

## WHAT I WEAR

## Her chic is funky

*Gill Deacon on the difficulties of the glamorous mum look*

Gill Deacon, the environmental activist and author of the bestseller *There's Lead in Your Lipstick* (Penguin, \$26), is both stylish and thoughtful about her fashion choices. "Some people go all the way and don't colour their hair and don't ever wear heels — and that's awesome and their choice," Deacon says. "But I don't feel totally myself without some kind of bedazzlement." Here, she explains her bedazzling strategies to Nathalie Atkinson.

**SPRING STYLE RESOLUTION** I want to wear more dresses. I'm really trying to. I bought one at Anthropologie. It's a very fine corduroy, light-weight, it's a little bit farm girl in shape, this kind of little pale mushroom with a pattern on it. It's hard to find a dress to pull off the chic glamorous mum look — I always feel like I have to be a little more funky. Funky is my version of chic — I could never go upscale glam.

**SHOPPING MANTRA** My mother's message was always buy quality and wear it forever. I'm not quite that — and I don't dress at all like my mother. But because I'm not a big shopper, I do end up combining old with a new scarf or a new bit here and there. I probably do the minimal updates each season to feel like I'm remotely on the map.

**DAILY UNIFORM** The general principles for sure would be a skinny pant. I'm at an age where I have certain features

that I can accentuate and others that I don't! I like the long leg look and skinny pant and when I put something over top of it it hides the other. I often have a skinny jean or skinny cargo; these I just bought from Banana Republic and I love them, I might go get another pair.

**BOOTS MADE FOR WALKING** I'm hoping the skinny pant in boots trend doesn't go away. These are Fly [London] boots that I wear all the time. I also have a very well-loved pair of classic Frye boots and they are in a way my signature footwear, certainly for the appropriate seasons. I'm always a bit sad when it's too hot to wear them.

**JACKET REQUIRED** It's from this cute little boutique that I found called The Gap. It's not a place I go a lot because I own a lot of Susan Harris things; I love her and I love Preloved and more unique pieces. But sometimes, things

scream from you out the window. I've had this blazer for about five years.

**ACCESSORIZE THIS** The scarf was given to me by a stylist on a shoot and I just love the purples, though I don't like purple as a rule, but as an accent. The silk-screened bamboo jersey T-shirt is from Brooklyn studio Umsteigen, which I picked up at the One of a Kind Show. The wrapped leather bracelet is also from One of a Kind Show, a leather maker that made slippers. I love the idea of a cuff. It's very simple which has a bit of an old-fashioned charm to it.

**FASHION JEWELLERY** The longer brass necklace with pieces on it is by Corinne Anastopoulos at Biko. I just think she's the coolest jewellery designer. I like fiddling with it, noodling around it, I play with it as I wear it. In a way, this is a good symbol of my style because it's interesting and there isn't necessarily a story to it, but you can imagine one. I like things that are a little bit unusual and suggest a narrative whether there is one or not.

**SENTIMENTAL JEWELLERY** My two bracelets are the same as the ring on my right hand, tooled metal from Lattimer Gallery in Vancouver, where my husband and I also found our wedding rings. It's one of

the great gallery-slash-stores in Vancouver for Native art. We each have a wedding band with Haida art and symbols. They stay on all the time. My plastic watch is VBH or something, I got it in New York, and the chain my parents gave me when I was 16.

**MAKEUP** I used to hate makeup when I worked in TV; it was part of the job and [the amount of it] was so massive. But then as I researched this book and learned more about makeup — and I don't feel any trepidation about [what I use] being safe because I know what's in it — I started to appreciate it. I thought, "Y'know, mascara's really nice!" Now I wear it every day — on a good day I'll put on a little eyeliner, mascara, and some quick blush and lip gloss.

**TO DYE FOR** I've always coloured my hair and I really know how bad that is and it's been the one holdout that I couldn't do — I don't want grey hair. I'm not ready for it. So today, I'm going to try henna for the first time, because I do want to get off the crack of hair dye. Let's hope it works, or else that green highlights are the trend this season!

*Weekend Post*

natkinson@nationalpost.com  
TYLER ANDERSON / NATIONAL POST

