

SAGABOI

FW26 MENSWEAR COLLECTION

RIDDIMICAL AMBUSH

FW2026 PRESENTATION DESCRIPTION & DESIGN BRIEF

COLLECTION TITLE: RIDDIMICAL AMBUSH

BRAND: SAGABOI

FORMAT: CURATED STATIC MENSWEAR PRESENTATION

DATE: 17 JANUARY 2026

TIME: 18:30

LOCATION: FONDAZIONE SOZZANI BOVISA, MILAN

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Sagaboi FW2026, titled *Riddimical Ambush*, is a menswear collection built on Caribbean authorship and presence. It examines how uniform and formal dress, once imposed as colonial structure, became reinterpreted as Caribbean authority through lived culture, labour, craft, and ritual. The collection explores discipline, restraint, and command through a Caribbean-rooted interpretation of military structure and ceremonial dress.

At its foundation is a personal and historical lineage. Creative Director Geoff K. Cooper is a descendant of the *Merikins*, African American freedom fighters who came to Trinidad in the early 1800s following service with the British during the War of 1812. The term *Merikin* is a creolised version of “American”. This ancestral narrative of service, relocation, settlement, and self-determination informs the collection’s marine and military language.

Paper boats and planes will be used in the spatial design of the wider project. These are not decorative. They acknowledge passage, movement, and arrival as an act of will.

The collection also draws from Trinidad’s strategic naval and military history in the twentieth century, including the island’s role as a base and staging point during World War II. Rather than leaning into nostalgia or costume, *Riddimical Ambush* treats military reference as structure. Formation, rehearsal, order, and restraint become design principles. The Caribbean is not framed as a backdrop or “backyard”. It is the author.

Rhythm functions as a central organising logic. Steel pan culture is treated as innovation, ingenuity, and discipline, rather than celebration alone. Repetition, precision, and collective coordination inform silhouette, detailing, and styling. The result is a collection where power is expressed quietly through control and intent, and where presence is asserted without announcement.

SILHOUETTES AND TAILORING

The collection centres on structured menswear with uniform-adjacent clarity. Double-breasted tailoring anchors the wardrobe, referencing Caribbean elegance and the sharp authority of ceremonial dress without exaggeration. Outerwear functions as statement and armour, led by two central signatures.

Key outerwear and tailoring signatures include:

- The RAMAJAY Coat, a floor-length, military-informed coat carrying cultural and spiritual resonance
- The Merikin Marine Jacket, a wool outerwear piece informed by the 1800s Red Coat uniform history associated with Merikin service, reinterpreted through Sagaboi's contemporary Caribbean lens.
- The Merikin Marine Shirt a cotton ready-to-wear pieces developed across multiple colour variations featuring Sagaboi's steel pan stick motif
- Double-breasted suits in black, white, tweed, red, and leopard
- A black double-breasted tuxedo and white double-breasted suit as formal anchors
- Military-informed coats and structured outer layers treated as command pieces
- Corduroy sets and workwear-influenced tailoring that echo uniform logic with Caribbean wearability

MATERIALS AND TEXTILES

Textiles are chosen for weight, surface, and meaning. The collection builds depth through corduroy, tweed, wool, jacquard, bouclé, suede, velvet, fur, cotton, crochet, and knits, balancing structure with tactility.

- Corduroy appears across suits and sets, reinforcing the collection's grounded discipline
- Tweed, including black and white tweed with subtle multicolour flecks, references Caribbean people worldwide with restraint
- Cotton shirting and cotton outerwear, including the cotton Merikin Marine Jacket, deliver crisp formality and clarity of line
- Wool, referencing the historic uniform tradition associated with Royal Marines and Merikin service, appears alongside a multi-colour wool texture that extends the collection's language of global Caribbean presence
- Jacquard, including a jazzy multicolour set featuring orange, deep teal, purple, and blue, introduces Carnival and calypso as textile language, treated as rhythm and composition rather than costume
- Bouclé, including gold with rich brown, and gold with silver, introduces muted lustre and ceremonial weight
- Suede, velvet, and fur, including leopard treatments, are used as reclaimed statements of presence and authority, not ornament
- Crochet and knits appear selectively, connecting handwork and labour to the collection's wider language of craft, rhythm, and resilience

COLOUR PALETTE

The palette is controlled and authoritative. Core tones include black, white, cream, khaki, and military green, punctuated by red corduroy, ochre, purple, and leopard tones. Accents appear through muted metallic details and the subtle multicolour flecking within select tweeds, bouclé, and wool textures. The overall effect is depth and composure rather than contrast for impact.

CODES AND MOTIFS

A defining code is the steel pan stick motif, developed as a recurring signature across garments and accessories. It appears as placement detail, structural reference, and a brand marker of Caribbean discipline and authorship. The pan stick tie functions as a distilled emblem of this language, a wearable object of identity that carries the collection's organising principle in a single form. At the heart of the collection and Sagaboi: the Pan Stick. A signal of energy. A symbol of movement. We don't follow rhythm. We make it. The tool that beats the drum of our culture.

Now reimaged as our mark—our motif.

POSITIONING

Riddimical Ambush asserts Caribbean authority through restraint, structure, and precision. It is not protest-wear and it is not nostalgia. It is a disciplined luxury wardrobe where history sits inside the cut, the weight of cloth, and the organisation of the body in space. The collection positions Sagaboi as a menswear house operating with international rigour, grounded in Trinidad and Tobago, and led by a cultural authorship that does not ask permission to exist.

DESIGN & SPATIAL BRIEF

The spatial design reinforces the collection's emphasis on order, discipline, and containment. The presentation will occupy a single, clearly defined main space. Models will be arranged in a considered formation, maintaining clear sightlines and measured circulation. The environment will remain calm and uncluttered, avoiding theatrical staging or excess scenography.

Props

Paper boats and paper planes will be incorporated as subtle spatial elements, placed directly on the floor. These elements reference movement, passage, and presence without functioning as decoration or narrative devices. No hanging props will be used. No video projection is planned.

Sound

Sound will consist of an original steel pan composition created specifically for the presentation. This is not commercial recorded music. The sound functions as atmosphere rather than performance, reinforcing cadence and structure while remaining restrained and controlled. All required music documentation will be provided in accordance with SIAE and CNMI requirements.

SUMMARY

Sagaboi's FW2026 presentation, *Riddimical Ambush*, is a curated static installation. It presents a disciplined vision of contemporary menswear rooted in Caribbean authorship and international precision. Through controlled spatial design, restrained sound, and formal presentation, the collection positions Sagaboi as a brand operating with clarity, authority, and intent within the global fashion calendar.

ABOUT SAGABOI

Sagaboi is a fashion house authored from the West Indies.

Born of Caribbean rhythm, resistance, and refinement, Sagaboi examines how style operates as presence. How dignity is worn. How culture is carried forward through discipline, elegance, and intent. The brand draws from the life and times of the saga boys and gyal of the early twentieth century, men and women whose command of dress was not trend-driven but declarative. What began as a sartorial stance evolved into a recognised Caribbean subculture. Style as self-determination. Appearance as authority.

Sagaboi operates through a layered cultural language shaped by migration, diaspora, ceremony, and survival. From Carnival to conflict, from leisure to labour, the brand traces how Caribbean people have historically inhabited structure and re-authored it as their own. Uniform becomes tailoring. Rhythm becomes order. Rebellion becomes form.

At the centre of Sagaboi's design language is the steel pan, the only acoustic musical instrument invented in the twentieth century and the only one created in the Caribbean. Forged from oil drums. Perfected in panyards. A sonic identifier of the region. An instrument born of resistance, ingenuity, discipline, and collective intelligence. The pan stick strikes the note. It sets the rhythm. Reimagined within Sagaboi, it becomes a mark, a motif, and a code. A signal of movement. A symbol of energy. A tool of command.

Sagaboi collections unfold as chapters rather than seasons, each building a cumulative narrative rather than responding to trend or calendar.

From Ramajay, an inaugural meditation on freedom, rhythm, and Caribbean masculinity.
To Fresh Off the Boat, a reframing of arrival, migration, and optimism.
To Calypso Arrival, where performance, spectacle, and cultural authority take the stage.
To Out and Bad, a declaration of swagger, defiance, Carnival, and unapologetic presence.
To Port of Call, a moment of dignity, poise, and lived ceremony.

Together, these chapters lead toward Riddimical Ambush, a study in rebellion, colonial contribution, war, and militant elegance.

Through this body of work, Sagaboi is not entering an existing fashion lane. It is establishing a new category. One where Caribbean cultural intelligence, disciplined tailoring, and symbolic codes operate as luxury. Where fashion functions not as costume or commentary, but as cultural infrastructure.

Together, these chapters form a fashion symphony.
Rooted in rhythm.
Steeped in resistance.
Stitched with reverence and remembrance.

Sagaboi does not present the Caribbean as fantasy, nostalgia, or spectacle. It treats it as fact. As future. As an authoring force within global fashion. Through considered materials, rigorous construction, and enduring codes, Sagaboi builds Caribbean future classics, garments designed to carry cultural weight while moving forward in time.

ABOUT GEOFF K. COOPER

Geoff K. Cooper is a creative director, designer, and cultural strategist.

He is the founder and Creative Director of Sagaboi, a fashion house built on Caribbean authorship, rhythm, and restraint. Cooper's work is shaped by lineage, history, and lived experience. He is a descendant of the Merikins, African American freedom fighters who settled in Trinidad following service during the War of 1812. That history of movement, service, and self-determination underpins his approach to fashion as structure rather than spectacle.

Cooper's collections examine how dignity is worn, how power is expressed quietly, and how culture operates through discipline rather than display. His design language draws from Caribbean military history, ceremonial dress, steel pan culture, and everyday life, embedding meaning directly into cut, material, and form.

Alongside Sagaboi, Cooper leads a multidisciplinary creative practice, Geoff & Co., spanning fashion, visual development, brand strategy, editorial direction, and cultural storytelling. His work operates at the intersection of design and narrative, engaging fashion, luxury, and cultural institutions with equal rigour.

Cooper's voice is defined by clarity and intent. He positions Caribbean culture not as a reference point or aesthetic source, but as an authoring system, one that continues to shape global style, sound, and identity.