

Introduction



Put on a pair of Charles Philip slippers and all of a sudden the foot's strict adherence to the ground becomes lighter. Take a few steps forward and you're in a world of indescribable elegance and playfulness. You're a gentleman, you're a lady; you have an uptown poise and a downtown coolness. Live large and travel light, darling. Absent the burden of weighty boots and stiffness of pumps, you stride with ease, and wend your way with panache. Things become easier, more spontaneous. Who knows what you'll be up to.

Charles Philip's shoes, inspired by the classic nineteenth century Tuxedo Slipper, evoke images of English Clubs filled with dapper men of taste enveloped in thick clouds of smoke; Victorian parlors, silk cravats, leather arm chairs; couples dancing in evening wear; Hugh Hefner puffing a pipe in his bathrobe, Marlene Dietrich seductively slipping across the screen...

While rich in their historical associations, its various precursors by no means take away from the uniqueness of the shoe's design. At 24, Charles Philip conceived of the idea for his shoes in his native Milan and produced them in Shanghai, where he currently resides. The designer's diverse background and well-traveled flair influence what he creates. Together he and his design partner, Sheila Pitigala, masterfully combine the subtleties of structure with well-chosen fabrics and colors. The details inscribed in the slippers stem from their dedication to craft, to quality, to movement, and to experimentation.

The result: a style that comes from a place distinctly of the present. Blurring boundaries, the shoes are neither masculine or feminine, formal nor casual. They're versatile and functional without being bland; clean and simple without being pretentiously minimal. Gone are the constraints of laces and heels, buckles and snaps. You make them your own. Whether you're stepping out into the street, into a soiree, or just into your living room, Charles Philip's slippers convey a sense of inimitable elegance in wearer.

- Alison Nguyen