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## Malibu stylist lends expertise during Closet to Closet Fashion Therapy with Pia



Stylist Pia Malatesta (pictured) of Malibu recently held her first Closet to Closet Fashion Therapy session on her Instagram page. Photo by Finn Hinke

Suzy Demeter, Staff Reporter  
2:25 pm PDT May 11, 2020



On May 8, viewers were treated to an uplifting one-hour presentation of Closet to Closet Fashion Therapy with Pia Malatesta, a multihyphenated stylist from Malibu, on Instagram Live.

Malatesta invited viewers into a fun and engaging instructional on how to assemble outfits from their closet. She asked viewers to “think about what makes you an individual - what makes you who you are” while coordinating fashion decisions to match their style.

Malatesta's warmth and pleasant personality lent an ease and flow to the session.

“I know that these isolation times are really difficult for everybody, but try to be positive and know we are in this together,” Malatesta said. “I also feel that fashion can be very therapeutic and it finds a way to lift our spirits when we have the right outfit on.

“My opinion is that fashion can be for everyone. Aspire to look at the things you already own and remix them in a way you never have before.”

Participants typed questions and comments throughout the live feed as Malatesta expertly assembled some basic essentials from her own closet. Husband Finn Hinke moderated off-camera relaying the questions and comments.

Malatesta coordinated several looks starting with a tan trench coat.

“Everyone, including men, should have this in their arsenal,” she said.

The trench was paired with a nude body suit and belted black high-waisted trouser, a blue pencil skirt and tailored shorts. A trench can also be worn as a dress.

Blouses were matched with a pair of high-waisted faded jeans. A blouse can be buttoned to the top and accessorized with an intriguing necklace which becomes the statement piece. Malatesta suggested fitting a red blouse into the wardrobe and to look for the shade that best fits the person's skin tone.

Blazers were also on the essential wardrobe list.

“You should have a few different variations to oversized blazers (or fitted) and different prints,” Malatesta said.

Blazers can coordinate beautifully with short shorts, or cropped black pants. Malatesta said a blazer can go past the shorts length as “it is part of the element of sexiness.”

She spoke of accessorizing statement pieces, including large necklaces, feathers for the hair, belts, hats - including a Lovely Bird brand from Malibu local designer Jamie Haskell - shoes and handbags that pull outfits together. Malatesta suggested a belt hole puncher as a handy tool to better tailor an outfit.

Additionally, a bralette adds a feminine detail under a blouse.

“Wearing the interior on the exterior has become the new T-shirt,” Malatesta said.

She suggested buttoning down to show a little lace.

“That could be sexy in a reserved way,” she said.

A pencil skirt is another closet basic offering versatility.

“The last thing that everyone should have is a pencil skirt,” Malatesta said. “It can be belted or tied to bring interest. If it seems business on top, you can make it like a party on the bottom, paired with a fun shoe.”

Malatesta invited a viewer in and asked her to show the pieces she loved. One was a sequined skirt. Ideas of coordinating the chic skirt included styling with a simple top or a tucked blouse.

Two floral dresses presented summer attire suggestions. Malatesta shared a lovely print neck-high prairie dress.

“When you wear a prairie long dress, it still gives you the impression that you’re a tall woman,” she said.

The dresses can be complimented with hats, sunglasses and a light motorcycle jacket or jean jacket for evening wear.

A future segment to address men's fashions will be in the works. She said that men's fashions are identifying in that it covers specific looks like business, creative or occasion.

Malatesta also offered advice on organizing wardrobes.

“Take everything out and you want to categorize it - separate T-shirts, tanks, leggings,” she said. “When you see all of your things categorized, you can take out from there all your favorite pieces and make a pile of everything that you love.

“When you get that established and separate them - try to create and make three piles of that clothing.”

She labelled the piles as “Not now,” “I don't know how to style” and “absolutely No!” piles.

“I have a smile on my face because I really love to help you guys figure out what your best self is,” Malatesta said. “Next time you'll be inspired to try to get into the closet and help me help you come into your closet.”

For more information on upcoming presentations of Closet to Closet Fashion Therapy with Pia on her Instagram page at @pia4lastlooks. The sessions will aim to incorporate items from Malibu local designers and invite more viewers in for a styling consultation.

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