



# OMG

# FASHUN

## CHELSEA BILLINGSLEY

26

Chicago, IL

HT: Chicago, IL

Fashion Designer

Single / No Kids

She/Her

 [@houseofchelseab](#) (6K followers)

### About

**Chelsea Billingsley** is a Windy City native and innovative designer who has been blending various art forms together for most of her life. Her fashion brand, House of Chelsea B, has always been about creating new perspectives in both the fiber and fashion communities. With an emphasis on eclectic luxury streetwear, she has used rope, synthetic and real hair, plastic bags, plastic cups, wiring, fake flowers and various other materials in her designs. For Chelsea, she ultimately strives to be "a vibe, not a trend."

### Story

- > Chelsea, a Chicago native, was born and raised on the notorious South Side. As one of four kids on her mom's side and one of seven on her dad's side, she also happens to be a twin. Early on, she struggled with a lot of trauma – from abuse and bullying, and everything in between. She says that growing up as a Black person in Chicago, you're expected to make it out through sports or the military. However, Chelsea found her calling with art and never looked back. She would eventually go on to earn a BFA in Surface Design and Textiles from SCAD.
- > She has always been an artist at heart, so she has dabbled in all types of artistic endeavors – from painting and visual arts, to doing hair and more. Fashion design sort of just fell into place as another piece to the creative smorgasbord within Chelsea. In fact, she says her artistic ambiguity is why she is able to thrive in the fashion world – she doesn't just have a linear point of view when designing, as she incorporates a variety of mediums into her designs.
- > She first created her brand after going viral back in 2016 for one of her dress designs. Since then, Chelsea has built quite a buzz for herself and has capitalized off her early success. In fact, she has already partnered with the legendary Jordan Brand and with Nike, by curating sneaker customization workshops for the 40th anniversary of the Air Force 1 shoe. Additionally, her work was featured on *Ru Paul's Drag Race All Stars*, and in music videos for artists like Flo Milli, Baby Tate, and Lucky Daye.
- > Sustainability was ingrained in Chelsea from an early age out of necessity – her family didn't have much, so she learned to make do with whatever they had. Fast forward to present day... If it exists as a material, Chelsea has probably used it in her pieces. Aside from unconventional materials, she also loves fibers like wool, cotton, polyester, and acrylic. She is most proud of her crocheted pieces, including her well-known puffer coat which she says is her labor of love. In the end, Chelsea simply loves the journey of creating, so no matter how long or difficult the process is, she always learns something new every step of the way.
- > For Chelsea, art in general is when she feels the most free. In fact, even when she doesn't have words to share, her artwork and her designs can speak for her. With a love for streetwear, music, art, and culture in general, she aims to blend all avenues together and push the boundaries in unexpectedly refreshing ways. Just as her tough upbringing in the streets of Chicago didn't stop her from achieving her artistic dreams, Chelsea doesn't plan on letting up in this competition either.

