

SUIT UP

Welcome to Men's Style Pro, blogger Sabir Peele's virtual style classroom. The man behind the blog shares how his fashion prowess and consistent vision sets his site apart from the rest.

BY NICOLE MALICK

What does one wear to interview a Philadelphia style blogger that got his start as the 2010 winner of *Esquire Magazine's* "Best Dressed Real Man Competition"? I struggle with this in the days before meeting Sabir Peele of *Men's Style Pro*, but it turns out there is no need. The man behind the fashion accolades and devoted blog following isn't here to judge. When he's off duty he's just a regular guy—a basketball-playing, music-loving Philadelphian to whom good taste comes naturally.

Peele wears an olive green corduroy suit with a plaid shirt, burgundy tie, and crisp white pocket square. The Philly local thanks his grandmother, a seamstress, for inspiring his interest in fashion and for his well-curated wardrobe at a young age. He describes his style as classic, but not conservative: you're likely to find him in vintage pieces, Ralph Lauren, or custom suits. He goes for sporty and tailored and chooses accent pieces such as shoes, vests, and socks over gaudy, eccentric embellishments. He's not about kitsch.

Neither is his website. When *Men's Style Pro* was first launched, it featured a black background, low

quality photos, and in hindsight, was just "too damn jumbled." Now, it is clean and neatly organized—more of an online magazine than a blog. Peele's posts are informative and approachable, ranging from how-to guides, brand reviews, and style tips to videos of Peele shopping, getting dressed, or otherwise interacting with his readership. When he collaborated with brands like Johnston & Murphy or Mantorii Custom Footwear, he featured that too. Peele promises he doesn't blog just to show off his own style or tell

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readers he dresses better than them, but to be an inspiration for them. He laughs and adds, "Yeah, I do dress better, but I want you to dress better, too."

The key to a successful blog? "Have a set path," Peele advises. "Say to yourself: I want to write about this, in this voice. After finding a unique schtick," he adds, "listening to friends and readers is the only way to continue growing." Peele goes on to describe his wife's



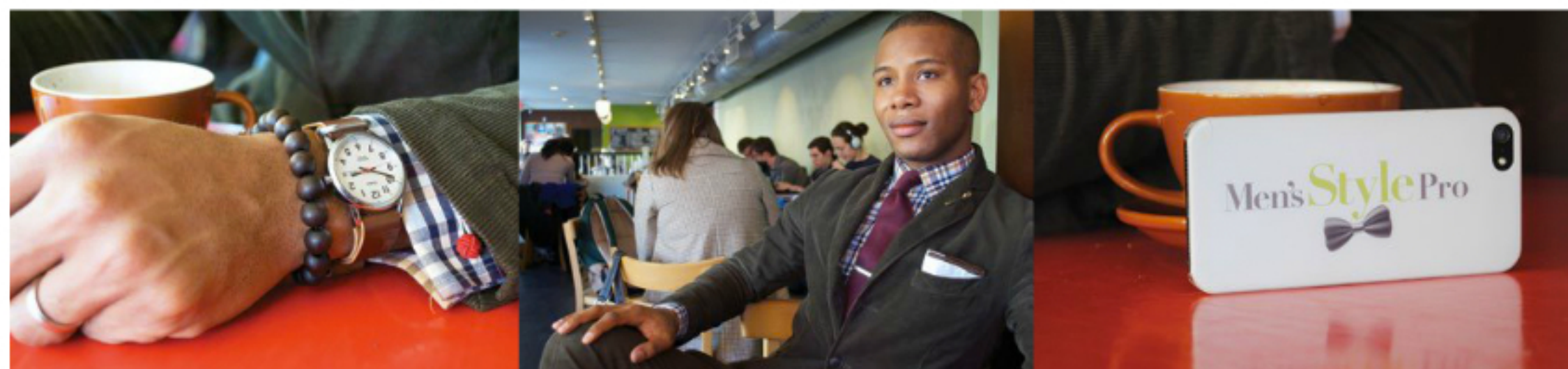
Classic style comes naturally to Sabir: What some may call "very dressed up" Sabir simply considers "dressed well for the day."

unabashed editing of his posts and turns around to give her a playful nudge. "It's easier to have someone you know rip your site apart first," he teases her, adding that this ensures only polished pieces will reach your audience. Despite

character of his site. He isn't shy about ridiculing one request from Crocs for women: "First of all, you didn't read the title of the site," he smiles. "It's *Men's Style Pro*—I don't do women's wear. And why would I put Crocs on my website? Maybe a crocodile..."

With his wide influence, Peele's main goal is to help others advance their own style. "Even if you don't want to, just try. It's not going to kill you." As his website grows, he plans to add a shopping component and more editorial content. He might even consider granting one of the many requests he receives from readers to become contributors—but only if that someone can prove to be a true style pro. Ultimately, Peele affirms, it comes down to your style: "If you're going to wear something, you better wear the hell out of it."

See him do just that at mensstylepro.com. 



All images photographed by Chidera Ufodu '15.