



BACK IN THE SADDLE

One of Dior's most recognisable designs from the early noughties is experiencing a surge in popularity. GRACE CAIN has the lowdown on an era-defining bag



IT'S HAPPENING. I have officially reached the age where the trends of my youth – the diamanté-laden bubblegum-pink creations that filled my wish list when I was an MTV-watching, velour-tracksuit-wearing preteen – are back in fashion. *Love* that for me.

Much can (and has) been written about the breakneck cycle of fashion trends and how it pertains to the noughties time warp in which we currently find ourselves – but at the very least, it does present the opportunity to get lost in nostalgia for the simple life. Leading the ubiquitous Y2K movement? The instantly recognisable Saddle Bag, a characteristically irreverent invention by John Galliano. This unconventional silhouette made its debut as part of the designer's SS00 collection for Dior, a theatrical conflagration of '70s references, contemporary hip-hop culture and classic Western flair. Embellished with branded charms and available in a collectable array of colours, prints and fabrics, the kidney-shaped companion soon became an era-defining accessory. Thanks to the likes of Paris Hilton, Mischa Barton and Carrie Bradshaw, the Saddle Bag was, like, *literally everywhere*.

And then, in 2007, it kind of just... disappeared.

If you sold or otherwise disposed of your vintage Saddle Bag during this period, I feel for you. It didn't take long for the wheel to come full circle, although the Saddle Bag's return to world domination was initially slow. The first Big Bag Bang came in 2014, when a vintage iteration was spotted in the clutches of Beyoncé Knowles. A smattering of sightings on the likes of Bella Hadid and Adwoa Aboah kept the Saddle at the edges of public consciousness until 2018; then it was memorably relaunched by Maria Grazia Chiuri via a sweeping Instagram takeover and the second golden age of the Dior Saddle Bag had officially begun.

Today, a new generation of crop-top-wearing, TikTok-creating preteens are adding the Dior Saddle to their own wish lists. And they have plenty of choice: from floral prints and the maison's signature Dior oblique canvas to denim and fringed versions. As for me? I'm off to see if my old pink Motorola Razr will still switch on. □

This page Dior Saddle Bag in oblique Jacquard £2,800. Opposite page, top row, from left Saddle Bag in calfskin £2,800, Saddle Bag in Zodiaco Fantastico embroidery £2,950 and Micro Saddle Bag in goatskin £1,900; middle row, from left Saddle Bag in calfskin £2,700, Micro Saddle Bag in goatskin £1,900 and Saddle Bag in tie-dye denim £2,950; bottom row, from left Saddle Bag in oblique embroidery £2,950, Micro Saddle Bag in goatskin £1,900 and Saddle Bag in calfskin £2,800

Luxury Accessories, Ground Floor



Scan the QR code to delve into the world of Dior fashion and accessories