

THOSE HOLLYWOOD GUYS IN THOSE HOLLYWOOD HILLS—ALMIE ROSE

GO AHEAD, CALL IT A GENERALIZATION, BUT THERE'S A DEFINITE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EAST COAST AND WEST COAST GUYS. YOU CAN TELL JUST BY THE WAY THEY DRESS (AND PERSONALLY, I'M THRILLED THAT WE DON'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH SNOW). MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE LOS ANGELES IS SO ENTICING TO CREATIVE TYPES THAT THEY MIGRATE HERE, BUT YET, AFTER A YEAR OR TWO, EVERYONE WINDS UP WITH SIMILAR CHARACTERISTICS.

I guarantee you that if you attend a party, any party in L.A., you will hear from at least two people about their latest screenplay or music video they are producing and/or directing. I'm not saying this is a bad thing, it's just one of the prices you pay for living in Los Angeles, like bars closing early and dealing with traffic. Los Angeles isn't strictly defined as the City of Los Angeles: it's more like a state of being. You can pretty much look at a guy and tell which part of Los Angeles he lives in. Thus I present to you a handy guide for distinguishing the many different types of LA men (and yes, most of these criteria apply to women, too.)

THE HOLLYWOOD GUY: This guy is usually the son of a famous producer or director. His heroes are Robert Evans and Spike Jonze. He's a scoundrel, but he knows it, so that almost makes up for his behavior. He probably has a signature look, like Ray-Ban sunglasses or boating shoes. He either slyly drops hints about his Hollywood elite upbringing or just puts it all out there. He's working on a screenplay or an indie film. It's indie because he doesn't have major studio backing, but his dad is helping him get it out there. He loves attention and has an incredible apartment. He goes out to all the hottest spots in L.A. solely to brag about it later. Don't be surprised if he wears sunglasses indoors. Expect him to reference David Lynch and take off for New York at a moment's notice.

THE VALLEY GUY: Totally unpretentious, unless he's the Bret Easton Ellis Valley type. If he is, he will never tire of telling you about what a hardcore L.A. native he is. If not, he's one of the

nicer guys in the city. He's probably laid back, but hard working, unless he's one of those older, rough Valley types who waits in lines for clubs in Hollywood and comments on how attractive (or unattractive) the women in line are. Thankfully, the Pauly Shore variety of Valley guy is extinct.

THE DOWNTOWN L.A. GUY: He is just so cool. He loves a quirky accessory, like a thick-rimmed pair of glasses, a jaunty hat, a tie, or a whimsical tattoo. He has a secret love of all Apple products. He throws large parties where everyone is too cool to introduce themselves to each other until someone plays 90s music, then everyone dances with just a hint of irony. He knows where all the good food trucks are. He probably has a bike, but that doesn't mean he uses it.

THE SILVERLAKE/ECHO PARK GUY: This guy is either pretending to be poor or is legitimately poor. He's either in a band, directs music videos, is a photographer, or all three. He's stoned for 70 to 90 percent of the day. He's fond of ironic tee shirts. He listens to music by bands with names like Polar Bear Squad and Lunchtime. He pretends that he does not strive to be cool or care about anything. He most likely has either scruff or a full-blown beard. His girlfriend is very thin and dresses like an Urban Outfitters catalog. He smokes American Spirits and drinks either whiskey or Tecate beer. He uses either an iPhone or an old discontinued phone because he "really doesn't care."

THE BRENTWOOD GUY: Ugh.

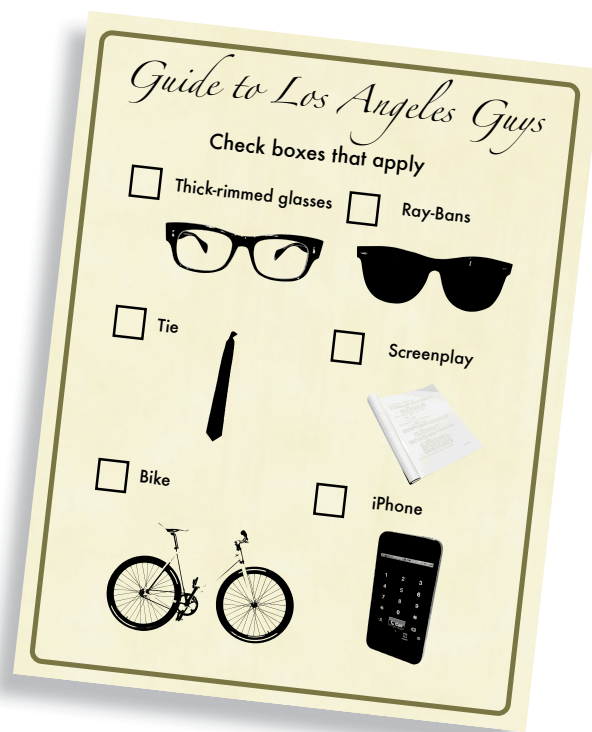


Illustration: Jordan Holcomb

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"This is how it works: you're young until you're not." -- Regina Spektor