

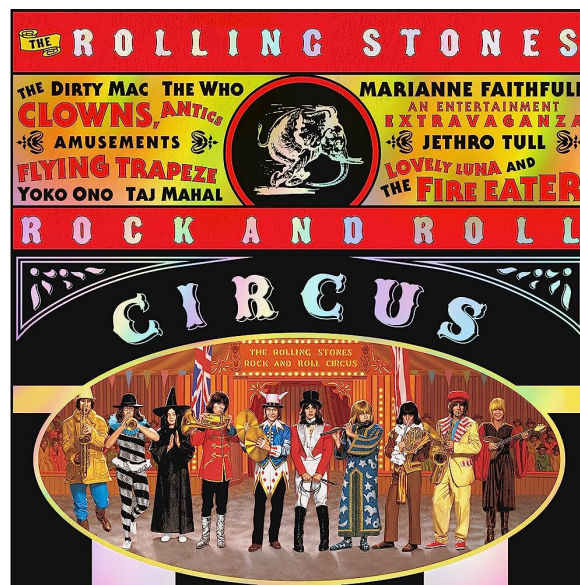
## Tommy Hilfiger Collection Fall 2017: Rock Circus

The beauty in Tommy Hilfiger's Rock Circus theme is the fact that both rock 'n roll and the circus carry ideas of theatricality, defiance, and even chaos. A circus consists of multiple glittering acts, while rock music is an amplified blend of genres including blues, country, and soul. On Tuesday, models strode around the serpentine runway, bringing new life to these long-running acts. The looks were nods to grunge and hip hop, to the backstage pass and rebellion. This was rock 'n' roll under the big top.

Hilfiger is not the first ringmaster drawn to these tunes. Schiaparelli's 1938 Circus collection featured whimsical prints and was interpreted by some as a political statement about chaos in Europe at the time.



The Rolling Stones, longtime Tommy friends and collaborators, staged a Rock and Roll Circus performance in 1968, while the fashion world continues to borrow the circus's spirit and iconography, such as *Vogue Italia's* 2007 editorial spread featuring stilt walkers, clowns, and jugglers.





The plaid layers and black boots of Rock Circus pay homage to the grungier side of rock, first folded into high fashion by Marc Jacobs's collection for Perry Ellis as well as Anna Sui for S/S 1993. In her (now redacted) review of Jacobs's collection, *New York Times* fashion writer Cathy Horyn declared, "Grunge is anathema to fashion..." With the benefit of hindsight and the addition of some acrobatics, *TOMMY HILFIGER* would likely beg to differ.

