



MAINBOARD







TRENDS



Her: Coat, Burberry, \$1,795, us.burberry.com. Sweater, Maje, \$375, us.majc.com. Pants, Citizens of Humanity, \$218, citizensofbumanity.com. Shoes, Boss Hugo Boss, \$675, bingebess.com.

Him: Coat, Boglioli, \$1,245, boglioli.it. Sweater, Rag & Bone, \$395, rag-bone.com. Pants, Brunello Cucinelli, \$595, brunellocucinelli.com. Shoes, Vans, \$65, vans.com. Umbrella, London Fog, \$40, londonfog.com.

by KATHRYN ROMEYN

The double-breasted, traditionally waterproof cotton gabardine overcoat has a long, storied lineage that harks back to the mid-19th century. While in modern times the outerwear staple tends to be less about function and more about style, its heginnings were purely utilitarian. The classic coat got its name from the trenches of WWI, where British forces donned shorter, lighter, waterproof coats in subdued shades by homegrown labels including Burberry and Aquascutum (which in Latin means "water shield").

Though many believe Hampshire's Thomas Burberry invented the trench, he didn't develop his water-repellent gabardine cloth until 1879, using it for a trench coat forerunner, the belted Tielocken. A couple decades earlier, in London, Aquascutum created designs that were precursors to their trench coat and was the first to outfit the military in 1853. (Up in rainy Ireland, a Scot named Charles Mackintosh patented his first waterproof rubberized fabric—notably smelly—in 1823, which ushered in the first raincoat, >

As the wet season starts, a brief history of the enduring and universally adored TRENCH COAT—and the overcoats it's inspired.

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