

Alan Cumming hosts Tony Awards without pants, sparks debate on formal wear shorts

BY JUSTIN ROCKET SILVERMAN

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS Published: Monday, June 8, 2015, 1:59 PM

Updated: Monday, June 8, 2015, 5:01 PM

A A A

SHARE THIS URL



THEO WARGO/GETTY IMAGES

Hosts Kristin Chenoweth and Alan Cumming, in shorts, perform onstage at the 2015 Tony Awards.

Who wears short shorts? You will, apparently.

Alan Cumming's shorts suit at the Tony Awards has fashionistas again talking about the ultimate non-traditional marriage: a suit jacket and a pair of Bermudas.

Cumming not only sported shorts, blazer and bowtie on the red carpet, but then changed into a lavender version to open the ceremony.

"Mr. Cumming ... shows us this is a thing to do," said Stephen Ferber, who designed Cumming's Stephen F lavender outfit. "Now that Alan has done it, we are going to do more formal shorts."



DIMITRIOS KAMBOURIS/GETTY IMAGES

Cumming wore a different pair of shorts on the red carpet earlier in the night with Kristin Chenoweth.



THEO WARGO/GETTY IMAGES

Cumming's lavender shorts retail for \$350 from Stephen F.

Ferber admitted that such a look is rare in American formal fashion, and much more likely to be found on a British schoolboy, but said it's more and more common in the capitals of Europe.

Meanwhile Lucio Castro, who designed Cumming's red carpet outfit specifically for the Tony Awards, acknowledged that formal shorts are a statement that doesn't work for everyone.

"Alan never shies away," said Castro. "He loves bold prints so we developed this 'Eye of Horus' print with this in mind. I loved the idea of pairing the jacket and classic tuxedo underpinnings with shorts."

Pharrell Williams also likes the look, most recently rocking white shorts with a white blazer and white bow tie to the Grammy Awards in February. He wore shorts again that night on stage while singing "Happy."

It's fashion forward, but it's still rare on the mean streets.

"It's just not something you see grown heterosexual men wearing," observes celebrity stylist Phillip Bloch, who has worked with Hugh Hefner, Johnny Depp and a host of other male celebrities.

"I just don't love the look. Whenever I've tried it myself I end up feeling like Little Lord Fauntleroy."

Bloch did clarify that shorts and a blazer can work in a Hamptons or summer resort atmosphere.



JEFF VESPA/WIREIMAGE

Pharrell Williams rocks formal shorts with Helen Lasichanh at the Grammy Awards this year.

But once a man put on a tie, those shorts needs to be swapped out for pants.

"In the city, it's just weird," said Bloch. "It also creates an odd mood at an event because you are the only one doing it."

Still, for New Yorkers who want to give the look a try this summer, the men's shop Stephen F is opening next month in the Meatpacking District and will carry a full line of the shorts Cumming wore at the Tony Awards.