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Coat Tales

The Burberry trench has provided cover for military men and movie stars alike

WHEN THOMAS BURBERRY, purveyor of outdoor gear for the sports inclined, was asked by the British War Office in 1914 to adapt his service uniforms for officers to military needs, he could not have imagined that his trench coat—named for its use in the trenches of World War I—would be adopted by fashion icons like Catherine Deneuve and Chloë Sevigny. Yet Burberry, who had started off as an apprentice to a country draper in Basingstoke, England, was used to outfitting the famous. He had, after all, supplied the Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen with his gabardine coats when he headed off to the South Pole in 1911. These days, Burberry designer Christopher Bailey outfits quite a different group—including celebs like Uma Thurman and heads of state like Jacques Chirac. —By Caroline Tell



Service Outrigs
BURBERRY



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1 A model poses in a Burberry suit in 1921 2 Nicky Hilton in the house plaid 3 The classic Burberry trench 4 A 1918 ad for Burberry's Service Outrigs 5 Uma Thurman covers up an evening outfit with a Burberry trench 6 Meryl Streep wears Burberry in the 1979 film *Kramer vs. Kramer* 7 Mike Wallace in 1991 8 Catherine Deneuve gives the trench a sexy edge in the 1964 classic *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* 9 Jacques Chirac flashes the famous plaid in 1995 10 Chloë Sevigny takes the trench downtown 11 Gemma Ward in the trapeze trench for spring 2006

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