

ALICE COOPER

The legendary glam-rocker reveals his style secrets

Without *Barbarella* there would be no Alice Cooper. When I saw Anita Pallenberg playing the Great Tyrant in that movie in 1968, wearing long black leather gloves with switchblades coming out of them, I thought, 'That's what Alice should look like.' That, and a little bit of Emma Peel from *The Avengers*.

Alice Cooper is like Dracula, Jack The Ripper and Captain Hook all rolled into one. He's a combination of anti-heroes, but he's always a swashbuckling character. And if you're going to play a real super-villain you've got to be appropriately dark.

I've worn a single gold handcuff since 1976. My wife Sheryl bought it for me when we got married 32 years ago instead of a wedding ring—and I've never taken it off. She wears the key round her neck.

I used to look like an abused woman. When we started out we wore quite metallic, spacey-looking outfits but then we met Frank Zappa's girl band the GTOs and we started to wear tight black leather trousers. Then I'd wear a woman's torn-up slip with blood on it, black leather gloves and make-up. We'd walk into a room and people would run out of the door.

I was the first rock singer to wear make-up. Our original band was called The Spiders, so I decided to wear this spider image on my eye, where I darkened the whole hollow and had the legs coming out like a pitch-black sunburst. Nobody else wore make-up at that time, so I didn't compare myself to anybody.

I am the godfather of all Goths.

There was no such thing as Goths before us. When we did the *Billion Dollar Babies* and *Welcome To My Nightmare* shows in England in the early Seventies, Goths didn't yet exist. The next thing I knew I was looking at kids in top hats, dark make-up and dressed all in black.

I was a decade ahead of the Sex Pistols. The rock photographer Richard Avedon took a picture of me in 1968 wearing a pair of Levi's held together with safety pins.

Offstage, I'm elegantly rugged. When I'm Vincent Furnier, not Alice Cooper, I like to be striking but not ostentatious. I think it's OK to wear expensive clothes as long as they don't look like they're brand new.

Alice Cooper never comes into the house. Even when my kids were young, if they saw me on TV they'd say, 'That's Alice Cooper,' not,



John Varvatos tuxedo
Every man should have one, even if he only wears it around the house.
johnvarvatos.com

Aussie haircare products
I use their spray onstage—it even looks great the next day.
aussiehair.com



Rolex watch
I'm wearing a 1942 rose-gold Bubble Back with an alligator strap at the moment. I've got a collection of 350 vintage watches.
rolex.com



Callaway golf pair
I've been a customer of theirs for 15 years and I never wear anything else for golf.
callawaygolf.com



Swordfish shoes
I got these in England—they're real greaser shoes.



'That's Daddy.' Everyone knows that Alice only comes to life on stage.

David Bowie is a fashion icon. There aren't many people you can say that about, but he is one. I love the way he totally constructed his looks over the years.

I've got skulls carved into my cowboy boots. I've had three pairs of boots specially made and they cost about £1,000 per pair. Two have skulls hand-carved into them and one pair has some silver skulls embedded into them.

I'm a sucker for vintage black leather jackets. I've got a garage full of them, mostly classic styles from the Forties and Fifties bought in German flea markets or in Camden, London. I've got one black leather suit coat that I've worn for so long it's virtually a second skin. I'll never let it go.

My high-school workout keeps me fit. I used to be a long-distance runner, so when I'm getting ready for a tour I go back to my old routine—long distances first, then quarter-miles and then half-miles as quickly as I can.

I am a soap dodger. I've always believed that the less soap you use the better. I think it totally destroys your skin. People use too much muck on their faces and they end up washing their faces off.

I'll never go under the knife. I'm needle-phobic so plastic surgery is not for me. I'm not trying to look like Brad Pitt. Alice Cooper needs to look like Alice Cooper. I threatened to get my nose fixed once and my wife screamed, 'You must never do that. That nose has a lot of history.' ■

Interview by Nick McGrath
Alice Cooper's new album *Along Came A Spider* is released tomorrow