

THE Kit

BEAUTY &
FASHION

BEAUTY IN A BEAT FASHION HEAD TO TOE

Join fashion's tribal trend for spring and accessorize your khaki, black and tan with wild-cat spots, African-inspired prints, dip-dye patterns, wood, horn and *Out of Africa* attitude

BY DEBORAH FULSANG

SPRING SAFARI

Michael Kors
Spring 2012

please see story, page 6

body kit BLUE SKY

The sky, the sea, a glossy turquoise stone: the full spectrum of blue washed ashore during the Spring 2012 ready-to-wear and couture shows. Whether you're clad in a bikini, blue jeans or ball gown, the upbeat colour is the ideal choice for the warm-weather season.

BY DEBORAH FULSANG



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: Butter London 3 Free Nail Lacquer in Slapper, \$17, butterlondon.ca. Quo by Orly Nail Polish in The Blue Box, \$10, shoppersdrugmart.ca. Estée Lauder Pure Color Nail Lacquer in Teal Topaz, \$25, esteelauder.ca. Deborah Lippmann Nail Colour in Mermaid's Dream, \$22, murale.ca

THIS WEEK: TOP TRENDS



Military-inspired footwear gets a colourful lift on page 5

DAISY

MARC JACOBS



THE FRAGRANCE FOR WOMEN

DAISYMARCJACOBS.COM

FRIDA AND SOPHIE PHOTOGRAPHED BY JUERGEN TELLER



ask jeanne TO RENT OR NOT TO RENT?

Dear Jeanne, Thumbs up or down on rented frocks? Not sure I can afford the new party dresses I really want to buy, and I'm sick of wearing the same little black dresses over and over. (Then seeing them on everybody else, too.)—Rachael, Toronto

To rent or not to rent? That is the question. For those with busy social calendars, I totally understand the frustration of always feeling like you have to “pull another rabbit out of a hat”—and make your limited formal wardrobe go a long way without looking like you’re repeating yourself. There are all kinds of great rental options

out there, and, of course, guys do it all the time. Fees usually start at about \$50, and go up according to the cost of the dress. One site, [rentfrockrepeat.com](#), is especially helpful. Some vintage stores will also rent their pieces, sometimes for as little as 20% of the cost of the garment. When you rent, you don’t have to worry about cleaning bills, or being stuck with a dress that you’ve already made a big impact with once. And if your weight tends to fluctuate and you feel as though you’re between sizes, a “temporary” fashion fix of this nature would certainly do the trick.

I also think renting a dress makes sense if you’ve been invited to a themed soiree, and simply don’t have anything appropriate in your closet. I remember going to the “Black and White” Polo for Heart gala many years ago, and wanting to wear something striking in black and white. Since I had nothing of that nature, I went to a dress rental shop and found a sensational gown that really fit the bill. It wasn’t cheap to rent—something like \$150—and I certainly felt like a sad Cinderella the next day when I had to return it, but it did give me quite a bang for my buck.

Most celebrities borrow dresses all the time for their various red-carpet appearances, but then, that’s the business these gals are in. God forbid they’re photographed in the same look twice!

Still, rented frocks start to feel like costumes after a while. There’s something fabulous about wearing a great dress that you know you own: it becomes part of your style repertoire, a gorgeous classic that you feel amazing in. Some of the chicest women out there are those who aren’t afraid of repeating a great look. (No offense to Anna dello Russo, but puh-leez!)

Renting party frocks can not only get expensive, it can also speak of a lack of

commitment to your own sense of style.

I also applaud those with the creativity to change up the look of their owned party frocks with the way they accessorize. I know you said you’re tired of trying to re-invent your little black dresses, but keep on the lookout for some interesting little purple or red or navy or new “bottle green” number that you can dress up or down. Choose striking but simple, well-cut styles in quality fabrics that are flattering and classic. They’re investments, and could work for you in the same way as your standard black dresses do.

If you do decide to go the rental route, you’ll be able to afford the fantasy fare that may be beyond your means. Just don’t feel bad when reality comes crashing home, and you have to return it the next day.—Jeanne

Send your questions to askjeanne@thekit.ca. Follow @Jeanne_Beker on Twitter.

Jeanne is a contributing style editor to the Toronto Star. FashionTelevision airs Sundays at 5:30 p.m. ET on CTV.



ILLUSTRATION: FREDERICK WATSON

WHAT WE WANT THIS WEEK

TOP THE KIT LIST

BODY KIT

ON-THE-GO PERFUME

Principessa bottles good-in-your-skin sexiness with its Stellina, Arietta and Bellocia perfume oils. Our fave? Bellocia, with its floral and sandalwood-laced essence. Roller ball, \$35 (6 ml), [principessaabeauty.com](#)



FACE KIT

METALLIC EYE SHADOW

We’re seduced by these luminous M.A.C Extra Dimension eyeshadows. Creamy smooth, they can be blended out to a sheer shimmer or patted on for high-impact shine. Available April 5. \$24 each, [maccosmetics.com](#)

HANDBAG KIT

SUEDE SATCHEL

There’s nothing like a smart handbag to make you look good in an instant. This faux-suede bag with metal corners is our new favourite. Forever 21 rayon-blend purse, \$34, canada. [forever21.com](#)



HAIR KIT

TOP TEXTURE

Pop this hair balm in your purse for on-the-go texturizing when your hair is falling flat. Wen by Chaz Dean Sweet Almond Mint Texture Balm, \$30, [notshampoo.ca](#)



SHOE KIT

FANCY FLATS

Gold hardware atop a black patent-leather toe turns a classic flat into a shoe you’ll remember. Banana Republic leather Alexa Ballet Flats, \$110, [bananarepublic.ca](#)

CLOTHING KIT

PEPLUM SKIRT

Update the classic pencil-skirt silhouette with an of-the-moment peplum detail. This neutral piece pairs well with any basic button-up or printed blouse. Zara polyester skirt, \$89, [zara.com](#)



ACCESSORIES KIT

STATEMENT BRACELET

Oversized link bracelets accented many a spring runway show and underline our infatuation with this jumbo-scale Kara Ross bracelet, \$115, [kararossny.com](#)

one-minute miracle THE ONE- STEP

BY CHANTEL GUERTIN

Overnight bag overflowing? Swap your 17 products for one, and still have good hair on vacation. Uniq One All-in-1 Hair Treatment does it all—seriously: repairs damage, smoothes frizz, prevents heat damage, protects colour, detangles, prevents split ends and adds body, all in one minute. \$20, 800-387-7980, [uniq-one.com](#)



Blumarine Fall 2011



FESTIVAL FASHION



CITY TORONTO
NAME ASHLEY REGIMBAL-KUNG
AGE 27
WHERE MCCAUL AND RENFREW
OCCUPATION STUDENT AND COSTUME DESIGNER
WHAT IS SHE WEARING? Jeannot Boots, Guess coat and jeans, vintage hat with self-made heart pin, Danier bag, Ed Hardy scarf and Bella umbrella
INSPIRATION “My style is quirky. I wear costumes that are wearable for everyday life, with inspirations from icons like Charlie Chaplin. The umbrella just makes me feel like I’m walking underneath a circus tent. the scarf has Koi fish on it, and I thought its colour would make up for the grey day.”

BY PHOTOBLOGGER: GILLIAN MAPP, GILLIANMAPPONLINE.COM

THE KIT.CA



FASHION WEEK ROUNDUP

Get the best of backstage runway beauty, front-row outfits and, of course, fashionable shoes. Now that the mayhem is over, it’s time to review the best that Canadian fashion has to offer for fall.



Leigh Lezark at Paris Fashion Week

YOU LIKE US, YOU REALLY LIKE US

Our Facebook community is growing and we want you to join. Be the first to see our monthly magazine. Stay up to date on Kit news, fashion gossip and celebrity sightings. Share your thoughts with our Kit editors. We can’t wait to chat with you! [Facebook.com/thekitmag](#)

PRODUCTS: GEOFFREY ROSS, TORONTO FASHION WEEK; STEFANIA YARHI, PARIS FASHION WEEK; GLYNNIS MAPP

INTRODUCING DAISY



DAISY
MARC JACOBS
EAU SO FRESH

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OTOGRAPHED BY JUERGEN TELLER

THROW A DINNER

A flip through the TV dial on any given weeknight presents you with *Top Chefs*, *Kitchen Nightmares* and *Family Cook Offs*, as well as Rachael, Giada and Paula all showing you how to whip up something to impress your guests with. Despite our cultural obsession with food, cooking for guests is about as stressful as public speaking for some people. A few years back, After Eight mints published research (who else do you think looks at these things?) that showed half of 1,000 subjects surveyed found hosting a dinner party more stressful than going to work. A quarter of those people said they'd rather be in a job interview. To this I say, relax—it's just dinner. And unless you're very fancy, the guests will be your friends. You should learn to throw a dinner party.

Gail Simmons, Canadian girl-made-very-good as judge on *Top Chef*, host of *Top Chef Desserts* and author of *Eating With My Mouth Full*, understands where the stress comes from. "First of all, it's a lot of work. Then there's also this pressure, that's unfounded. Women on the go with family and lives are busy, and feel that dinner parties all have to be like Martha Stewart with party favours and place settings and themes. It's a ridiculous standard that we feel we have to live up to."

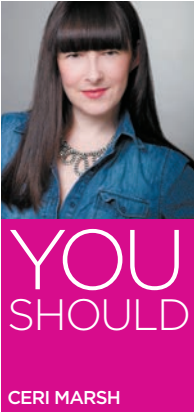
Society editor at *National Post* and *Hello!* magazine and frequent host Amoryn Engel advises side-stepping the stress by concentrating on five simple menus. "Practice on

your family until you can cook these recipes with your eyes closed," Engel says. She recommends meals that can't go wrong, like stews and osso buccos. "I can easily prep my *blanquette de veau* and it can be simmering away while I pour my guests a glass of wine."

As well as urging hosts to prep as much as possible in advance—set the table, pull out all the serving dishes, have your first course ready to go—both Simmons and Engel recommend getting help. Whether you spend a \$100 for a server to help with cocktails, plating and cleanup or a best friend who acts as your dinner-party wing man, you don't have to do it alone. "If people ask, 'What can I bring?' give them an answer rather than the ubiquitous, 'Oh, you don't need to bring anything. I've got it covered,'" says Simmons. "If you don't have time to make your own homemade strawberry soufflés, ask your friend to bring a box of cookies from her favourite bakery."

Above all, remember that dinner parties aren't really about dinner. Sure, it's lovely if your *coq au vin* is to die for, but that's not the point. Engel agrees. "People make the party. The right mix of people makes or breaks the party." So, relax, shake off your performance anxiety and greet your guests with a smile and a glass of wine.

Follow Ceri @spchronicles for more on dinner-party advice.



this week's TOP TRENDS



Dr Martens Pascal Boots, \$200, drmartens.com

TIME TO RE-BOOT

Combat boots are back. Army-inspired footwear stomped all over the Marc by Marc Jacobs Fall 2012 runway. Get in on the trend early with Dr Martens' sunny-coloured lace-ups, perfect for spring.



Tweezerman tweezers, \$30, sephora.com/canada

Colorful Sephora pencil sharpeners, \$6 each, sephora.com/canada

SHARP BROWS

Whatever the brow trend each season—Rooney Mara's graceful yet wonderfully fierce brows were stars in their own right on Oscar night—your tools are key. Precision tweezers are a must for shaping; look for a pair with fine-edge tips that meet perfectly. A decent sharpener in your makeup kit is also essential for the most professional results.

THE KIT GIRL

NAME
SORREN ISLER
CITY
HALIFAX
OCCUPATION
ACCOUNT MANAGER
AND ASPIRING FILM
PRODUCER
**DESCRIBE YOUR
STYLE**
“Classic and simple,
with a little dash of
rock and roll.”

A self-confessed tomboy, with no interest in fashion until moving to the city for university, Sorren Isler has blossomed into a local style icon with her popular blog Classic Noise (classicnoise.blogspot.com), which showcases recipes, home décor and beautiful clothes. She admits to having felt a little overdressed in Halifax at first, but she's blessedly gotten used to it since.

Her style icons include Marion Cotillard, Michelle Williams, Mila Kunis, Zooey Deschanel and Blake Lively. “None of these girls are overly trendy, but each has a unique style that makes her stand out.”

Isler's day job is in advertising, but she's an aspiring film producer with a couple of music videos under her belt. Whatever spare time she has left goes toward her blog, freelance graphic design and planning her wedding this summer.

Her favourite designer is Jason Wu, because she loves the preppy pulled-together look that has a little fun thrown in. She also lusts after clothes from Rag and Bone. “Though I can't afford those clothes, I try and emulate what they do with the budget I have,” she says. Local designer Katrina Tuttle is also a favourite: “It is like her dresses are made for my body.”



WHAT IS SHE WEARING?

Lush jacket from Envy, Talula shirt from Aritzia, shorts by Kenzie, tights by Hue, bag by Matt & Nat, and Michael Kors shoes

coastal living

Halifax girl Sorren Isler talks style on the East Coast, and how she brings it into every aspect of her creative life

BY LOLA AUGUSTINE BROWN



BEAUTY TIPS

Clinique All About Eyes Concealer, \$20, clinique.com. OPI French Quarter for Your Thoughts, \$11, opi.com. M.A.C Cosmetics Eyeshadow, \$18, maccosmetics.com



FASHION PICKS

Rag & Bone moto leather biker boots, \$595, net-a-porter.com



Jason Wu belted leather-trimmed tweed dress, \$1,895, net-a-porter.com. Jason Wu also available at select The Bay stores.



FAVOURITE DESIGNER

Rag & Bone Spring 2012



FAVOURITE SHOP

Biscuit General Store has a little bit of everything.

The Kit & Caboodle

The Kit's Fashion Week cocktail hour last week was a direct hit! Special guests stopped by the Sponsor's Lounge for a bit of fun and refreshment before watching the collections—pausing just long enough for our camera.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY TOM SANDLER



Fashion Magazine's Bernadette Morra



Socialite Catherine Nugent



CTV's Lisa LaFlamme & her sister Colleen Boehmer



CTV anchor Jennifer Burke & actress Tara Spencer-Nairn



The Kit's Ceri Marsh & Caroline Bishop



Fashion Week regular Angelina Williams



Trendsetter Stephanie Rotz



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THE NEW FRAGRANCE FOR WOMEN



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