

REBEL RIOT

Nicholas Daley

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Seminal black punk outfit Bad Brains play central muse to **Nicholas Daley Rebel Riot AW26**. Genre-defying in both musical output and stage style, the group's subversive attitude sets the tempo for a collection rooted in nonconformity, Daley channelling their explosive sound and rebellious spirit through a series of DIY-inspired garments.

Sending shockwaves across Washington DC's nascent punk scene in the late 1970s, Bad Brains railed against hardcore's nihilistic tendencies, PMA, Positive Mental Attitude, their rallying cry, a belief that the music and the message held equal weight. Adhering to Rastafarian principles, higher consciousness remained foundational to the band, reggae, dub, jazz-fusion, rock and funk mediums through which to awaken and electrify their audience. Here, Daley finds common-ground, not only in a shared connection to Jamaica's cultural output, but too, in a refusal to be categorised, exploring genres, textures, subcultures and soundscapes without constraint.

Themes intermingling across the collection's key garments. The Hibiscus Cardigan takes a mod staple and distorts its formal proportions creating a heavyweight, oversized jacket layer. A thistle and hibiscus print becomes a blown-up bespoke Fair Isle, the meeting of national symbols a nod to Nicholas' Jamaican and Scottish heritage.

A new Harrington outerwear silhouette melds seemingly disparate subcultures, from Skinhead to Ivy, Modernist to Punk Rock. Hand-knitted detail plays with the red, green and gold of Rastafari while applied patches point to hardcore's DIY spirit. Deadstock military blankets lend a raw finish, a continuation of Daley's low-waste approach to material. Meanwhile, the Warm Up Jacket, a style now synonymous with the brand, takes on new form with corduroy panelling, zip pockets and a fully lined construction. Sportswear elevated.

The Rebel Chore Coat reshapes the Rebel Jacket of seasons past, buttoned-up and winter appropriate in wool, while the H.R Smock, taking its name from Bad Brains' frontman, provides an easy-wear pullover option in a dense cotton.

This season's fabrics focus in on texture, ageing and slow craft. A Made in Japan textile series features a 100% cotton Japanese Rebel Plaid with a worn-in appearance, a black Stripe Brushed Cotton with a soft, raised surface, the classic cotton-blend dobby Tucked Stripe Cotton with an irregular tucked weave and a 100% cotton Ombre Plaid featuring a psychedelic wave check in monochromatic tones. Elsewhere a luxurious 3D Merino Wool blends black and white yarns for a tactile finish while the Check Merino Wool carries a sophisticated, sharply rendered check; both produced by famed mill Morgado in the Portuguese region of Leiria.

Jersey remains central to the line, AW26 offering a selection of new styles. The Waffle Lined Riot Hoodie uses a classic waffle fabric, adding warmth to a staple item, a DK Polo mixes traditional pique cotton with corduroy in a quarter zip, while the Reggae Klub Rugby Jersey takes its cue from Scotland's sporting heritage. Introducing the Reggae Klub graphics across its two-tone body, Daley once again places his parents' 1970s roots reggae club night front and centre. Conceived as a layering piece the Waffle Military Henley looks to vintage British military base garments, an elongated body, curved hemline and neat crew collar suggesting a more elegant silhouette. ND standards return in new iterations and updated graphics. The Lion Tee provides fresh prints inspired by 1970s US reggae-punk artwork with the Sound Clash Tee paying direct homage to Bad Brains' iconic merch. The Jamaican hibiscus and thistle reappear in a pocket tee mixing embroidery and screenprints, with a Reggae Klub Tee flock print reimagining a Nicholas Daley staple in new colours.

Pant silhouettes reflect an interest in utilitarian cuts. New to the collection, the Carpenters Jean evolves the ND 5-pocket, switching denim for cotton canvas. Contrast green stitching, a traditional hammer loop and a leather patch featuring Reggae Man iconography place this piece firmly in workwear territory. Similarly, the Cargo Pant revises a functional basic, this season offered in a technical Italian cotton or Portuguese merino wool. The Pleated Trackpant provides a companion piece to the Warm Up Jacket, a wide and billowing cut in sturdy corduroy formalised with pleat detailing.

Knitwear becomes a celebration of wool itself, a reminder of yarn's endless possibilities. A brushed Stripe Jumper in muted shades riffs on familiar menswear staples with tonal 'ND' embroidery featured at the hem. Shirting looks to the Americana of the '80s punk era. The Dee Cee Shirt, a reference to Bad Brains' home city, introduces a nostalgic shadow ombre plaid across a boxy silhouette, its Reggae Klub embroidery reminiscent of vintage mechanic shirts. The Work Shirt continues the theme, a generous cut constructed in chambray and a distorted Japanese pinstripe.

AW26 collaborations continue existing dialogues. Daley returns to celebrated American shirtmaker **Gitman Vintage**, remaking the button down in a bold red, green and gold striped custom chambray. **Lavenham** bring decades of quilting expertise and British craftsmanship to the AW26 outerwear range, a three-piece capsule designed to protect and warm. The Riot Gilet and Riot Jacket utilise heavyweight wadding with recycled fibres in an onion quilting pattern, distorted checks across Japanese fabrics subvert tradition. Completing the line-up, **George Cox**, a mainstay of UK subcultures from Teds to Punks, lend their Derby silhouette, reworked for **Rebel Riot AW26** with a corrugated EVA creeper sole unit, contrast stitching and colourways inspired by '90s American combat footwear, their leathers designed to age and wear.

Accessories play with brand codes, the Yorkshire wool Hibiscus Scarf, Lion Face Trucker Cap and needlecord Lion Baseball Cap all carrying key ND motifs. Solidifying Daley's visual language, **Rebel Riot AW26** expands on the familiar, injecting fresh energy into an evolving personal narrative.

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