



BUZIGAHILL

RETURN TO SENDER 12 – AUTUMN WINTER 2026

WHEN MILLENNIAL EAST AFRICANS LOOK THROUGH PHOTOS OF THEIR GRANDPARENTS IN THEIR YOUNGER YEARS, DANCING ON A PARQUET FLOOR, POSING IN FRONT OF A CITROËN OR A BEETLE PARKED NEXT TO A BRILLIANT BOUGAINVILLEA BUSH, WHY DO OUR EYES SOFTEN WITH NOSTALGIA? WHAT IS IT ABOUT THAT WOODEN FLOOR, THEIR NATURAL HAIR AND THE FLARED LEG THAT MAKE US SMILE, AS IF WE LONG TO RELIVE THE LIBERATION OF POST-INDEPENDENCE PROMISE?

UGANDA GAINED INDEPENDENCE IN OCTOBER 1962; KENYA IN DECEMBER 1963. WHAT FOLLOWED WAS A PERIOD DURING WHICH VISIONARY UGANDAN PLAY-WRIGHT ROBERT SERUMAGA TOURED THE WORLD WITH HIS ABSTRACT PLAYS, AND PROLIFIC KENYAN AUTHOR NGUGI WA THIONGO'S "A RIVER BETWEEN" WAS PUBLISHED. A TIME WHEN TEXTILE FACTORIES IN BOTH NATIONS WERE THRIVING, ALBEIT UNDER OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF EAST AFRICAN INDIANS.

OUR GRANDPARENTS' FASHION MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN ENTIRELY LOCAL. THE CITROËN AND BEETLE CERTAINLY WEREN'T. THE ARCHITECTURE, THOUGH TROPICAL AND MODERN, WASN'T AFRICAN PER SE EITHER. BUT THERE IS A SENSE OF FREEDOM IN THEIR STANCE. A SENSE OF BUILDING AND RECLAMATION IN THE SETTING. ADVANCEMENT. CHARACTERISED BY WIDE COLLARS AND BELL-BOTTOMS FROM THE WEST, THEIR FASHION, VOID OF MODERN LOGOS, SITS SNUGLY ON THEIR TRIUMPHANT SHOULDERS.

RETURN TO SENDER 12 REVISITS THE PROMISE OF THE 60S AND 70S IN EAST AFRICA. THE OWNERSHIP. WE CROSS THE BORDER EASTWARDS TO KENYA, WHERE CONTAINERS OF SECOND-HAND CLOTHES HEADED FOR UGANDA ARE OFFLOADED AT THE PORT OF MOMBASA. THE COLLECTION CREATES LINKS BETWEEN OUR GRANDPARENTS AND CONTEMPORARY FASHION REBELS SUCH AS BODA BODA RIDERS, WHO, THROUGH HIGHLY INDIVIDUALISTIC AND PRAGMATIC ALTERATIONS, REINVENT SECOND-HAND CLOTHES IMPORTED FROM THE GLOBAL NORTH, RADICALLY LOCALISING THEM TO MAKE THEM THEIR OWN.

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ALL MATERIALS AND ACCESSORIES WERE SOURCED FROM OWINO MARKET IN KAMPALA AND GIKOMBA MARKET IN NAIROBI.

LOOK 1

SEKOU YOUNGE, USA

– DISTRESSED LEATHER JACKET: LEATHER JACKET WITH BIKER DETAILS DISTRESSED USING SANDPAPER, PAINT, RED SOIL AND VARNISH. 28 HOURS.

– REVERSED SUIT JACKET: SUIT JACKET DECONSTRUCTED AND REASSEMBLED WITH ALL RAW SEAMS REVERSED TO THE EXTERIOR. 7 HOURS.

– BODA BODA CHINOS: THE ILLUSION OF CHINOS WORN OVER TRACK PANTS IS CREATED BY REPLACING THE WAISTBAND OF THE CHINOS WITH A CUSTOM WAISTBAND MADE USING TRACK OFFCUTS. 6 HOURS.

LOOK 2

KAJALLY SAMURA, GAMBIA

– BOUBOU DRESS: PATCHWORK SHIRT DRESS WITH LARGE POCKETS. MADE USING PANELS FROM SIX DIFFERENT SHIRTS. 30 HOURS.

– BLANKET HAT: REVERSIBLE BUCKET HAT MADE USING PADDED BLANKETS. 3.5 HOURS.

LOOK 3

IBRAHIM GAYE, GAMBIA

– WAISTBAND JACKET: WAISTBANDS FROM BLUE JEANS ARE OPENED, LAID FLAT AND JOINED TO CREATE A ZIPPED PATCHWORK JACKET. 21 HOURS.

– SNAP JEANS: SNAP BUTTONS ARE INSERTED INTO THE SIDE SEAM OF A PAIR OF JEANS WITH FACING MADE FROM TRACK OFFCUTS. A COLOUR-BLOCKED BELT IS ADDED TO THE WAISTBAND. RAW HEMS. 6 HOURS.

LOOK 4

AMIE BISERSI, GAMBIA/GERMANY

– FLIP SHIRT DRESS: TWO BUTTON-DOWN SHIRTS ARE FLIPPED TO THE RIGHT AND JOINED AT THE SIDE SEAM. FEATURES A NEW, BUTTON-DOWN NECKLINE. THE ORIGINAL HEMS ARE SEALED TO MAKE A NEW SIDE SEAM. 5 HOURS.

LOOK 5

AHMADOU KOITE, SENEGAL

–STRAPPED ASKARI TRENCH COAT: MENSWEAR TRENCH COATS ARE DECONSTRUCTED AND REASSEMBLED WITH ALL RAW SEAMS REVERSED TO THE EXTERIOR. STRAPS MADE OF TRACK OFFCUTS ARE APPLIED ALONG THE SLEEVES AND AT THE WAIST. 14 HOURS.

– PUSSY BOW SHIRT: THE ORIGINAL COLLAR OF A SHIRT IS REMOVED AND REPLACED BY A LARGE, TOP-STITCHED PUSSY BOW. FEATURES EXTENDED SLEEVES.

– SNAP JEANS: SNAP BUTTONS ARE INSERTED INTO THE SIDE SEAM OF A PAIR OF JEANS WITH FACING MADE FROM TRACK OFFCUTS. COLOUR-BLOCKED BELT ADDED TO THE WAISTBAND. RAW HEMS. 6 HOURS.

LOOK 6

FATOUMATA KABA, GUINEA

– CAPE TRENCH COAT: MENSWEAR TRENCH COATS ARE DECONSTRUCTED, CROPPED AND REASSEMBLED WITH ALL RAW SEAMS REVERSED TO THE EXTERIOR. THE YOKE IS EXTENDED USING THE OFFCUTS TO CREATE A CAPE. 13 HOURS.

– WATERFALL BAG: OVER 400 DENIM OFFCUTS ARE JOINED WITH THE SEAMS ON THE EXTERIOR TO CREATE A LARGE, FLUFFY DENIM BAG. FEATURES AN INNER POUCH. 33 HOURS.

LOOK 7

ESTHER AFOLAYAN, NIGERIA

– SKIRT TOP: TWO SKIRTS ARE JOINED TO BECOME ONE FLARED SKIRT. THE WAISTBAND IS RAISED TO THE SHOULDERS TO CREATE A TOP WITH A NEW ZIP AND ARMHOLE SLITS. 13 HOURS.

– BODA BODA CHINOS: THE ILLUSION OF CHINOS WORN OVER TRACK PANTS IS CREATED BY REPLACING THE

WAISTBAND OF THE CHINOS WITH A CUSTOM WAISTBAND MADE USING TRACK OFFCUTS. 7 HOURS.

LOOK 8

KAUSHIK SABU, INDIA

– TUCKED MAXI SHIRT: TWO SHIRTS ARE JOINED TO CREATE A MAXI FIT. THIN TUCKS ARE APPLIED FROM THE WAIST DOWN TO THE RAW-CUT HEM. 9 HOURS.

– ZIPPED CHINOS: LONG ZIPS ARE ADDED TO THE OUTER LEG OF CHINOS. THE WAISTBAND AND BELT LOOPS ARE OPENED AND GIVEN A RAW FINISH, AND A BELT IS INSERTED INTO THE WAISTBAND. TUCKS ARE APPLIED TO THE FRONT AND BACK OF THE LEGS. RAW HEMS. 7 HOURS.

LOOK 9

THILO AUGUST MÜLLER, GERMANY

– PUZZLE BOMBER: OVER 300 RECTANGLES FROM SHIRT OFFCUTS ARE QUILTED IN A PUZZLE FORMAT. PADDING EXTRACTED FROM BLANKETS AND LINED WITH MATERIAL FROM SHIRTS. 45 HOURS.

–CROPPED SHIRT: WHITE SHIRT SHORTENED AND FINISHED WITH A CUSTOM RAW HEM. 2 HOURS.

– ZIPPED CHINOS: LONG ZIPS ARE ADDED TO THE OUTER LEG OF CHINOS. THE WAISTBAND AND BELT LOOPS ARE OPENED AND GIVEN A RAW FINISH, AND A BELT IS INSERTED INTO THE WAISTBAND. TUCKS ARE APPLIED TO THE FRONT AND BACK OF THE LEGS. RAW HEMS. 7 HOURS.

LOOK 10

JUN LAI, TAIWAN

– MILAYA SHIRT: EMBROIDERED WITH ANGEL'STRUMPETS. TRADITIONAL SOUTH SUDANESE EMBROIDERY BY THE MILAYA PROJECT AT BIDI BIDI REFUGEE SETTLEMENT IN NORTHWESTERN UGANDA. RAW HEMS. 12 HOURS.

– CROPPED SHIRT: WHITE SHIRT SHORTENED AND FINISHED WITH A CUSTOM RAW HEM. 2 HOURS.

– EYELET JEANS: METALLIC EYELETS ARE APPLIED ONTO THE LOWER LEGS OF JEANS. CUSTOM FABRIC BELT INSERTED INTO THE WAISTBAND. RAW HEMS. 5 HOURS.

LOOK 11

CHYN ILORA, NIGERIA/SWEDEN

– BOUBOU DRESS: PATCHWORK SHIRT DRESS WITH LARGE POCKETS MADE USING PANELS FROM SIX DIFFERENT SHIRTS. 30 HOURS.

LOOK 12

ZAINAB KASSINDJA, GHANA

– TRACK BUCKET HAT: REVERSIBLE BUCKET HAT MADE USING OFFCUTS FROM TRACK PANTS. PADDED USING MATERIAL EXTRACTED FROM BLANKETS. 5 HOURS.

– SHIELD TOP: HAND-CUT FRINGES FROM 16 T-SHIRTS ARE TIGHTLY KNOTTED TO CREATE A TEXTURED, STIFF TOP WITH A HIGH NECK. 80 HOURS.

– BODA BODA SUIT PANTS: THE ILLUSION OF SUIT PANTS WORN OVER TRACK PANTS IS CREATED BY REPLACING THE WAISTBAND OF THE SUIT WITH A NEW CUSTOM WAISTBAND MADE USING TRACK OFFCUTS. 6 HOURS.

LOOK 13

RIM TEKLE, ERITREA

– SKIRT TOP: TWO SKIRTS ARE JOINED TO BECOME ONE FLARED SKIRT. THE WAISTBAND IS RAISED TO THE SHOULDERS TO CREATE A TOP WITH A NEW ZIP AND ARMHOLE SLITS. 10 HOURS.

– ACCORDION DENIM SKIRT: WAISTBANDS FROM 45 JEANS OPENED, LAID FLAT AND JOINED TO MAKE A SKIRT WITH LARGE FOLDS FIXED AT THE WAIST. 21 HOURS.

LOOK 14

KYUNGSEOK KIM, SOUTH KOREA

– MILAYA SHIRT: EMBROIDERED WITH ANGEL'STRUMPETS. TRADITIONAL SOUTH SUDANESE EMBROIDERY BY THE MILAYA PROJECT AT BIDI BIDI REFUGEE SETTLEMENT IN NORTHWESTERN UGANDA. RAW HEMS. 12 HOURS.

– CROPPED SHIRT: WHITE SHIRT SHORTENED AND FINISHED WITH A CUSTOM RAW HEM. 2 HOURS.

– ZIPPED SWEATPANTS: PANELS EXTRACTED FROM FOUR HOODIES ARE JOINED TO MAKE LOOSE–FITTING PATCH–WORK SWEATPANTS. LONG ZIPS ARE INSERTED IN THE OUTER LEGS. 12 HOURS.

LOOK 15

NICOLE ATIENO, KENYA

– PUSSY BOW SHIRT: THE ORIGINAL COLLAR OF A SHIRT IS REMOVED AND REPLACED BY A LARGE, TOP–STITCHED PUSSY BOW. FEATURES EXTENDED SLEEVES. 10 HOURS.

– ACCORDION SUIT SKIRT: FABRIC EXTRACTED FROM FOUR SUIT PANTS JOINED TO CREATE A SKIRT WITH LARGE FOLDS FIXED AT THE WAIST. 14 HOURS.

LOOK 16

ARNORD BOLOKO, D.R. CONGO

– EXTENDED SUIT COAT: TWO SUIT JACKETS ARE DECON–STRUCTED AND REASSEMBLED TOGETHER TO MAKE A COAT WITH RAW SEAMS REVERSED TO THE EXTERIOR. 14 HOURS.

– TUCKED MAXI SHIRT: TWO SHIRTS ARE JOINED TO CREATE A MAXI FIT. THIN TUCKS ARE APPLIED FROM THE WAIST DOWN TO THE RAW–CUT HEM. 9 HOURS.

– SNAP JEANS: SNAP BUTTONS ARE INSERTED INTO THE SIDE SEAM OF A PAIR OF JEANS WITH FACING MADE FROM TRACK OFFCUTS. COLOUR–BLOCKED BELT ADDED TO THE WAISTBAND. RAW HEMS. 6 HOURS.

LOOK 17

CALLUM DIMMOCK, SOUTH AFRICA/UK/GERMANY

– BODA BODA BOMBER: MENSWEAR SUIT JACKET RE–ENGINEERED TO MAKE A ZIPPED BOMBER JACKET WITH ROTATED POCKETS. PADDED USING HOODIE OFFCUTS AND FABRIC EXTRACTED FROM MATCHING SUIT PANTS. 28 HOURS.

– A T–SHIRT IS LINED WITH A T–SHIRT AND THE NECK RIBS ARE EXTENDED TO CREATE A TURTLE NECK WITH A ZIP. 6 HOURS.

– BODA BODA CHINOS: THE ILLUSION OF CHINOS WORN OVER TRACK PANTS IS CREATED BY REPLACING THE WAISTBAND OF THE CHINOS WITH A CUSTOM WAISTBAND MADE USING TRACK CUTOFFS. 6 HOURS.

LOOK 18

MEDHI RAKOTO, MADAGASCAR

– TUCKED MAXI SHIRT: TWO SHIRTS ARE JOINED TO CREATE A MAXI FIT. THIN TUCKS ARE APPLIED FROM THE WAIST DOWN TO THE RAW–CUT HEM. 9 HOURS.

– FRINGE SCARF: HAND–CUT T–SHIRT FRINGES ARE WOVEN TOGETHER TO CREATE A BOA–INSPIRED SCARF. 14 HOURS.

– BODA BODA SUIT PANTS: THE ILLUSION OF SUIT PANTS WORN OVER TRACK PANTS IS CREATED BY REPLACING THE WAISTBAND OF THE SUIT WITH A NEW CUSTOM WAIST–BAND MADE USING TRACK OFFCUTS. 6 HOURS.

LOOK 19

KINGSLEY BEDIAKO YAW, GHANA

– PUSSY BOW SHIRT: THE ORIGINAL COLLAR OF A SHIRT IS REMOVED AND REPLACED BY A LARGE, TOP–STITCHED PUSSY BOW. FEATURES EXTENDED SLEEVES. 10 HOURS.

– BODA BODA SUIT PANTS: THE ILLUSION OF SUIT PANTS WORN OVER TRACK PANTS IS CREATED BY REPLACING THE WAISTBAND OF THE SUIT WITH A NEW CUSTOM WAIST–BAND MADE USING TRACK OFFCUTS. 6 HOURS.

LOOK 20

BERNADETTE MBABALLI MUSUBIKA, UGANDA

– TOSIN BUCKET HAT: REVERSIBLE BUCKET HAT MADE USING BLEACHED DENIM OFFCUTS. RAW HEMS ON ONE SIDE. 5 HOURS.

– REVERSED DENIM JACKET: CLASSIC DENIM JACKETS ARE DECONSTRUCTED AND ALL PARTS INDIVIDUALLY BLEACHED TO CREATE UNIQUE PATTERNS. REASSEMBLED WITH RAW SEAMS REVERSED TO THE EXTERIOR. 12 HOURS.

– SKIRT TOP, WORN AS A DRESS: TWO SKIRTS ARE JOINED TO BECOME ONE FLARED SKIRT. THE WAISTBAND IS RAISED TO THE SHOULDERS TO CREATE A TOP WITH A NEW ZIP AND ARMHOLE SLITS. 10 HOURS.

LOOK 21

SIDHANT GUPTA, INDIA

– EYELET JACKET: CLASSIC DENIM JACKETS ARE DECON–STRUCTED AND EMBELLISHED WITH EYELETS. REASSEMBLED WITH RAW SEAMS REVERSED TO THE EXTERIOR. 20 HOURS.

– CROPPED SHIRT: WHITE SHIRT SHORTENED AND FIN–ISHED WITH A CUSTOM RAW HEM. 2 HOURS.

– BODA BODA SUIT PANTS: THE ILLUSION OF SUIT PANTS WORN OVER TRACK PANTS IS CREATED BY REPLACING THE WAISTBAND OF THE SUIT WITH A NEW CUSTOM WAIST–BAND MADE USING TRACK OFFCUTS. 6 HOURS.

LOOK 22

JULIA POTTHAST, GERMANY

– FLIP SHIRT DRESS: TWO BUTTON–DOWN SHIRTS ARE FLIPPED TO THE RIGHT AND JOINED AT THE SIDE SEAM. FEATURES A NEW, BUTTON–DOWN NECKLINE. THE ORIGINAL HEMS ARE SEALED TO MAKE A NEW SIDE SEAM. 5 HOURS.

LOOK 23

DAVID ZINA, BURKINA FASO

– PUZZLE BOMBER: OVER 300 RECTANGLES FROM SHIRT CUTOFFS ARE QUILTED IN A PUZZLE FORMAT. PADDING EXTRACTED FROM BLANKETS. LINED WITH MATERIAL FROM SHIRTS. 45 HOURS.

–CROPPED SHIRT: WHITE SHIRT SHORTENED AND FINISHED WITH A CUSTOM RAW HEM. 2 HOURS.

– BODA BODA SUIT PANTS: THE ILLUSION OF SUIT PANTS WORN OVER TRACK PANTS IS CREATED BY REPLACING THE WAISTBAND OF THE SUIT WITH A NEW CUSTOM WAIST–BAND MADE USING TRACK OFFCUTS. 6 HOURS.

– WATERFALL BAG: OVER 400 DENIM OFFCUTS ARE JOINED WITH THE SEAMS ON THE EXTERIOR TO CREATE A LARGE, FLUFFY DENIM BAG. FEATURES AN INNER POUCH. 33 HOURS.

LOOK 24

GERALD RALDY ODIL, UGANDA

– FLIP JERSEY DRESS: TWO FOOTBALL JERSEYS ARE FLIPPED TO ONE SIDE AND JOINED AT THE SIDE SEAM. DOUBLE RIB DETAIL AT THE NEW NECK HOLE. THE ORIGINAL HEMS ARE SEALED TO MAKE A NEW SIDE SEAM. 5 HOURS.

– FRINGE SCARF: HAND–CUT T–SHIRT FRINGES ARE WOVEN TOGETHER TO CREATE A BOA–INSPIRED SCARF. 14 HOURS.

LOOK 25

KARL HIRSCHBERGER, GERMANY

– MILAYA SHIRT: EMBROIDERED WITH ANGEL’S TRUMPETS. TRADITIONAL SOUTH SUDANESE EMBROIDERY BY THE MILAYA PROJECT AT BIDI BIDI REFUGEE SETTLEMENT IN NORTHWESTERN UGANDA. RAW HEMS. 12 HOURS.

– BODA BODA SUIT PANTS: THE ILLUSION OF SUIT PANTS WORN OVER TRACK PANTS IS CREATED BY REPLACING THE WAISTBAND OF THE SUIT WITH A NEW CUSTOM WAIST–BAND MADE USING TRACK OFFCUTS. 6 HOURS.

– WATERFALL BAG: OVER 400 DENIM OFFCUTS ARE JOINED WITH THE SEAMS ON THE EXTERIOR TO CREATE A LARGE, FLUFFY DENIM BAG. FEATURES AN INNER POUCH. 33 HOURS.

LOOK 26

FERIDA JAMES LINO, SOUTH SUDAN

– BLANKET COAT: SLEEVES AND POCKETS ARE INSERTED INTO A PADDED BLANKET TO CREATE A WRAP COAT. 15 HOURS

BUZIGAHILL KAMPALA

AJATUM MERCY ATONO KEZIA BOBBY KOLADE KABAGAMBE CAROL NAMULI DEBORAH MAYANJA
ATUSAI DEO NYONYOZI FAITH MUGENYI FLORANCE MASIKA JESICA AMUTUHAIRE JOVANS AYIKORU
LOVISTA NAKANWAGI LYDIA MARY BEATRICE NAKYAMBADDE MUGISHA PRAISE MUSINGUZI ALI
NALUJJA SHARON KOBUSINYE PAULA PRAISE STAITH TUMWEBAZE IKILAI PRISCILLAR NANYONGA
RACHEL SITARAYA ROBINAH MAGGA RHODA RUTH SERUMAGA JOHN NABAYAZA SHEILAH NAMUTEBI
SHIFFRAH NAKYANZI STELLAH NANDAWULA STEPHIE SUUBI IRENE TREASURE MWEBE VIVIAN
LYAKKA ABER YOBU DAISY NABATANZI IMMACULATE KEEZA GLORIA MULIKA FAHAD OWEN GEORGE

SHOW CREDITS

STYLING PENINAH AMANDA
CASTING **WHITE CASTING** HAIR **KOSUKE IKEUCHI** MAKE UP **ANNA SADAMORI** SOUNDTRACK **MASAKA**
MASAKA PRODUCTION **EXPERIENTIAL/H** PRODUCTION **REFERENCE STUDIOS** BACKSTAGE CONTENT
KEMMLER KEMMLER STYLING ASSISTANTS **SOPHIA BOGNER TIM REIMANN**
BACKSTAGE PHOTOGRAPHY **LENNART SYDNEY KOFI**

SPECIAL THANKS

NORI CHAHARA CHRISTIANE ARP HANNA KITA O FAROUK MUMI HAIATI KOZVA RIGAUD
BENJAMIN FISCHER KONSTANTIN LASCHKOW TAREK MISSIALA WARAR LÜHRMANN PHUONG LAN
NORMAN WESTPHAL SEVIL UGUZ LINDA MUTESI THE OR FOUNDATION BENEDICT KOKO
GOTLINDE AND CHARLES LWANGA HIP UGANDA

**BERLIN
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INTERVENTION

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