

Hats aren't just for heads. In many sports, scoring three times in a row is called a hat trick.

To the Brim

Communications expert Pam Chambers talks about her signature style: hats.

BY KATHRYN DRURY WAGNER

PRESENTATION COACH and public speaker Pam Chambers is well known around Honolulu, not just for her teaching skills, but also for always donning fashionable chapeaux. In a time when many people seem intimidated by hats, Chambers goes in the opposite direction, wearing them daily. “My outfit isn’t complete without a hat,” Chambers says, noting that she’s been enjoying them “since I was a hippie in 1968. I wore

bandanas, then Carly Simon slouchy felt hats, then berets.”

Since she has such a public job, Chambers’ hats have become part of her brand, Pam Chambers Consulting. “The only time I don’t wear one is if I’m a keynote speaker to a group that doesn’t know me yet. I think it’s distracting.” She busts out a hat on subsequent appearances.

She has about 30 hats in her current collection, down from 60 after a recent move. “There’s Panama, cloche, pillbox, beret, fedora ... plumage, not so much.”

But the hat population is creeping back up, she admits. “I found a new source, Catherine’s Closet [on Merchant Street], that is within walking distance of my apartment. I’ll go in wearing one hat and walk out with another one on my head,” with her first hat demoted to a shopping bag.

To maximize space, she stores her hats in three ways; straw hats in a stack, non-vintage hats in the closet, and only vintage hats receive the honor of hat boxes. “And I always have two hats in my car,” Chambers says.

In addition to Catherine’s Closet, Chambers scores her hats at collectibles shows and Neiman Marcus. She usually spends around \$70 on a hat, though she went up to triple digits for a “very expensive, authentic Panama hat. I don’t wear it, which makes it impractical. No, I don’t regret it. The quality and craftsmanship were gifts that I gave to myself. But I’ll buy knit berets at Forever 21 for \$5, too.”

Chambers’ favorite hat is a flapper-inspired number with a bow.



GOLDEN GIRLS

If the summer weather has your complexion heading past dewy and right into shiny, you might like Tatcha, a new line of handmade blotting papers.

According to company founder Vicky Tsai, these *aburatori-gami* were used for hundreds of years by geisha; they are made in Japan from abaca leaf paper.

Originally the papers were a byproduct of the work of gold artisans, who used paper to protect the metal they were working on. The protective sheets of paper became flecked with gold, but also soft and absorbent—ideal for freshening the face or setting makeup.

Tatcha’s version of the beauty papers are fragrance-, oil- and powder-free, and biodegradable. They’re sold in packs of 30 or 90. You can find them in Honolulu at eco-chic Super Citizen, 22 South Pauahi Street, 599-4333.

◀ TOP IT OFF

If you’re hat-shy, Chambers suggests the following:

Tip 1: Don’t just randomly try on hats. Ask for opinions from a sales associate or friend.

Tip 2: “Put on a hat, hold your head up and you’ll get enough compliments to be emboldened to keep it on.”