

THE BIRTH OF THE T-SHIRT

Read the text and fill in the blanks with an appropriate word.

The T-shirt, or at least the T-shirt as we know it, (1) _____ born in the theater. When Tennessee William's play "A Streetcar Named Desire" opened in New York in December 1947, a young actor (2) _____ Marlon Brando went (3) _____ stage wearing a (4) _____ of blue jeans and a bright, white capped-sleeve T-shirt. It was the first time the T-shirt (5) _____ been seen publicly as anything (6) _____ an item of underwear and it set a fashion trend that was to last through (7) _____ the end of the century.

The idea for the T-shirt came (8) _____ Brando himself. He had worn one at rehearsals for the play. The director was (9) _____ impressed by the look that was created that he asked Brando to wear the shirt in the play itself. Brando may have seen the shirt being advertised by the American company Sears Roebuck. They had decided to market the shirt (10) _____ a fashionable garment in its (11) _____ right, rather than just something to be worn (12) _____ warmth beneath a denim work shirt (13) _____ an army uniform.

It was Brando, however, (14) _____ popularized it, especially with (15) _____ release of the film version of "Streetcar" in 1951. A short leather jacket completed the look that was to be adopted (16) _____ teenage rebels in many countries for decades afterwards.

