



Storyteller

Tales from a Fashion Insider

Jeffrey Banks

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- Was a part of the Metropolitan Museum show on Black fashion, *Superfine: Tailoring Black Style*
- Memoir of a highly esteemed author and designer

Jeffrey Banks has blazed a remarkable path through the fashion industry. Born in Washington, DC, Banks discovered his passion for clothes at a young age. When he was just 17 years old, he landed an internship at Ralph Lauren, where his precocious talent and eye for classical American design began to blossom. *Storyteller: Tales from a Fashion Insider* chronicles the designer and historian's meteoric rise, graduating from New York's Parsons School of Design to quickly launching his eponymous menswear line in 1977. He recounts the creative and business challenges of establishing his brand, known for blending traditional American sportswear with luxurious sophistication. Banks has authored several best-selling books and biographies about fashion. This is his first memoir. He is currently prominently featured in *Superfine: Tailoring Black Style*, a groundbreaking show at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute in New York.

Banks shares intimate stories about designing for celebrities and his close friendship with Ralph Lauren and Calvin Klein, who became his mentors. His designs were photographed by Bruce Weber and Richard Avedon, and others. His friendships with Audrey Hepburn, Bobby Short, and Barbra Streisand are also highlighted in the book. But *Storyteller: Tales from a Fashion Insider* is far more than a catalog of names, Banks relates hilarious and touching tales with unmatched verve. The book also explores Banks' advocacy for diversity in fashion and his tireless support for young designers. Through personal anecdotes and industry insights, the two-time Coty Award and CFDA award winner reflects on fashion's evolution from the 1970s through today. The lavishly illustrated book is a must-have for any fashion lover.

Jeffrey Banks is an internationally recognized fashion designer. His consummate personal taste and way of putting clothes together have perennially earned him a spot on the "International Best Dressed" list. His professional style combines genuine talent for design and merchandising with an acute understanding of what contemporary men really want to wear. Banks' approach to design has earned him some of fashion's most prestigious awards and honors. A graduate of Parsons School of Design, Banks earned a Special Coty Award for men's furs with Alixandre, followed by another Coty for his signature menswear collection and an "Earnie" for his signature boyswear. Banks has also received the Cutty Sark Award for Outstanding U.S. Designer of Menswear as well as the Pratt Institute Award for Excellence. He is also a recent recipient of an award from the Council of Fashion Designers of America.