

See my special holiday offer at the end of the newsletter



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IT'S GLAD RAGS TIME!

What a relief! It's the party season at last. With so much doom and gloom around, we all need a bit of a party. Make sure that you go to as many as possible - you deserve it and, while you celebrate into the night, you will be missing all the depressing stuff on News at Ten . . .

So how will you dress up this year? There's a lot of glitz around in the shops but I have noticed a trend recently for looking mannish, even for evenings. Now I understand the need for suits with trousers for the workplace, but by and large I am not in favour of women dressing as men. It's just not sexy. Of course, there are ways that you can make the evening suit look feminine and glamorous:

- Choose a tuxedo style rather than a straight jacket, preferably with silk or leather trims or even beading or sequins on the lapels. This would make a key piece in your wardrobe, one that you can use year after year. By far if invest is what you are looking for this YLS Tuxedo jacket from Net-A-Porter at £1,430.00 is what the luxury market is all about.
- Make sure that the jacket sleeves are either very long so they look perfect with an evening glove, or can be rolled up, and wear a cluster of bangles or sparkling bracelets or even a statement cocktail ring...a bit of bling!



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- Find a simple camisole in silk or Lurex or sequined to wear underneath.
 - Add a short skirt with black or Aubergine opaque tights (The colour of the season) and a sexy shoe to the knee or over the knee boots or shoeboot. The bootees could be trimmed with sparkles or sequins.



- Make-up is essential, of course. Go for a smoky eye or a strong red mouth. Keep your hair soft. A loose wave would be perfect.
- You can go over the top on accessories. Forget the big handbags. Find one that will just take the essentials for the evening. Gina and Swarovski make gorgeous sparkling bags. So does Chanel. You could even look for a vintage Chanel bag - Liberty's has a wonderful vintage department for everlasting glamour.



- The long evening dress is everywhere this season. And what makes this a truly special occasion look is the clever detail of a slit on the side showing the leg. Now just how sexy can this be for all you lovely ladies with superb legs - not forgetting this is perfect for dancing as well as making an entrance



Another strong trend this year is the maxi skirt, in jersey, silk, velvet or satin. Top Shop has an impressive range to choose from that will even accommodate the coldest winter night. So does River Island, Zara, and another favourite of mine Anthropologie. However, you need a boyish shape with no hips to get

away with the straight column version. So if you have a bit of a hip try a soft A-line. Last week, I went shopping with a client who has a small slim frame, and we found a sleek black jersey maxi to which we added a cropped but chunky sweater, cowl necked and with long sleeves. The skirt would work equally well in the evenings with a cropped sequined top, perhaps one that drapes over a shoulder. A perfect look for entertaining at home or off to a friend's house.



The most flattering colours to look for are the jewelled tones. Ruby, emerald and sapphire always look sophisticated and good against the skin. Only the very young can get away with brasher colours.

Men are not exempt from new evening trends either. I see a definite move towards wide legged trousers but they will only work for the trim and slim figure. You can opt for a velvet or patent leather shoe, and



for that Frank Sinatra three-o'clock-in-the-morning look, wear a bow tie loose, not tied.

A pocket handkerchief is a must. This is where you can be really flamboyant with the colour and let your personality sing. So, enjoy yourself. Have fun. There's no charge for wide happy smile, no tax on a laugh.



And now that special Holiday Offer...

It's a two-for-one Christmas special on my full day packages...

Simply put: you and a friend, sister, or husband, can have me for the whole day for the same price...

What a lovely gift I can be this year!

Offer ends December 22nd so give this some serious thought to how to make two special people very happy...

Very best regards,

Patrick Swan