# Elle UK celebrates diversity and authenticity at its 2025 style awards



As Elle UK celebrates its 40th anniversary, the prestigious Elle Style Awards returned to central London with an evening that combined glamour, creativity, and cultural recognition. The event honoured a diverse array of talents across fashion, film, music, and sport, showcasing how style continues to intersect with identity and personal expression in 2025.

Among the standout winners was actress Naomi Ackie, named Performer of the Year after a milestone period in her career marked by critically acclaimed screen roles. Ackie arrived on the red carpet in a striking DiPesta sheer, wet-look gown, a bold departure from her typical casual style, which consists of hoodies, jeans, and chunky trainers. She described her award-night look as "kind of crazy," highlighting the fabric’s almost wet sensation, yet the gown perfectly suited the occasion. Speaking about her evolving style, Ackie revealed her wardrobe is heavily influenced by her film projects, often incorporating pieces borrowed from sets such as Star Wars and Master of None. Despite this, she modestly identified as more of a timeless staples person than a trend follower, favouring classic items like jeans, blazers, and oversized hoodies that blend comfort with style.

The evening also celebrated designers who have made lasting impacts on British fashion. Bella Freud, recipient of the Cult Creative Award for her playful yet sophisticated contributions, presented herself in her own creation—a tailored Grand Parcel suit embroidered with a fleur du mal motif. Freud described this design as a fusion of "French poetry meets American rock 'n' roll," reflecting her goal to infuse femininity with a confident, masculine swagger. Beyond her sartorial achievements, Freud has gained wider public visibility through her podcast, Fashion Neurosis, where icons discuss the psychological influences behind fashion choices. Freud’s approach centres on the importance of personal identity over fleeting trends, cautioning that losing sight of oneself can diminish true style.

Also recognised were footballers Hannah Hampton, Leah Williamson, and Lucy Bronze, who collectively received the Group of the Year award for their contributions to women’s football. While their primary focus remains on sport, each has cultivated a public persona that intersects with fashion. Bronze, reflecting on British fashion, praised its elegance and subtle drama, noting how social media expands style inspirations beyond their immediate athletic circles. She emphasised that fashion is deeply personal, with individual ways of expression that do not always translate universally but enrich the cultural fabric.

The Elle Style Awards 2025, held at the iconic Brasserie Zédel, underscored the enduring relationship between fashion and personal narrative. Rather than adhering strictly to current trends, the ceremony revealed a more nuanced understanding of style as a form of self-definition and confidence—whether through couture, tailored suits, or oversized hoodies. This philosophy, marked by authenticity and creativity, emerged as the defining trend of the year.

The awards themselves form an integral part of London’s fashion calendar, having established their reputation since 2002 and recently returned as a key highlight for Elle UK’s anniversary. Supported by headline partner Topshop and champagne partner Moët & Chandon, the event continues to bridge the worlds of fashion, culture, and identity, spotlighting those who embody contemporary style in all its diverse forms.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/celebrity-news/naomi-ackie-lionesses-elle-uk-lola-young-london-b2823524.html), [[4]](https://www.inpublishing.co.uk/articles/the-elle-style-awards-return-25611), [[7]](https://www.inpublishing.co.uk/articles/the-elle-style-awards-return-25611)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/celebrity-news/naomi-ackie-lionesses-elle-uk-lola-young-london-b2823524.html), [[2]](https://www.hellomagazine.com/fashion/20221220159998/naomi-ackie-liquid-metal-gown/), [[5]](https://www.hellomagazine.com/fashion/20221220159998/naomi-ackie-liquid-metal-gown/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/celebrity-news/naomi-ackie-lionesses-elle-uk-lola-young-london-b2823524.html)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/celebrity-news/naomi-ackie-lionesses-elle-uk-lola-young-london-b2823524.html)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/celebrity-news/naomi-ackie-lionesses-elle-uk-lola-young-london-b2823524.html)
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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/celebrity-news/naomi-ackie-lionesses-elle-uk-lola-young-london-b2823524.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.hellomagazine.com/fashion/20221220159998/naomi-ackie-liquid-metal-gown/> - Naomi Ackie stunned at the London screening of 'I Want To Dance With Somebody' in a floor-length silver lamé gown, reminiscent of 1980s fashion with its strong shoulder pads and dramatic hood. The gown featured a thigh-high slit, side ruching, and a flowing train, paying homage to Whitney Houston's iconic style in 'The Bodyguard'. Ackie accessorised with strappy jeweled heels and minimal makeup, embodying a modern take on classic elegance.
3. <https://www.hellomagazine.com/fashion/20060221430902/ellestyleawards/> - In 2006, actress Keira Knightley was honoured with the Style Icon award at the Elle Style Awards. The 20-year-old, who had recently returned to London, accepted the award for Best Female Television Star and, on behalf of her hit show, Best Television Series. The ceremony, held at the Atlantis Gallery, also saw appearances from Oscar nominee Thandie Newton, Kelly Osbourne, and Dannii Minogue, among others.
4. <https://www.inpublishing.co.uk/articles/the-elle-style-awards-return-25611> - In 2025, ELLE UK announced the return of the ELLE Style Awards, marking a significant event in the magazine's 40th anniversary celebrations. The awards, scheduled for 9 September 2025 at Brasserie Zédel in London, aim to recognise both established and emerging talent across fashion, music, film, and culture. Topshop is the headline partner, with Moët & Chandon joining as the champagne partner. The awards have been a staple in London's fashion calendar since 2002.
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