



RECLAIMED

From his own identity to the physical items he's found in his grandmother's closet and at thrift stores, Rocky Zimmerman's style is reclaimed.

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"My mom used to have these 2010s pump high heeled boots that looked army or military. I would wear that look around the house with witch hats."

Rocky Zimmerman's style is inspired by many things: Pinterest, his grandma, trends, to name a few. Though most importantly to Zimmerman, it is inspired by who he is — an expression of himself.

This started when Zimmerman was little, dressing up in his mom's clothes and shoes and experimenting with all sorts of ways to express himself.

"I would dress up in this black blouse that [my mom] used to have, and these super 2010s pump high-heeled boots that looked army or military," Zimmerman said. "I would wear that look around the house with witch hats."

In middle school, Zimmerman's outfits were characterized by sweatpants and baggier, more masculine clothing. This is what Zimmerman was surrounded by. That was until high school came and his environment changed drastically.

"[The summer before freshman year], I got rid of

all of my joggers, and I just started fresh," Zimmerman said.

At CHS, Zimmerman not only had an opportunity to start fresh, but also had new influences surrounding him. Instead of the sea of athleisure and pajamas of his middle school years, he observed less polyester, more denim and far more individuality.

Beyond just style, the acceptance of differences was key for Zimmerman to feel comfortable at Community.

"In middle school, you have your groups, your categories of people," Zimmerman said. "But here, there are no popular people. I don't feel like there are bullies."

This newfound comfort that Zimmerman discovered at CHS is what allowed him to embrace his identity and find his own unique style. Inspired by others in the halls of CHS, Zimmerman began to wear more jeans and jorts. Eventually, for his birthday in his sophomore year, Zimmerman asked for a pair of shoes that would launch his style into a more feminine, chic realm. At first, he would wear the black Mary Jane-style flats with jorts and a t-shirt, but as time passed, Zimmerman began to often pair them with items he found in his grandma's closet, like her red cardigan.



These were not the only pair of shoes that mark Zimmerman's style; he often wears his vintage Coach shoes, which he sourced by digging around in his mom's closet. "They had never been touched," Zimmerman said. "And now they're falling apart."

Before Zimmerman came to Community, these shoes would not have been something he would have worn. He even remembers seeing them but not liking or wanting to wear them during middle school.

Wearing these shoes was a mirror image of when Zimmerman was young and would wear his mom's shoes and dresses around the house. Though he doesn't wear those items anymore, the closets of his mom and his grandmother are ever-present in his style.

Zimmerman thrifts much of his closet, finding good deals on unique items, but many of his favorite pieces are those of his grandmother's closet. Zimmerman describes his style as "grandma" partly due to the presence of these reclaimed items and the influence his grandmother has had on his style. From his glasses to his sweaters to his coats, his grandmother's fashion of the mid-to-late 20th century can be found, along with pieces from the late 90s and early 2000s, which he has found thrifting with his aunt in Lansing.

In all these reclaimed items, Zimmerman has created his own unique style that allows him to express his identity — to reclaim the identity of the little kid inside of him wearing heels and a witch hat.



"I saw my grandma's closet, and I was like, 'Okay, this is my closet.' I'm always asking her for advice on what I should wear. She is a big influence in my confidence."

