London During the 60s: Twiggy
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LONDON IN THE 60'S

The sixties in London were known as the 'Swinging Sixties' and was a major changing point for Britain as a whole. Previous to this decade Britain was ravaged by World War II but within the span of ten years London was able to become a city full of excitement, hope, freedom, and promise. A major changing voice in the sixties came about in the form of music more specifically The Beatles that were deemed a 'British Invasion' group. Their song ‘Revolution’ became an anthem for the teenagers of the sixties and gave them encouragement to be individuals and to stand up for their beliefs. Another form of change in the sixties came about in fashion. Designers gave females more freeing and playful clothes that allowed them to become more active. Eventually the hippie movement came about with “psychedelic prints and vibrant colors” (Watson).

A YOUNG TWIGGY

On September 19, 1949 Lesley Hornby was born in Northern London. In 1966 at the age of 16 she became the first ever supermodel and was named “The Face of 66” by the Daily Express. After becoming a model, Twiggy stepped out on the scene as an actress in television, film and on stage. She has also created a few albums in multiple styles such as country, rock, showtunes, pop and disco.

TWIGGY’S INFLUENCE ON THE 60’S

As the first supermodel in the world Twiggy would obviously become a major icon to women, more specifically the teenagers, of the sixties in London. She had a “waif like figure, boyish haircut and striking eye lashes” (“Fashion”) and this image of her became the epitome of the era. She made such a large impact on the world during this time period to the point that “her photograph was encased in a time capsule and sent into space” (“Fashion”). Twiggy has graced the cover of many magazines in her career but at the age of seventeen she made it onto the cover of Tatler, Her Mod, Mod Teen World, Elle, and British Vogue. She was photographed by many well-known photographers but the major influencer for her was Bert Stern. He went on to make a few films about her trip to the United States in 1967. This trip was to “promote her own clothing line as well as model” (“Twiggy Biography”). She was a big influence in the United States as well that she inspired her own Barbie doll as well as other Twiggy themed merchandise. Twiggy officially retired from modeling in 1970 which is only four years after stepping onto the scene of modelling. She was about twenty-one when she left modelling. Although she retired, she did involve herself in a few different modelling jobs, more specifically she appeared on the cover of David Bowie’s Pin Ups album.

HER INFLUENCE TODAY

After the whirl wind of her younger years Twiggy as not stopped being an influential person both in London and in the world. “She is an advocate for animal welfare and a longtime supporter of breast cancer charities and research groups” (Carder). She has also continued her music career and modelling career. As of March 14, 2019 however Twiggy has become a Dame. In an interview she said “Officially it’s Dame Lesley but call me Dame Twiggy. I think Dame Twiggy sounds best” (“Face”). She received this honor for her services to the arts, charity, and fashion. The sixties marked a time of reinvention and hopefulness after the tragedies of WWII. In her way, Twiggy was innovative in the development of modeling and fashion. She reinvented and changed societal ideas of femininity and masculinity due to her androgynous appearance. She was influential as a young woman in the 60’s but her image and challenges of society continue through the decades.

BIBLIOGRAPHY