

**MY HAT**

'It's handwoven leather and is from my collaboration with Raymond Mashishi for the winter 2012 collection.'

**ON DRESSING**

'I hate fussing over clothing or overthinking a look.'

**MY FAVOURITE CITY**

'Hong Kong, for the way it integrates Eastern and Western cultures.'

**MY JACKET**

'It's multi-functional. The cut is tailored to flatter the body, the leather and zip details give it an edgy feel.'

**MY WAISTCOAT**

'Being autumn, it works without a shirt. Waistcoats are adaptable, they tie a look together and work for layering, which is key this season'

**MY BELT**

'I made it. The boldness and sheen of the buckle pulls the ensemble of muddy colours together.'

**SHALDON KOPMAN**

*Urban cowboy*

**MY TROUSERS**

'These panelled printed leather trousers are my favourite this winter. They are comfortable, warm and have a great fit.'

**MY BOOTS**

'They're made from 100% recycled material, including leather offcuts and soles made of tyres. Bothwell Ndlovu made them for the Naked Ape collection.'

**MY HANGOUT**

'The Troyeville Hotel in Joburg is homely and their food is delicious.'

A model-turned-designer who's taking on the fashion world with savvy

A naturally creative and adventurous individual, Shaldon Kopman was a model in New York, Milan and Paris and worked as a stylist in Kigali, Lagos, Melbourne, Chicago and Dubai. After his curiosity took him to India and China to learn more about design, tailoring and fabric, he distilled this knowledge into a menswear line.

'At the time, there was a limited selection of affordable, luxury menswear in the local market,' he says of launching Naked Ape at SA Fashion Week in 2010 (to rave reviews). Since then, his bespoke tailoring service has grown steadily.

He describes his customers as 'men who want a unique and personal experience when choosing their wardrobe'. He draws on his previous job as a stylist to advise them on what works for their bodies, and how they can maximise their look in a subtle but individual way. He also produces top-quality items, preferring to work with natural fibres such as wool, silk, linen, cotton, bamboo and hemp.

Naked Ape will be launching its first ready-to-wear collection this winter, titled 'Basotho Cowboy', championing Shaldon's own aesthetic for clothing that is street and savvy, yet practical and versatile, while maintaining the artistry of classic tailoring.

Creating and producing a complete range as an independent designer in the local industry is no easy feat, but Shaldon is determined to prove that the local market can produce quality pieces as good as any international brand. 'In a country that is bursting with creativity and inspiration, we must present our own perspective to the international market,' he says.

BY CHIPO MAPONDERA