



THOMAS CARTER'S MOVIE *SWING KIDS*.



MIU MIU A/W '00/'01



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MADONNA DOES THE SWING THING.

The upswing in swing has coincided with a revival of the ultra-feminine designs of the 30s and 40s. Miuccia Prada is leading fashion's foray into the era, sending vintage vixens down the catwalk at her autumn/winter '00/'01 Prada and Miu Miu shows in Milan wearing new-generation peep-toed shoes and flirty chiffon dresses; the whole look offset by bijou handbags in luxe two-toned canvas and leather. Dolce & Gabbana's and Sergio Rossi's new season shoe ranges also have a distinct swing sensibility, with sturdy stacked heels, ankle straps and low-range platform soles. Closer to home, designers such as Nicola Finetti, Scanlan & Theodore and Easton Pearson have included dance-friendly circle skirts in their new season ranges.

Make-up companies are also clocking onto the craze. Newly launched US brand Body & Soul has used kitsch peppermint pastel packaging and retro shades to recapture a long-lost era of glamour, while the Bella range of cosmetics is filled with pressed powder and vampy

PREVIOUS PAGE: ITEMS FROM THE RETRO BODY & SOUL RANGE. **ABOVE RIGHT:** VAMPY LIPSTICK FROM BELLA. **RIGHT:** PRADA HANDBAG. **BELOW RIGHT:** A PRADA PEEP-TOED SHOE.

matt lipsticks with old-school names such as Cherrybomb and Glamour Puss.

Fashionistas such as Nicole Kidman and Milla Jovovich have embraced the new style, stepping out in 40s-esque Prada dresses and heels, while Madonna, who learnt to swing dance for the World War II-era flick *A League of Their Own*, has been known to tame her mane into a sleek victory roll – the de rigueur do for serious swingers.

While the impeccable style of all things swing is undoubtedly attracting the numbers to dance classes across the nation, for others, the appeal lies in its bygone-era charms. A backlash against the modern ethos of dressing down and teching up, swing is old-fashioned, boy-meets-girl entertainment – no modern required. "I think the whole touch thing is an important aspect of swing dancing," says Mitakos. "Touch is lost in most other avenues of life nowadays."

Of course, it's possible that swing ultimately will go the way of the 80s fad of dirty dancing – the last great dance craze to entice coordinated flesh pressing to music – or the equally tragic 90s offering of the macarena, but there will be some who swear that "it don't mean a thing ..."



SWING STYLE

FOR HER

- peep-toed platforms
- twin-sets
- belt-waisted dresses
- bowling bags
- seamed stockings
- circle skirts

FOR HIM

- pinstriped suits
- snap-brimmed fedoras
- two-toned brogues
- watch chains
- tie pins
- bowling shirts

SWING SPEAK

- **hepster** – a cool and stylish being
- **hipster** – a not so cool and stylish being
- **glad rags** – your best outfit
- **honey** – a good-looking member of the opposite sex
- **Charlie** – an average guy
- **cat** – a cool guy
- **kitten** – a cool girl
- **lid** – a man's hat
- **hubba-hubba** – like, wow, man

SWING SOUNDS

- Big bands (look for *Now That's Swing*)
- Big Bad Voodoo Daddy
- Royal Crown Revue (left)
- Squirrel Nut Zippers
- Cherry Poppin' Daddies
- The Radium Club Hepsters
- The Brian Setzer Orchestra

