

# American men get Italian look

By RUSTLE SHAND

Lee Wright, who is up for a Coty Award for his menswear designs, has only been in the menswear field for a short time.

But he is credited with turning the men's fashion industry around two years ago when he launched his designs, interpreting the best of Italian flair, fabrication and quality for American men.

A former model for Bill Blass who encouraged him to start designing, Wright gained a lot of new fans during his recent appearance in Saks Fifth Avenue's Troy store.

So wide was the approval of his clothes that the applause seemed to demand an encore performance from the six models who pranced and pirouetted much like their female counterparts.

Lee Wright is a multi-faceted man. Aside from his design talents, he has been a musical comedy

star, acted in several TV series and commercials and had a nightclub act.

"The bottom line of all of this is that I love to sing and I love to make people laugh," said the designer.

He considers women's lib the biggest influence on men's clothes today. "We have not yet begun to see all the results of women's lib, but one thing is clear. Men are now beginning to block-out their stereotype and all the mores society has inflicted on them."

AS A RESULT, he said, men have more freedom today in the way they dress.

Things are changing very fast in menswear today, he said. "The big news is the double-breasted suit, narrow lapels and the narrow tie. Shoes are more refined as are the new innovative fabrications including the new indescens."

Wright does not believe in jewelry for men. "I am very much into less is more. When a man has a suit

on, it should be very elegant and very tasteful," he said.

"Then, when he moves into sport jackets and flannel-type things, they should be exciting."

Color plays an important role in 1980 menswear designs. "The world has been over-khaki'd," said Wright. "We're moving into shades of purple and lavender — all the deep tones — and reviving military pink."

A man's suit coat collar should not be turned up, he said. "Keep collars turned down except when you need to turn them up to keep warm."

HE FORESEES A "cleaner front look coming for men — dark shirts with dark ties."

"The direction for clothes for the '80s has to be to showcase the trim, well cared for bodies," he added.

Lee Wright designs three different lines of clothing. His designs range in price from \$250 to \$345 for his couture line.



A 1940's topcoat reappears in Wright's fall collection for Lebole. It is shown in a double-breasted mode in a mixture of mushroom and gray.



Lee Wright was a model, actor and singer before he started designing clothes.



"Night Clothes" are a mixture of satin, velvet and leather. The black-velvet, two-button double-breasted jacket is accented with red flecks.

## fashion calendar

**Monday, Dec. 3**  
 Jacobson's — The Gortex Resort Collection will be informally modeled from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the sportswear department today and tomorrow at the Birmingham store.  
 Birmingham Book Store — Photographer Ansel Adams will be on hand from 1-2 p.m. to talk about his new book, "Vesemite: On the Range of Light." Refreshments will be served.  
 Dong Hoffman, Ltd. — The store will feature wine and cheese to customers being outfitted or counseled on the latest in men's apparel today through Dec. 24.  
 Alfred's Restaurant — Fashions from Somerset Mall shops will be modeled daily from 12:30-2:30 p.m. in the restaurant. Schedule for the week is as follows: Monday, fashions from Bonwit Teller; Tuesday, Lingerique; Wednesday, Don Thomas Sporthaus; Thursday, Bonwit Teller; Friday, Rodier; and Saturday, Tennis Lady and Robert Furs.  
 Bonwit Teller — Anthony Muto, designer for Marita and A.M./P.M.'s, '79 Collection, will be at the Troy store today. Informal modeling of his fashions will be from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
 Janet Varner of Rochester are modeled informally from noon to 1:30 p.m. every Tuesday through May in the Cooper's Arms restaurant, 305 Main Street in downtown Rochester.  
**Wednesday, Dec. 5**  
 Jacobson's — The Ernst Strauss Collection of spring resort wear will be informally modeled in the designer salon from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. today at the Birmingham store.  
**Sunday, Dec. 9**  
 Chudik's of Birmingham — Chudik's will open its doors from 1-5 p.m. for three consecutive Sundays beginning today as a service to holiday shoppers.

Tuesday, Dec. 4  
 Cooper's Arms — Designer fashions

## Where It's At

By JUDY SOLOMON



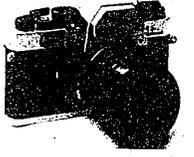
### Bear Necessity.

Winnie The Pooh and Paddington Bear, please forgive me! I have always loved you dearly, but now another bear has totally captured my heart. Made by Daekor Designs, he's a 16-inch-high chubby beige Koala Bear (\$15) complete with pot belly, floppy, white, furry-lined ears and a face guaranteed to make you smile. While I'm sure the bear was designed with children in mind, I'd be willing to bet a lot of grownups would be delighted to find him under their Christmas trees this year. Girls' Accessories, Saks Fifth Avenue, Somerset Mall, Troy, 643-9000.



### Gold Stars

For the camera buff who has everything including a lot of cash, here's the ultimate gift. In honor of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Oskar Barnack, inventor of the Leica camera and founder of 35mm photography, a limited number of golden Leica R3 and M4-2 cameras (\$5,000 each) have been produced. Covered with black reptile skin and featuring 24-karat gold-plated metal, each camera has the engraved signature of Mr. Barnack plus special serial numbers. Packaged in a decorative mahogany wood case, the golden Leicas also include a certificate of authenticity. Birmingham Camera, 168 S. Woodward, Birmingham, 6454-0510.



### Animal Fare

The art of sculpturing living plants is known as topiary. Parmenter Florists sells topiaries handmade by Frank Buckoski, the creator of the animal-shaped topiaries at Disney World. Available in the shapes of cats, swans, poodles, bunnies, pigs, owls, teddy bears, cats, ducks, squirrels, elephants and giraffes, each topiary consists of a sphagnum moss frame to which live green plants have been attached. After approximately six months, the plants will cover the entire frame. Ranging in price from \$30 to \$50, they would make wonderful and unusual gifts for the plant lovers. Parmenter Florist, 178 Ed Brown, Birmingham, 644-9340.



### Creme de la Creme

Oh to be in England where the cream is thick and sweet and it makes everything from raspberries to chocolate pudding taste divine. Now you can thank your own English double cream right in your own kitchen thanks to a gadget made in England called the Bel Cream Maker (\$15). All you do is melt sweet butter into hot milk. Then pour the mixture into the top of the cream maker and pump it through to the base. (Detailed instructions are included.) You can also use the cream maker to make whipping cream, coffee cream and creme fraiche. Crown House of Gifts, Somerset Mall, Troy, 643-6565.

### CREAM MAKER



Saks Fifth Avenue

Candle power! Here, two shining examples for your holiday table. Our sleek candlestick holders. Clearly beautiful! Impeccably crafted by hand — and just perfect for gifts. '18 the pair. In The Guest and Gift Shop, — where we are all the things you are... gifts just right for you.

Saks Fifth Avenue, Troy, Somerset Mall, Big Beaver at Coolidge

Saks Fifth Avenue, Detroit, Second at Lothrop, open Monday through Saturday, 9:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. Troy, Somerset Mall, Big Beaver at Coolidge, open Monday through Friday, 10:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M., Saturdays, 10:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. Sundays, Noon to 5:00 P.M.