

Jean Paul Gaultier Monologue

Hello, Bonjour, I am Jean Paul Gaultier. I am very happy to be here in the de Young Museum of San Francisco. So, what will you see with me? You will be with me and I will tell you a little of my secrets about the exhibition. I'm very happy to be here with you. I will show you first, on the right, and the way I'm dressed, the *mariniere*, it's like the sailor t-shirts. I love it, it's like something very graphic, that I wore when I was a little child, at the time I didn't like it, but later figured out they are very graphic and can go with everything, like tuxedo jackets, or so, I made it as a dress for women with long dresses with ostrich feathers and lots of seams. I try to change it every the time. I will do some

***mariniere* during all my career, maybe I've done hundreds, I love that. What I love also, you hear the songs, I also love the music, which is very pleasant.**

Welcome, I know you, come in.

I love the mermaid, I love the Virgin, so first the Virgin. The Virgin, which Virgins do I love? I love Madonna, of course, because she's like the Virgin, she's fantastic. She's an incredible woman, who has power and also sexuality, and is very beautiful. She's the exact woman I wanted to dress, she's the incarnation of that. I have had an incredible collaboration with her over the years, for special tours, for *Blond Ambition 2*, where I show my corset on her.

She was not the first person I made a corset for. The first corset was for my teddy bear Nana. I invented the corset for him. In reality, I didn't invent any corset; I saw my first real corset in the armoire of my grandmother. She had one in satin, pink satin, with lace in the back. She had to put vinegar in her stomach to have a contraction to pull her stomach in, makes the waist very small because of the contraction of the stomach. Maybe I don't suggest to anyone to do that. Me I tried, I won't wear a corset, even if I love to show the men in sometimes strange situations. You will see a corset for men, but me, I will not wear it. I like to show the male object. Why? Because the woman, for me, is powerful, even sometimes more powerful than the man. I am for

equality of the sexes. So I want to show that men can be fragile and not be ashamed of crying or to be fragile. My first collection for men was the male object.

Welcome to the show, it's a beautiful show. You will see all the different things I do. Some mermaids and I also did some mixing of ethnic parts. I have always been influenced by different beauty. In reality, most important for me, a different kind of beauty, for me that is the best thing. I love to mix the extreme - the platinum blond on the very black, black, black skin. I love that, I love the cultures and am very influenced by the culture. I'm trying to make a melting pot, let's say, of different culture in

my creations. I also love the food, although that different from cultures, I love to eat them.

Ah, I see you make fun of my accent. Cuz I don't speak a perfect English accent. I know it's like that. I pronounce it the French way because it's the way I do. You know I think you understand me, I hope so, and anyway, if you don't understand me you can understand me through my clothes because that's the thing I do the best. I am not a good speaker and am not a seducer. My seduction is through the clothes, I love that.

I wanted that job, the passion that I had, because I saw a movie when I was 12 years old, a movie of the 40's, I am not that old, I saw it when I was 12. You can see it in the exhibition, a little part

of it, *Falbas*, about couture in the 40s. I wanted to be like the couturier. Micheline Presle she was my muse. I wanted to do the couture, as a designer, I wanted to do that. After her I had many muses: (French names), Madonna, an infamous muse, of course, she has influenced me, (name), a boy, he has that kind of fragility and strength that I love in men, and I love that strongness in women. I think after women's lib they put a fire on the bra. Me as a couturier, I put it back with a corset because that kind of femininity, as a strong woman, you can have what you want, be beautiful for yourself, but you are not obligated to do it. That is the secret.

Ah, do you hear that beautiful song, I love that, you recognize that song, doesn't matter, it's

beautiful; it matches very well with my exhibition.

What do you think of my exhibition? You will stay?

Don't go, look very well at the details.

You are listening too, from me, you are welcome. Desire, it's a very important word, yes we're going to say that. The desire is into your eyes. Everybody has fire or wants the fire.

I will not sing, that's debasing. I even did a record, it was just for the experience, *Aow to do zat*, it was a big mistake to do that, I don't regret it, to make the video, I loved it, for that experience it was a very good video, it was directed by Mondino, a very beautiful video.

I think that with my collection you can travel around the world, and I want to show you a

**different kind of beauty. That's my purpose, I'm not
an artist, I am only someone who is fascinated to try
to show the beauty that we are everyone of us.**

**Enjoy the show, enjoy the exhibition. Come and
look at every detail.**

Dialogue - Mannequin and Mirror

Mannequin(Man): “One, two”

Mirror (Mir): “One, two”

Man: “One, two, three”

Mir: “Four, five, six”

Man: “Eh”

Mir: “Oh”

Man: “Too thin.”

Mir: “Too tall.”

Man: “I look tired.”

Mir: “Not at all.”

Man: “Am I too cleanly shaved?”

Mir: “C’mon, it’s fine, not bad at all.”

Man: (Laughs) “Eh, eh, I’m talking to you.”

Mir: (Whistles)

Man: “Is he ignoring me, or what?”

Mir: (Whistles)

Man: “Eh”

Mir: “What?”

Man: “Mirror, mirror, on the wall, who’s the handsomest of them all?”

Mir: “I think I’ve heard this one before.”

Man: “Answer me.”

Mir: “And you, what do you think of me?”

Man: “Looking at you, I think you are almost better looking than I am.”

Mir: “Talk to me, tell me you are mine.”

Man: “You look like me, but you are just a reflection.”

Mir: “I am good looking, aren’t I, you said so yourself.”

Man: “That’s true, and I have to say quite wonderfully dressed. I can’t say if I would dare to wear that.”

Mir: “Why not?”

Man: “I don’t know.”

Mir: “I love this long riding coat and these boots, I think they are fantastic. Plus, they suit you, it’s great.”

Man: “I feel exposed.”

Mir: “Why not, men didn’t always wear suits and ties, why shouldn’t they deserve nice fabrics, long dresses, corsets, and skirts. For centuries, men’s clothing was just as luxurious as women’s, why not now? Just think of the Samurai,

Renaissance princes, 18th century novelists, the dandies, garments don't have gender. Men also have the right to wear haute couture, express yourself."

Man: "Sometimes the image is not clear, something.... people looking, is coming in between us."

Mir: "Don't worry, don't worry about people looking at you, be yourself."

Man: "Who am I really?"

Mir: "Who knows, your image is a game, an illusion. Play with it, make a work of art out of me, be free."

Man: "What about my identity?"

Mir: "You can't rely on appearance; you have a number of faces, just like a portrait by Picasso, pass through the mirror."

Man: "Well, at the moment I can't actually move."

Mir: "Ah, it is true that you look kind of frozen, as a reflection, that doesn't give me much room to maneuver. I look more like a page in a magazine, but at least I am speaking." (Laughs)

Man: "Shh, not so loud, someone is looking at us, let's continue to be still. I don't want to get involved with the crowd. I'm not good at, you know, small talk. It's not my thing."

Mir: “Ya, just smile and be pretty.”

Man: “Oh, by the way, you look very handsome.”

Mir: “So do you.”

Mannequin - Mohawk and Red Tights

Hello

What good do you think you could get out of working with you?

Uh, I think I should, uh

How do to what

How to do what

How to do that in a new way

How to do that

How to do that

How to do that in a new way

How to do, to do, to do, to do, to do

How to do five times

Bravo

Tell me something marvelous

La, la, la

How to do, to do, to do that

How to do that

Bring some tech, technical idea

Bring some technical idea

Some technical

Some technical idea

I'm sure of it, if not, I shouldn't do that, you know

How to do

How to do

How to do that

Uh, uh, uh

Bravo

Yes, I think I should, uh

I think I should, uh, uh

La, la, la

I think I should first

How to do, to do, to do

Bravo, bravo

To do that

What will happen

What will happen

What will happen

What will happen with that

Tell me something marvelous

What will happen

What will happen

What will happen

What will happen with that

How to do, to do in francais

To do that in Francais

No, no, oi, oi, oi, no, no

Oi, uh, Peter, Peter

Peter I think I should bring some tech, tech, technical idea

Bring some technical idea

Some technical idea

Bring some technical idea

Some technical idea

Bring some tech

Peter, tr, tr, tr

I think I should, oi, oi, oi

I think I should no, no, no

I think I should bring some tech, tech, technical idea

I think I should bring some tech, tech, technical idea

I think I should bring some tech, tech, technical idea

Goodbye