

# RUSSELL

## pearls & POISON



I truly love my life and my philosophy is that the next greatest thing is just about to happen!

### Do you like living in London? Why?

I adore London! No matter where I travel in the world, it's the most exciting and intoxicating thing to come home to London. The creative energy in this city is remarkable and special. I love London's traditions, grittiness, vibrancy and eclectic mix of cultures and attitudes. For anyone who lives a creative experiential life, there is no greater city in the world. That said, a taxi driver said to me the other day that in London you need both time and money and I think he is right and that's a sadness as it drives creative energy and talent away as most people have neither. I spend most of my time on the water on an incredible houseboat which is essentially an art installation on water. It's quite magical and is a place where I can both create and escape. Honestly it's like a little spiritual oasis in the middle of the metropolis. It's the perfect place for a creative soul to play.

### How would you define/describe your style?

I would describe my style as a little bit of Boy George crossed with bohemian tramp! In all honesty, I take my inspiration from many things: street, nature, history, art and crash it all together. It takes me seconds to decide on an outfit and it's purely driven by my feelings and emotions. Sometimes I strap on my armour, other days when I feel more vulnerable I wrap myself in soft comforting fabrics and textures. It's all completely instinctive and I'm not trying to look or act like anyone else. No real role models, just myself!

**London Faces**, a portrait gallery by Alexa Roche Photography, takes you behind the curtain to feel the diversity of London and discover its most extraordinary characters. With London Faces, Alexa's goal is to shine a light on remarkable personalities and uncover their unique nature and beauty. The outcome of this journey is a vibrant portrait gallery showing the true colours of London.

Find her at: [www.alexarochecom.com](http://www.alexarochecom.com) or Instagram [@alexarochephotography](https://www.instagram.com/alexarochephotography) [@london.faces](https://www.instagram.com/london.faces)

### You told me once that your favourite colour is purple because it's exotic, hedonistic and it's the colour of spirituality. Could you tell a bit more about it?

I love purple because it's exotic and hedonistic. It reminds me of princely robes and deep velvet curtains in bordellos and brothels. It conjures up sensuality, sexuality and adventures in exotic mysterious locations. It's the colour of stories and history, religion and spirituality. These themes have all had a big influence on my life and philosophy.

### Can you tell me more about you, your job and your lifestyle?

These days my work is my true inspiration. It shapes my life and makes me deeply happy and fulfilled. Essentially, I do a few things. I mentor and coach people on impact, presentation and personal image. I work with corporate leaders, entrepreneurs, celebrities and even the occasional politician. I teach them the art of stage presentation, storytelling and how to style and dress themselves to match their aspirations in life and work. I also design dinner parties for business and pleasure. Everything from an intimate soiree for eight all the way through to a full-on dinner party for 250 at the Dorchester in London. My design style is rich, bohemian and eclectic and I take my inspiration from powerful and emotive stories. For me it's all about encouraging intimacy and connection for your guests in an incredible, unexpected environment with beautiful food and wine.