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THEY MUST BE KIDDING

AGE APPROPRIATE | Stars are dressing like children, and the effect is hardly flattering

BY PAIGE WISER
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The "Sex and the City" movie is filming in New York, which means once again we can look forward to pun-laced dialogue, Mr. Big and horrifically age-inappropriate wardrobes.

Sarah Jessica Parker's over-40 character has already been photographed wearing knee socks. We can only imagine how 51-year-old Kim Cattrall will slither onscreen.

Sure, technically they look good. "Thanks to fanatical exercise, diets and cosmetic procedures, women in their 40s in Hollywood can have the

bodies of 20-year-olds," says Tom Kolovos, a Chicago-based fashion stylist with www.thebestdressedlist.com. Nonetheless, women of "a certain age" are considered past their prime by studio executives. "You can see why some female celebrities feel the need not to 'look' fortysomething," he says.

But dressing too young for your age is misguided at best — and a pathetic joke at worst. "If you want to be perceived as a woman who's got some sense and some authority, you don't want to look like a little girl," Kolovos says.

Here are some examples of victims stuck in the purgatory of fashion puberty.



JENNIFER TILLY, 49

The nicest thing Kolovos has to say? "This is an appropriate length," he says. "But the peekaboo bra and corset boning are awkward details for a dress that also includes criss-cross runching at the hips and pleats below. This dress makes me dizzy."



NATASHA RICHARDSON, 44

"Surely this is a costume for her role as a social-working nun, no?" Kolovos asks. "Peter Pan collars on dresses belong at Gap Kids. This is wildly unflattering, even if it were an old-school maternity dress."



DEMI MOORE, 45

All right, the way she dresses hasn't hurt her personal life. Still, we can't condone it. "A good piece of advice to follow is that if you are over 40, micro-minis are not appropriate, even with tights," Kolovos says. "A few inches above the knee is as short as you should ever go."



UMA THURMAN, 37

"New rule!" declares Kolovos. "It's not a dress unless it at least covers your behind." Maybe the blond goddess was trying to show her exes what they're missing. "It's unnecessarily provocative. Why not just show up in a thong and a pashmina? The back of this dress is inappropriate at any age."



Parker in between takes on the set of the "Sex and the City" movie in New York. | BRIAN ACH-GETTY IMAGES

SARAH JESSICA PARKER, 42

One caveat: Parker was dressed by stylist Patricia Field for this "Sex and the City" shot. But she looks to be a willing participant. "The epitome of a fashion victim," says Kolovos. "C'mon, a sheer skirt with knee socks and open-toed stilettos for winter in New York City? Buffalo plaid, it is safe to say, is something every woman would do well to avoid in the first place."



MIRA SORVINO, 40

After giving birth to two kids, the Oscar winner seems determined to show she's still got it. "She looks like one of Hugh Hefner's girlfriends," Kolovos says. And Hefner likes 'em young. "Did she borrow the shoes from a stripper?"



NICOLLETTE SHERIDAN, 43

The resident tramp on "Desperate Housewives" gets a pass this time — but just barely. "Given that it's being worn casually as a sundress, not a bad choice," Kolovos says.



SHANNY SOSSAMON, 29

She may be an indie actress, but this look is too out there for anyone over the age of 6. "Great dress for a quinceanera or a first communion," Kolovos says.