



Channeling  
the **SEDUCTIVE** style of  
Sam Cooke and Harry Belafonte,  
**MAXWELL** shows us how a  
**CRISP SPORTS JACKET** adds an  
element of **FLAIR** that a full  
suit just can't touch

Smooth

to  
the

Max

Photographs by BEN WATTS



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### Come Untied

Strike a rakish note: Lose the tie; add cuff links and a pocket square.

**silk-linen sports jacket**  
\$3,790  
**TOM FORD**

shirt.....\$560  
pocket square and bracelet  
**tom ford**  
pants.....\$360  
**ps paul smith**  
loafers.....\$155  
**geox**  
sunglasses **persol**  
cuff links **tiffany & co.**

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### Let It Shine

A Rat Pack sheen demands you dress up. No sneakers, no T-shirts.

**cotton sports jacket**  
\$210  
**DKNY**

shirt.....\$225  
**burberry**  
tie.....\$13  
**h&m**  
pants.....\$545  
**maison martin margiela**  
loafers.....\$125  
**g.h. bass & co.**  
pocket square  
**paul stuart**  
ring **david yurman**  
watch **tag heuer**  
where to buy it?  
go to [gq.com/go/fashiondirectories](http://gq.com/go/fashiondirectories)



## Mad Max

Anyone remember the neo-soul movement? At the back end of the 1990s, it was the patchouli yin to hip-hop's Polocologne yang. But at the dawn of the 2000s, the careers of neo-soulers like D'Angelo, Erykah Badu, Lauryn Hill, and this guy, Maxwell, started disintegrating one at a time. Hell, even Maxwell pulled a Dave Chappelle. I mean, Maxwell? What demons could the smooth dude in tinted shades who made 1996's *Urban Hang Suite* be facing that would cause him to disappear for almost a decade? Well, in case you missed him tearing down the Staples Center at this year's Grammys with his lovesick hit "Pretty Wings," he's back. And to hear him tell it, he didn't spend eight years out of the public facing private demons. He spent eight years in private dodging public demons. "I didn't want to have a midlife crisis," Maxwell says. "People who are very focused in their early twenties miss out on being young. Then they bug out." So in addition to behaving like a normal twentysomething by going out *a lot*, he recorded three albums' worth of material. And sat on it. Until now. Last year he released the dark, moody heart-tugger *BLACKsummers'night*, and it debuted at number one. (People desperately miss neo-soul.) The other two albums will come out over the next few years. After that? "I stepped away once," Maxwell says, "and I'll do it again."—WILL WELCH



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**Polo, Player**

Go for a polo with panache—not one for the court or the course.

wool-mohair sports jacket  
\$425  
**BANANA REPUBLIC**

polo shirt.....\$138  
**marc by marc jacobs**  
pants.....\$530  
**dior homme**  
shoes.....\$285  
**john varvatos**  
hat **tomaz & williamson** at **jj hat center**  
ring **gregg wolf**  
watch **hamilton**

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**A Jacket That Works**

Perfect for the office during the summer. Contrast it with dark pants and tie.

linen sports jacket  
\$1,295  
**RALPH LAUREN BLACK LABEL**

shirt.....\$375  
tie.....\$95  
and pants.....\$395  
**ralph lauren black label**  
pocket square  
**paul stuart**  
glasses **ray-ban**  
hair by **vernon scott II** for **moroccanoil**.  
grooming by **tia dantzier** for the **b. lynn group**. set design by **noemi bonazzi** at **marek & associates**. where to buy it? [go.to.gq.com/go/fashiondirectories](http://go.to.gq.com/go/fashiondirectories)