



PAUL GILES

MEN'S STUFF



RECENTLY, I HAD the fortunate experience of spending some time with Jon Bon Jovi (above) in the Adelaide Hills. It was a fresh evening, so I did the gentlemanly thing and offered him my jacket. This was a 25-year-old tuxedo jacket purchased in Los Angeles, which not only fit him perfectly, but also complemented his outfit – a charcoal shirt, blue jeans and boots. He was quite chuffed and was in no hurry to give it back.

The tuxedo, named after Tuxedo Park, New York, where it originated, has evolved in very small degrees since its invention mid-19th century. A fitted black jacket, it features slit pockets, one or two fastening buttons with a silk-, satin- or velvet-covered shawl and collar. The pants have satin seams on the outside legs. The tux is considered a special-occasion black-tie item, but do not underestimate its casual dress potential. Being creative allows items in your wardrobe to play multiple roles – and the best way to achieve this is by thinking of your body in two halves.

Separate the jacket and pants to wear individually. The jacket paired with jeans, boots and a shirt is a great look (ask Bon Jovi) while tux pants paired with a polo shirt and loafer shoes or sneakers, perhaps a denim jacket is a cool look.

Life's doors tend to open a little wider, and with more regularity, to men who take the time, effort and interest in the way they present themselves. If one of the world's biggest rock stars thought a tuxedo jacket was cool, that's good enough for me.

Former Calvin Klein model Paul Giles runs image consultancy firm Style Shift. His daily tips can be found at [facebook.com/styleshift](https://www.facebook.com/styleshift)