



Cop a Hattitude

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Remember that scene in *Sixteen Candles* (wait, someone besides me remembers this movie, right?) when Molly Ringwald wears a little fedora with her loose cotton mini and layered T's, and Farmer Ted says: "There's something about a woman in hat. It's so vogue!" The hat in the movie conveys, in a single glance, that this character isn't just vulnerable and awkward - she has spunk and charisma. She's the kind of sophomore hottie senior like Jake Ryan (seriously, go rent it) could conceivably fall for.

"Hats can give women and men a sense of unique and stylish character, depending on the style of the hat," says Jamie L. Yasko-Mangum, president of Successful Style & Image, Inc.

So what are we waiting for? Farmer Ted notwithstanding, the fear that this one of those high fashion items that men can't stand could be holding some of us back. "Baseball caps say fun and relaxed, while winter hats always seem to be cute, but a woman who wears a cap to cover unshowered hair or to avoid looking at others, not cool," says real man Nicholas Spagnuolo, a technical consultant based in Boston. On a date, choose your topping carefully. "A Sox cap at Cask-n-Flagon during [October] is perfect," says Spagnuolo. But "a fancy hat at a nice dinner would be more distracting than alluring."

So proceed with caution, but by all means proceed. Hats are huge on the runway this year. Wear one, and you suddenly take on a character, step a little more lively, and, oh yeah, warm your head.

About The Velvet Fly

Beth Ann Hoyos and Lorrinda Cerrutti, co-owners of The Velvet Fly in the North End, have a well-edited selection of hats that reflect their love of "items that you will not find everywhere," says Beth. The shop blends mint vintage pieces with a "modern selection we choose clothes with a vintage feel, whether it be in the cut, material or just having that feminine detail." And, she adds: "The 'Fly Girls' will defiantly be sporting hats this upcoming winter season!"

Dream Big

With its small brim, this cloche-like fedora was Cynthia Nixon's hat pick. Moore suggests pairing it with a leather jacket, but what wouldn't it look great with? Christine A. Moore Millinery, . Look for Moore's hats at Headgames (95 Union St., Newton Centre) and Toppers (151 Tremont St., Boston).

"The Fosse" hat, Christin A. Moore Millinery, \$230

End to End

Hi End: The Fly Girls really know their stuff. This tweedy newsboy has insouciant style and pairs perfectly with feminine elements like florals, fitted silhouettes, and vintage jewelry. The camel color is gorgeous with all the jewel tones of fall. Parish tweed Gatsby hat, \$32, at The Velvet Fly

Lo End: *Sex & the City* will be a movie - eventually. But you can get instant gratification with this black topper from SJP's Bitten line. Don't let it get costumey. Try it with wide leg pants and a tailored wool coat. Bitten corduroy hat, \$7.98, at Steve and Barry's.