



TOM ODELL

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MODEL MANAGEMENT

27-35 Mortimer Street London W1T 3JG women t: +44 (0) 20 7299 1300 verve t: +44 (0) 20 7284 5600 men t: +44 (0) 20 7299 1322

**1** TOM ODELL: CHECK HIM OUT

Look by **Sammy Wilson**  
 £120 uk.sammy.com  
 Jacket **Barney's** £170  
 trousers **John Galiano**  
 Michael Rees £270  
 michaelrees.com

PUT him in this season's retro-inspired checks and it's not hard to see Tom Odell as 21st-century Britain's answer to the Seventies super-rockers. The 25-year-old singer-songwriter rose to fame after his debut used his epic ballad "Another Love" at its spring/summer 2013 women's wear show. A Brit Award and an Ivor Novello-winning album followed soon after and this summer he performed at Glastonbury for the second time in as many years. That's one rock'n'roll rise.

Of his latest album's title, *Woody Crowd*, he explains he's always found the idea of cliques and fitting in fascinating. "There's so much judgement when you're growing up and it still applies to me. I'm still trying to find the place where I belong," he thinks he's found it, though. The stage – whether it's the Paradise in Amsterdam or San Diego's House Of Blues – is undoubtedly his natural sleeping ground. Style-wise, he says he has matured, moving away from "baggy jumpers and jeans" to a sharper-edged uniform. Clothes, admits Odell, have taken on a new role as an "extension of the stage and what the fans are hearing". **Zoe Keene**

Blazer **Yves** £100  
 £120 **Barney's** £170  
 Jacket **Paul Smith**  
 £150  
 trousers **John Galiano**  
 £180, top to pair

**2**

THE EDITORIAL: MAPPING THE FUTURE OF FASHION (PART 1) FOR THE LOVE OF THE FASHION

Photography by **Olly Frankham** Styling by **Jessica Funder**

THE 00.CO.UK SEPTEMBER 2016

**3**

Look by **Wes Moore**  
 £1,200 uk.wes.com  
 Jacket by **Michael Kors**  
 £270 michaelkors.com  
 Trousers by **Hugo Boss**  
 £145 hugoboss.com

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# TOPMAN GENERATION

THE DAILY DIGITAL MAGAZINE FOR FASHION, MUSIC AND CULTURE

SPECIAL  
PRINT  
EDITION

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MUSIC'S NEW ICON:

# TOM ODELL

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THE BEST BANDS OF 2013

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SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS

## SOUND OF A GENERATION TOM ODELL

Interview by *Wendy Mass*

**Tom Odell Is The Blonde  
Haird, Baby Faced  
Jeff Buckley-Iah, Piano  
Thumping, Singer  
Songwriter That Everyone  
Has Lost Their Mind Over  
This Summer. And Quite  
Rightly So.**

His big, gutsy songs (mostly about heartbreak, stuff) that he pounds out on the piano are the ultimate break up songs - more florid and moody than Jake Duggy and easier to sing along to than Adele. Signed to Lily Allen's label The Flame Of, the 22 year-old has just released his steely debut *Long Way Down*. Despite his songs being filled with angst, in real life he is chipper and flirty rather than the moody love struck portrait he paints of himself. His wavy cut hair struggles over his face as he fiddles with the plastic lid on a cup of tea in his trailer, failing to get it off without spilling any. Having been asked to leave his previous band, Tom and The Tides in 2011, Tom decided to go it alone under his own name. A year later he released an EP: *Songs From Another Love*, and just six months after that he was the Critics' choice BRIT.

**TOPMAN GENERATION:** I passed two posters of you on the tube on my way to meet you - do you feel like you've suddenly shot to stardom?

**TOM ODELL:** I don't feel like I've shot to stardom, people know my music and that's a nice thing. It is crazy going from unknown to known, but you just deal with it. I had a brief moment where I did get terrified by it but there's definitely more positives than negatives. Being on stage is something that I've always dreamt of. What I find strange is when you go somewhere and get photographed and your girlfriend says you up and says, "What the f\*\*\* were you doing with that girl last night."

"I don't want to hide behind lyrics or music, I want to be brutally direct about how things are"

**TOPMAN GENERATION:** Has that happened to you?

**TOM ODELL:** Yeah it has! It made it into a song actually. But you know, I don't want to be photographed outside parties or falling out of a cab. That's something I don't want to do and I learnt that very quickly.

**TOPMAN GENERATION:** You pack a lot of emotion into your songs.

**TOM ODELL:** I try to write as honestly and as openly as possible. I don't want to hide behind lyrics or music, I want to be brutally direct about how things are, emotionally. Everything comes from me. I don't know if I will always make music that sounds like this, but from a long way down it's what I've wanted to do. It's cathartic. It gets something out of your head, making a problem live somewhere else.

**TOPMAN GENERATION:** How do you go about writing?

**TOM ODELL:** Every song on the album was written in a different way. I didn't stick to a formula, I wanted to keep things open because I wanted to mix things up rather than have them all be very similar. My ambition for the album was to create something that wasn't all the way through, you know? It needs to travel and take you on a journey.

"I don't want to be photographed outside parties or falling out of a cab. That's something I don't want to do and I learnt that very quickly."

**TOPMAN GENERATION:** One of the things that immediately struck me about your album was that it's only got ten songs and they're all three minutes long.



**TOM ODELL:** Yes, ten tracks, quite short for a debut album but I wanted it short, it's not too many and not too little. I've always been under the impression that if you can finish a song that you like, and you're happy with it under three minutes then it's good. If you can get the point that you're trying to get across in a shorter space of time then the better. I think the pop song would benefit from that.

**TOPMAN GENERATION:** That's quite a peak way of thinking.

**TOM ODELL:** I don't really have any reasons behind it. Pop songs are fascinating, it's probably the most successful way of communicating something in the shortest amount of time. The longer you make a song, the more you distance the clarity of it, and I always want those to be clear. I just want people to understand the feelings in the song. I have this massive fear of middle eight. There's only one in the entire album.

**TOPMAN GENERATION:** Are you rebelling against something then?

**TOM ODELL:** I've been writing songs since I was 12. At school I did a songwriting course, now I feel like I rebel against everything I was taught there. I just feel everything should be a completely free expression of what's in your head, or what music you want to make, it shouldn't be thought about. These ideas of a song was verse, chorus, verse, chorus and middle eight. I hate that kind of contrived thinking. I started making music. I started writing songs for freedom of expression, and the fact that at the end of it you have a song that other people hear and it's an amazing feeling. I don't make music to sell loads of records or be in the tabloids. It's important for me to remember why I am doing it. The most meaningful thing I can do with my time is write songs and perform.

**TOPMAN GENERATION:** Is it crazy for you to watch your music travel?

**TOM ODELL:** Yes, it's mad. Take a song like *Another Love*, that was written in this particular time, in my bedroom... somehow people all round the world listen to it?

**TOPMAN GENERATION:** Do you have mild, pair throwing fans?

**TOM ODELL:** Has happened, yes, but no leechers. I would be concerned for their hygiene.

Photography by *Bella Howard*  
Styling by *Celestine Cooney*

All styling by *Topman*.

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# The BALLADEER

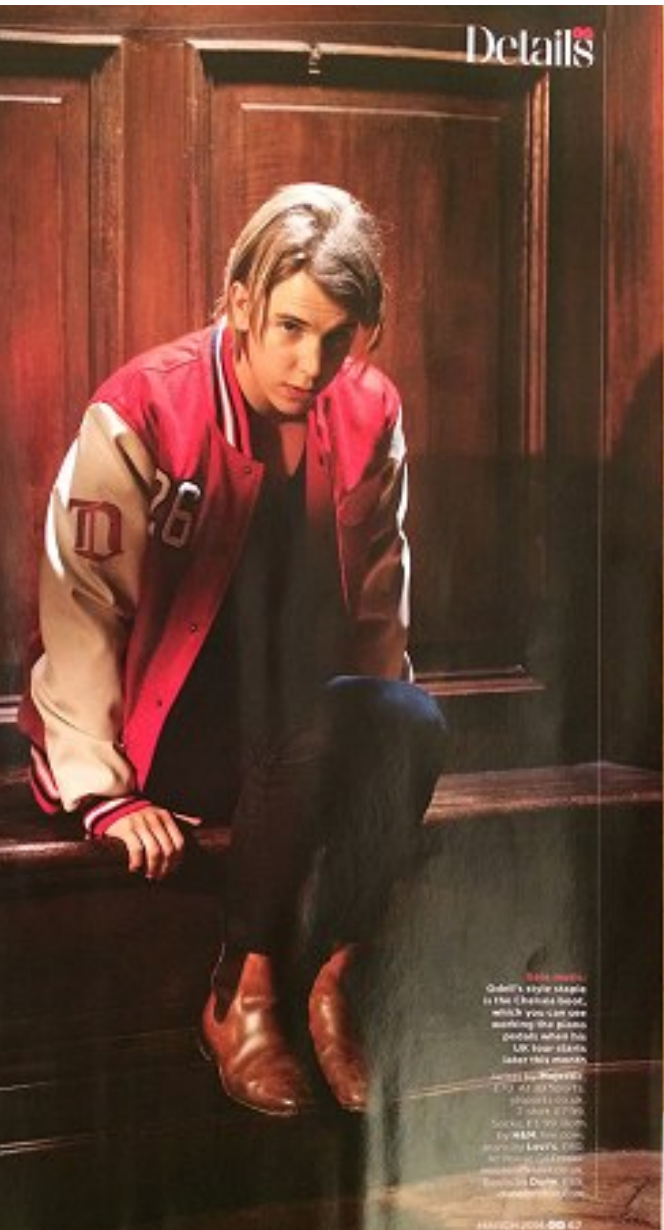
**TOM ODELL**, Age 25  
 Hometown: Chichester, West Sussex  
 Self-starter: Tom Odell was 12 when he wrote his first song. As a teenager, he was a regular on the open mic circuit in Brighton. He writes best, he said recently, amid a little chaos: "If there are all these dirty dishes and the kitchen's covered in mess. And if I've been up all night, and I feel like shit - that's when I'll write good songs."  
 Origin story: In New York, "Right now Odell is living in NYC, and is still navigating his way around the city's rules. Take a run in he had with the police: "You'll know that jaywalking is illegal," he says. "I might have been doing that, accidentally, when a police car's siren lights and sirens on and pulled up next to me! Having just read a story about a man who'd been thrown in jail for jaywalking, Odell was understandably a little freaked out. The two policemen shouted at me to stop. I couldn't believe it. Just when I was about to start pleading my British ignorance, of the law, the officer started singing 'Weather Love', and laughing: 'Is it You? Is it Tom Odell?' Oh, thank the Lord I thought. They just wanted a photo!"

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**[The TREND]**  
**Varsity graduates**  
 Singer Tom Odell salutes classic collegewear's move into the big league

Back in the Depression days of Thirties America, varsity jackets (that's varsity as in uni-arsity) were created by college sportsmen to show off their team membership. Fast-forward to the next century and the style can not only be worn by anyone, but has harked itself across the Atlantic. Which happens to suit Tom Odell.  
 "I was introduced to that classic British look - yet also that classic American look," says the 25-year-old musician. "It's probably did all that for me, because when I played at their party last year it introduced me to fashion. They gave me a trench coat - I grew up in the suburbs of a small town on the south coast where the only opportunity I ever got to wear anything smart was a school, so I had never owned a piece of clothing worth more than £40."  
 Now, his wardrobe essential, though, is the Chelsea boot, which is typical of his measured demeanour. On tour, for example, his one extravagance is operating hundreds of pounds on motorbikes. Or at a film about dating Taylor Swift (which he did, last year) and his abiding memory is of the press attention. "It was scary," he says. "I'd have to be very in love to be with someone that famous."  
 Varsity jackets, on the other hand, are the epitome of laid-back. Although designers from A.P.C. to Gant Bogger have been tweaking them for the runway, we still like the classic Majestic (pictured), which, with its casual fit, is perfect for the transition from winter to spring. *Chris Butler*

• Tom Odell's UK tour starts this month. [tomodell.com](http://tomodell.com)



**Style notes**  
 Odell's style staple is the Chelsea boot, which you can see wearing the jumbo boots when his UK tour starts later this month.

APC's Majestic, £110, [www.apc.com](http://www.apc.com)  
 Gant Bogger, £110, [www.gant.com](http://www.gant.com)  
 Sunbel, £110, [www.sunbel.com](http://www.sunbel.com)  
 Lecture, £110, [www.lecture.com](http://www.lecture.com)  
 Bethan, £110, [www.bethan.com](http://www.bethan.com)  
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STYLE  
FASHION  
03/23



● Navy cotton shirt, £20, navy/grey striped cotton T-shirt, £10, both by T-shirt; £10, both by Massimo Osti/Stone Island. Navy pin-striped denim jeans, £220, by Diesel.

● Riverdale striped cotton shirt, £20, by Top. Navy cotton T-shirt, £10, by Massimo Osti/Stone Island. Black denim jeans, £110, by 3-Star. Brown leather Chelsea boots, £275, by Tricker's.

● Riverdale cotton striped shirt, £75, by Sam Spade. Navy cotton T-shirt, £10, by Massimo Osti/Stone Island. Black denim jeans, £100, by Chud Morley.

● Tom Leitch Blazer, £800, by 7 for All Mankind. Navy/indigo striped cotton/wool sweater, £140, by 7 for All Mankind. Black denim jeans, £110, by 7 for All Mankind. Brown leather Chelsea boots, as before.

# ALONG THE RIGHT LINES

TIME TO EARN YOUR STRIPES, SAYS MUSICIAN TOM ODELL

STYLE  
FASHION  
02/23

● Riverdale striped cotton shirt, £20, by Top. Navy cotton T-shirt, £10, by Massimo Osti/Stone Island. Black denim jeans, £110, by 3-Star. Brown leather Chelsea boots, £275, by Tricker's.

Wearing stripes are going to be hard to miss this season. Think stripes, candy deckchair, even hazard stripes — they'll be catching your eye from every angle. As patterns go, it's among the easier to pull off, but take care: He who yells in danger is making his best friend.

some previous in the world of fashion, Odell commissioned a Burberry Prorsum sweater last year. He also noted that the 20-year-old was asked to perform at live at the unveiling of the brand's AW12 collection, isn't that about sealing the show?

Long Way Down & The Name of Colour are in put now; Tom Odell lives the UK in the future.



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