

MEDIA/PUBLISHING

## Vogue editor Andr Leon Talley dies at 73

January 19, 2022



Andr Leon Talley was *Vogue's* first Black creative director. Image credit: Andre Leon Talley/Instagram

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Andr Leon Talley, former editor and creative director at *Vogue*, has died at 73.

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The beloved fashion journalist, who passed away on Jan. 18, was *Vogue's* first Black creative director and was a known advocate for diversity in the fashion industry. He was a well-known figure at the Met Gala, an author, a judge on the show "America's Next Top Model" and a trendsetter.

"The loss of Andre is felt by so many of us today: the designers he enthusiastically cheered on every season, and who loved him for it; the generations he inspired to work in the industry, seeing a figure who broke boundaries while never forgetting where he started from; those who knew fashion, and *Vogue*, simply because of him; and not forgetting, the multitude of colleagues over the years who were consistently buoyed by every new discovery of Andre's, which would discuss loudly, and volubly no one could make people more excited about the most insignificant fashion details than him," said Anna Wintour, editor in chief of *Vogue* and global chief content officer of Cond Nast, in a statement.

"He was magnificent and erudite and wickedly funny mercurial, too," she said. "Like many decades-long relationships, there were complicated moments, but all I want to remember today, all care about, is the brilliant and compassionate man who was a generous and loving friend to me and to my family for many, many years, and who we will all miss so much."

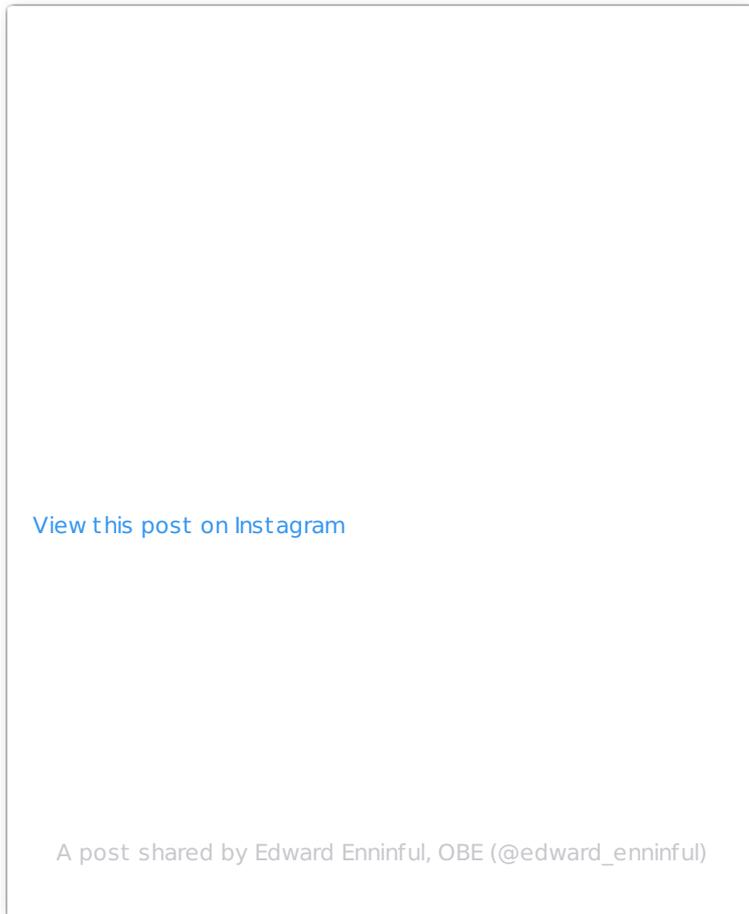
### Trailblazing Mr. Talley

Mr. Talley grew up in the Jim Crow era in the South, raised by his grandmother who he credited to introducing him to both luxury and *Vogue* magazine. At the beginning of his career, he worked for several esteemed institutions and publications including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, *Women's Wear Daily* and *The New York Times*.

He served as *Vogue's* fashion news director from 1983 to 1987, then became the magazine's first Black creative director, a position he served in from 1988 to 1995. He then became the magazine's editor at large in 1998, holding in the role until 2013.

Mr. Talley was beloved for his candor and confidence, known for his iconic style and for always serving as an advocate for diversity and inclusion in the fashion industry. Several public figures, including Kim Kardashian,

Zendaya, British *Vogue* editor in chief Edward Enninful and more expressed condolences on social media upon hearing news of his passing.



Designers including Diane von Furstenberg, Nicolas Ghesquire, Pierpaolo Piccioli and Victoria Beckham are also mourning the fashion icon.

Mr. Talley was considered by many to be a trailblazer, and paved the way for other Black men and women in fashion, including the late Virgil Abloh.

Mr. Abloh, men's artistic director of Louis Vuitton and founder of the Off-White label, passed away of cancer in November 2021. He was 41 years old ([see story](#)).

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