shame because men look fabulous in colors. And they look as good in the lovely, natural ornamentation of flowers as women do.

“Besides protection, the only reason for wearing clothes is decoration. That's why costumes shouldn't be thought of as separate from street clothing. Male animals usually wear decoration—men should be able to deck themselves like the other animals.”

For her store Okefenokee (on 6th St, east of the Fillmore in New York), Susan makes pants, tops, dresses, bathing suits, etc—all her own designs—most often out of panne velvets or extraordinarily beautiful batiks on which she gets first choice from the importer (or chooses herself in Indonesia) because she got plugged into the sources when her family lived in Djakarta.

She works out designs together with several of her regular customers, and Howard is the most experimental. “He's great; he's willing to try what others won't touch.”

Susan first met Howard when he saw a brocade cape in the store window and it dawned on him that he'd always wanted to wear something like that. They started by collaborating on a medieval-looking fur and brocade winter coat, and the partnership blossomed with the two-piece suit. ☺