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THE CREEPER

Brothel Creepers found their origins in the years following World War II. British soldiers returning from the desert wars had worn suede boots to which they had attached improvised rubber soles made from old rubber tyres. Returning to London, the ex-soldiers made their way to the undesirable "night spots" of Kings Cross and Soho.

They were still wearing this rubber sole footwear or derivatives that had been put together by their cobblers. Creeping around brothels was enough to give the shoes their name.

The 1950's saw the appearance of the first real youth tribe: the Teddy Boys. Their appearance was based on the Edwardian Saville Row renaissance; it was something of a cynical interpretation. They dressed in fine clothes but ignored any airs or graces of the Edwardians. They were young men that had money and were going to dress up and have a good time.

These fashions consisted of drainpipe trousers and drape jackets completed with a pair of brothel creepers. The distinguishing features of the creeper (crepe sole, D Ring eyelets, quilted or interlace front aprons and suede or leathers often in colours) were instantly recognisable.

The 60s, however, saw the arrival of the Mods & Rockers; the disappearance of the Teddy Boys and brothel creeper seemed imminent.

However, the creeper returned onto the scene in the late 70s, when the Punk movement took place: the punks roaming the Kings Road were the key wearers. The creepers' immortality was now guaranteed.

Throughout the 80s, creepers were taken up by the psychobillies and, in the 90s, by the Rock and Roll revivalists.

In recent years, the Rockabilly revival has seen the Creepers out in force once again.

Underground Creepers use the authentic tooling and lasts to ensure that the look and shape remain true to the cause and ensuring that they remain the popular choice on stage and on the runway.

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