

NICHOLAS DALEY

SPRING/SUMMER 23 COLLECTION 'CALYPSO'

For Spring/Summer 23 Nicholas Daley explores Calypso music's rich visual identity through his own personal lineage. Actor, singer and civil rights activist Harry Belafonte sits at the centre of a narrative interweaving family folklore, island life and the Caribbean's prolific musical output - a story connecting traditions and diasporas, retold through Daley's contemporary design language.

Daley's journey began with a treasured silver frame belonging to his grandmother, sat pride of place in a glass cabinet since the 1960s. Inside - a signed black and white headshot of Harry Belafonte in a wide lapel suit. The inscription reads: 'To Dorothy, it was good seeing you, next time, let's spend more time, love, Harry' - a message from one cousin to another.

This shared Jamaican heritage became the catalyst to explore Harry Belafonte as both creative polymath and portal to a wider Caribbean experience. Belafonte's record-breaking album Calypso plays starting point as Daley ties a thread between generations, communities and interlinked movements, from Mento to Garveyism. The steel pan and rumba box, handmade and vibrantly decorated, serve as key reference, continuing the designer's interest in craft, DIY culture and black folk music in all its forms.

Calypso's uniform of high-waisted pants and open collar shirts informs the season's silhouettes. Lapels are larger, trouser cuts are wider - denoting movement and rhythm - while prints nod to tropical and aloha shirting, inspiration from the likes of textile designer Althea McNish and artist Sonia Boyce quietly present. A brand signature, waistcoats come in Utility and Five Pocket forms, while softly tailored Fonte blazers and matching bellowing shorts subvert established menswear staples.

Textiles lead the narrative, durable cotton twills, needleCORDS and organic denims offer dense backdrops to more decorative fabrics. This season Daley explores florals for the first time with an elegant bespoke silk blend jacquard from British weaver Stephen Walters and an intricate Japan-made embroidery, paneled and applied to Halley Stevensons' incredible Dundee-made waxed cottons, striking across Zip-up Cardigans and a sharply tailored Field Jacket.

The season's colour palette takes its cue from Belafonte's iconic album artwork, soft pinks, oranges, blues and yellows given a sun-washed, worn-in treatment across bespoke Irish linen. Madras check becomes a signifier of cultural inheritance, from Black Ivy to steel band style, Ska and beyond, this cloth weaves its way through multiple subcultures, recontextualised by Daley for Spring/Summer 23.

Artwork calls on two rising talents. Self-taught Ethiopian-Norwegian artist Olana Janfa works his irreverent, playful figures into bespoke monograms and typefaces. Compositions inspired by Ethiopian orthodox art are applied to t-shirts and hoodies in dense jersey, a subtle nod to the spiritual ties between the East African nation and Jamaica via Rastafarianism and wider pan-African movements.

Meanwhile, London-based Kione Grandison utilises paint and collage to explore themes around her own Jamaican, German and British heritage, merging ancient African mythology and modern representations of afro beauty in her cross-cultural practice. For SS23, Grandison has created an incredible steel pan ND logo applied across both jersey program and wider collection imagery.

Accessories see the return of Daley's trademark hand-crocheted bags, belts and bucket hats in season-appropriate lilacs, oranges and browns - all made in the UK. A series of new partnerships expand on the collection's key themes. Stylist and accessory designer Harris Elliott of Le Tings offers a range of collaged bags for SS23, all constructed from repurposed materials sourced in Accra, Ghana. DJ and label owner Bradley Zero taps into classic '60s silhouettes with an exclusive sunglass frame produced by his Sub Sun label. Finally, a bold collaboration with British-Jamaican hatter Uptown Yardie introduces two striking, handmade, high-domed models; the Garvey and Rockers trimmed with the collection's bespoke silks.

Visuals this season pay homage to photographer Irving Penn's legendary Small Trades series. Set against a simple studio backdrop, for his latest lookbook Nicholas gathers a sizeable cast of characters spanning generations and occupations, from Barber to Chef, Yogi to Musician as well as key SS23 collaborators: Kione Grandison, Harris Elliot, Uptown Yardie and Bradley Zero. Part of the wider ND community, each figure is posed with the tools of their trade - a celebration of craft and calling. To name just a few: Trinidadian steelpan legend Fimber Bravo, a pioneer and fearless innovator who has reimagined the pan for global audiences across five decades. Musician, director and long-time collaborator Don Letts. Award-winning filmmaker Akinola Davies Jr. Poet and artist Rene Matić whose work explores themes around skinhead culture and 'britishness.' Alex Rita and Errol of label and cultural platform Touching bass and sculptor Favour Jonathan whose practice taps into the grand artistic tradition of her home, Benin City, Edo State.

Spring/Summer 2023 continues the brand's community-building ethos across both visuals and collection. Music, movements, people and place are absorbed into the ND universe, a process of cross-pollination imbuing each garment with a sense of rootedness and purpose. As ever, community, craftsmanship and culture sit at the core of Nicholas Daley's expansive vision.



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NICHOLAS DALEY

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

NICHOLAS DALEY

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PICZO AT WEFOLK

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TROY CASTING AT BRYANT ARTISTS

MOTION DP

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JOSH COBB
JOE HURREL
GRIMSHAW MINK

SOUND RECORDING

SEBASTIAN RENAUD AT ELEPHANT RIDERS

ND TEAM

SHAUN SOMERVILLE
LUCAS SMITH
SASKIA WEIR
KAZUKO HOWLIN
RUBEN DOUGLAS
YOTTIE ZAPANTIS

GROOMING

NATHANIEL BURY AT MILTON
ROHAN NURSE

HAIR STYLIST

SHARON ROBINSON AT OF SUBSTANCE
ROHMARRA KERR

MAKE-UP

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FOOTWEAR

CLARKS ORIGINALS

EYEWEAR

SUB SUN

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