

**First outfit you remember?**

When my sister Rayne was three and I was five, we had similar party dresses, with scratchy net petticoats, and matching white shoes.

**Your fashion icon?**

Actress Tilda Swinton. She doesn't need Hollywood hair and make-up artifice.

**What did turning 50 mean for you?**

I feel joy at every birthday. My husband and I turned 50 a month apart. We had a 'We Are 100' party and had our mates round and danced to Michael Jackson.

**Go grey gracefully?**

I went grey almost overnight when I was 34. It grew through in a thick, white streak and I've always kept it. It's only in the past few years that the rest of my hair has started to go grey. I sometimes colour the hair at my temples dark, for a graphic contrast.

**Your best decade?**

Right now. I feel energised by the idea that I can make changes to the industry I work in, by promoting a broader range of body and beauty ideals, through the campaign All Walks Beyond The Catwalk. Ageing should be embraced. Age isn't a condition that should be imbued with fear or managed by cosmetic surgery.

**One thing we'd never guess about you?**

I was convinced I would join the army.

**Your most prized possession?**

A little pair of blue plastic Wellingtons, which both my daughters wore.

**Dress your age?**

Who makes these rules? For me, clothes are a simple statement of what I'm feeling and what I need to say to other people.

**Last good deed for the planet?**

My council doesn't recycle Tetra Paks. I take a car of smelly soya milk cartons to our Suffolk cottage and recycle there.

**Hoard or throw away?**

Donate. My three sisters and I are the same size, so clothes go to them or to a second-hand shop.

**Your preferred epitaph?**

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT? Jeff Banks used to tell me that's what I should have on my tombstone.

**Most expensive garment ever bought?**

Vivienne Westwood bondage trousers for £100 – extravagant at the time.

**Proudest moment?**

When I received an honorary fellowship from the Arts University College, Bournemouth, in July.

**Fashion trend that you'll be wearing this winter?**

I love androgyny. I have loads of brogues and high-waisted trousers.

**...and the one you won't?**

Gold metallic shorts.

*Caryn Franklin is co-founder of All Walks Beyond The Catwalk, allwalks.org. Clothes Show Live, NEC Birmingham, December 2-7, clotheshowlive.com*

**GROWN-UP TEST**

# Caryn Franklin

Proudly grey style commentator Caryn Franklin, 52, is promoting agelessness in fashion as part of her campaign All Walks Beyond The Catwalk. The ex-presenter (with Jeff Banks) of TV's *The Clothes Show* lives in London with husband Ian and their two girls. **But how old is she inside her head?**

Words **Paula Kerr** Portrait **Chris Floyd**

20 SAGAMAGAZINE November



**VERDICT**  
Caryn, because of your joyous approach to living in the moment, we're loath to change your age. But as we love you for being so glad to be grey, we're going to put your virtual age at 50

## Shopping



**TOGS FOR DOGS**

The snow is snowing, the wind is blowing... and it's time to keep your four-legged friend warm and dry

- Snuggle Factor travel raincoat** from 6.99 ([croftonline.com](http://croftonline.com), 01257 484200)
- Rainbow sweater with hood** £18.95 ([urbanpup.com](http://urbanpup.com), 028 9581 2107)
- Checked Chillcheeta coat** from 9.18 ([groomers-online.com](http://groomers-online.com), 0845 230 7997)
- Stripy Cosi-Fleece turtleneck** from £11.49 ([petplanet.co.uk](http://petplanet.co.uk), 0845 345 0723)
- Petlife High Vis jacket** from £17.65 ([seapets.co.uk](http://seapets.co.uk), 0845 230 4777)

**LITTLE TREASURES**

All that glisters... these pretty little bud vases are perfect for snippets of hydrangea or scented viburnum. Arrange a row down the middle of the Christmas table or along the mantelpiece. *They come eight to a box, £22* ([coxandcox.co.uk](http://coxandcox.co.uk), 0844 858 0744).



FULL STOP PHOTOGRAPHY

**STOCKING FILLER**

Nothing amuses us more than the outright mangling of the English language on menus and signs spotted at home and abroad. Now they're gathered in one chuckle-inducing book from 'Genuine Fake Watches' (Turkish shop) to 'Camel Dribal' (Portuguese menu) and 'Witts End' (Welsh cul-de-sac). Make someone smile this Christmas. *Sign Language* (Aurum Press, £8.99)

November SAGAMAGAZINE 21