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Tech Lit

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Coco Chanel

Coco Chanel was a big role model to lots of women to stand up for their “clothes rights”. Chanel was born on August 19, 1883. Her real name was Gabrielle Bohnuer Chanel. She got her nickname “Coco” in her short show-biz career. Her mother died when Chanel was only 12. She had 5 siblings. Her father sent her brothers to work at a farm, and her and her sisters Aubazine, an orphanage. When Chanel turned 18 she was too old to stay at Aubazine so she went to a boarding school. Later in life she found out that her father had sailed to America to seek fortune and she was sent to live with her aunts. She also said that she was born a decade later than 1883, and that her mother had died when she was much younger than 12.

Chanel’s first hopes and dreams were becoming a professional singer. Her first job was a seamstress, but sang at a café in her free time. She auditioned lots of times, and her youth and physical charms impressed those who she auditioned for, but her singing voice was not good. She was determined to find employment, so she went to work at a place where they dispense glasses. When glass season was over she went back to boarding school and she realized that stage career was not her future. Chanel went back to sewing when she realized that stage career was not her future. She was all about comfy. She preferred short skirts over corsets. She is most known for her perfume Chanel no.5, Chanel cardigan, bellbottoms, little black dress, and many more.

Chanel created a fabric called jersey fabric. The jersey fabric was made out of a machine knit manufactured for her by the “Firm Rodier”. Chanel got the idea from

tennis, golf, beachwear, and hosiery because they were made out of a similar fabric. She also created a dress called the little black dress. The dress was made out of thin silk crepe de chine, wool, and chenille long for the sleeves. She created it so the non-wealthy could be dressed like royalty. Another thing that Chanel produced was the Chanel bag. The original bag was made out of jersey/leather on the outside. The bag was hand stitched in a quilted design. The strap was chain and had a burgundy red lining. Karl Lagerfeld updated it. It stayed the same shape with the clasp and chain strap he worked on changing the logo CC into a rectangular twist lock and wove leather through the shoulder chain.

Some interesting facts about Chanel were that she liked to sunbathe, she made sun tanning popular. Another interesting fact was that she moved to Switzerland during a war. She didn't like all the men designers designing for women because she said that they don't understand women. She didn't like all the waist cinchers, padded bras, heavy skirts, and the stiffened jackets they were producing. She was 70 years old and retired 15 years before, but she still decided to step back into business. Chanel was old and was getting tired from designing, but she kept going and was preparing her spring catalog. She had gone for a long drive that afternoon and decided to go to bed early. She died on Sunday, January 10, 1971, at Hotel Ritz where she had lived for more than 30 years. She may have died that day, but her style still lives on.