

In Some Lines of Work You Wear Some FANTASTIC CLOTHES



DEMETRE LAGIOS

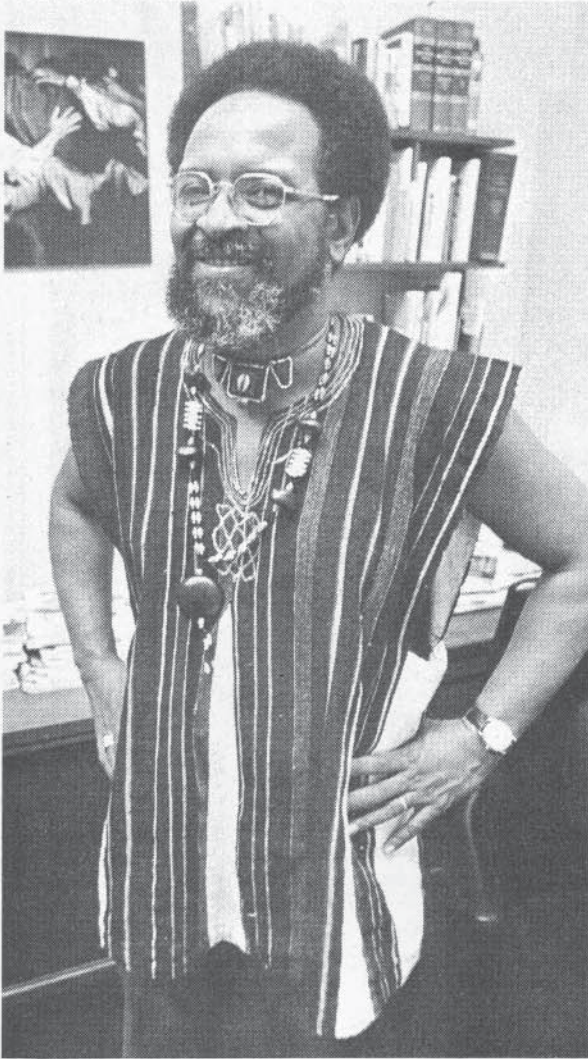
The Great Pampero—wrestling's arch-villain and prime rotten fellow, sniveling in defeat, insufferable in victory—favors a simple two-piece black undershirt and trunks as his basic bad guy uniform. Over the suit he wears an imitation Zebra zippered jacket, and he's never without his shrunken head. "I got this from the Jivaro Indians in Ecuador. It's real," says Pampero, smiling. Sometimes, in the blind heat of victory, Pampero pretends to eat the head. In real life, Pampero Firpo is a gentle, jovial Argentinian who speaks seven languages (Spanish, English, Portuguese, Italian, Russian, Armenian and Turkish) and used to teach grammar to high school students in Buenos Aires. "I wrestle," says the Great Pampero, "to prevent for my rainy days."



PHILIP FREUND

Robert Shields, by the time you read this, will have moved from his Los Angeles home to France, where he will be studying and working with Marcel Marceau. Shields is a professional mime, but, except at the annual Renaissance Faires in Los Angeles and San Francisco, he doesn't get much of a chance to practice his art. Most of the time he's "Robbie The Robot," a pseudo-mechanical pseudo-man. Shields hates Robbie by now, but he still digs mime and the new costume he gets to do it in. "Originally, my trip was very simple, just black and white. But I decided to expand kind of, so I went to The Fool, who are these Aquarian Age painters and costume makers and things, and I said 'Make mine cosmic.' It's too bad this picture isn't in color. The material is made of crepe with every color of the rainbow silk-screened on. I've got every color in my face too. Really too bad you don't have color. Color is everything."

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The Rev. A. Cecil Williams is the minister of Glide Memorial Methodist Church, a hip, helpful, joyous sanctuary in the middle of San Francisco's sleazy Tenderloin district. Sometimes he preaches in a dashiki. "I got this one in Ghana," he says. "It's very loose and cool. You see this style on the street a lot, and the cats I was with said it was the chief's style." The long necklace is from Dahomey. "I watched the craftsman make this. He said the nuts on the sides symbolized the breaking forth of new life, and that big one at the bottom symbolized the unity of all men, and especially the unity of the new Africa." The thing that looks like a choker is a ju-ju bag and it's from the Ivory Coast. "It's used to hold magic dust. Wherever you go, you take out a little of the dust and spread it around to mystify the people and open up their minds. Sometimes the bag has a small book in it—they call it 'The Message'—and when they get somewhere they open up the book and lay the message on the people."



SHALMON BERNSTEIN

Stela Holmes believes in the art of strip-teasing, not just stripping. When she takes her clothes off in the burlesque houses around New York, she makes her audience *want* to know what's underneath. "The trick in the theatre is to get your clothes off right away. In night clubs you don't have to get out of them so fast. Sometimes I work in a two-piece gown—long skirt with a zippered slit up the side or back and a knee-length top, so that I can take the skirt off first and be left with a kind of mini-tunic, or take the top off first and be left with a long skirt. . . . Costumes have to be heavy enough so you can drop them quickly and they won't float. . . . You can't buy cheap feathers and have them look good. The ostrich that's filled with maribou falls out and leaves you with a straggly, poor showing of ostrich. . . . I once ruined a boa by washing it in Clorox. . . . Most girls make their own pasties because it's cheaper. There are all varieties — sequins, rhinestones — but I wear plain because they look nuder. I have a rhinestone G-string, though, which I take off to reveal a black and beige lace one underneath. . . . A stripper has to know where her hooks are. She can never look at her wardrobe to take it off. She has only her sense of touch to rely on—her fingers and her mind."