



HOW TO FIND YOUR PERFECT WEDDING DRESS

(and... No , your hips don't look big in that!)



So he wants to marry you, you're the woman of his dreams and he wants to say that in front of all that you know - fantastic! what happens next?

Of course you realise the most important thing about the whole wedding is how fabulous you should look. How we want the man to shed tears. To be so overcome with desire and wonderment at how luminous and elegant your beauty is that he promises to shower you with love, jewels and holidays for the rest of your life. Or even just the occasional breakfast in bed if that's more likely.

Without a doubt, you will definitely need to be THE most amazing looking woman in the room and surpass the expectations of all those who know and love you and the others who thought you could never pull it off!

Ok, then what's the first step?

Well after you've decided on the when and whereabouts and what the atmosphere will be, you have to imagine the feeling you would like to have about how you look. Do you want to be sexy, romantic, feminine, glamorous or bohemian and so on. (Just an aside.... don't go for pretty, this isn't the 50's, you've probably already been deflowered and there are plenty other days in the year to be that!) Your wedding day is the perfect opportunity to be not only a much sparklier version of yourself, but to be that little bit sexier and more sophisticated than you are usually. After all, if not on this day - then when?

An important thing to remember is, the man you are going to marry thinks you are sexy and he loves you just as you are, so don't go thinking that you have to lose 15 kilos before you can be any of the above!



**I think I have some idea in my mind,
where do I begin?**

Pictures. In magazines, on the internet and anywhere beauty is to be found. Even old paintings if you can visualize! Pull out anything that takes your fancy and don't worry too much about consistency, there will be some common themes. You may choose to look in bridal mags or check out what Angelina Jolie is wearing these days. I guess you have to think that this is perhaps your only opportunity to wear the most amazing dress that you'll ever get your hands on. Certainly it may be the most expensive and depending which way you go, it will need a lot of your time in the making. So, be an adventuress and take a risk. Have confidence in yourself and aim high!

**Ok, I've got my pics, am I buying this dress
somewhere or will someone make it for me?**

Well, that depends on you. Some girls like to see what they're getting, try it on and have an idea what it's going to be like. Or they might just try on something that fits like a glove and elicits tears and applause from all those who count and there's no doubt in anyone's mind that this dress is 'the one.' Some girls can't find the exact dress or don't look good in any of the samples or the colour's wrong and so on. Other girls decide that they want a dress like one they've seen in a magazine or one with a similar essence and then go from there. Or they might feel a connection with the designer and feel confident that together the perfect dress will be discovered and made. Just remember that the perfect anything is usually found in one's mind and often not where you think you'll find it.



How much should I spend?

As much as you can afford. Decide what your budget is and stick to it. There'll be a lot of expenses and if you blow out in the beginning you might just keep doing that all the way to the end. But having said that it's up to you what you think is the most important element. One has to be realistic and if you're anything like me you may have Champagne taste on a Reising budget. Certainly once you've decided how much you're happy to spend, you'll know where to start looking. There are many ways to look good, all you need to be is clever or find someone that is! And don't forget to find out what is included in the price, don't get into a situation where the thread holding the dress together will be extra!

So what should I be looking out for in a dress?

How do I know what suits me?

You should decide what it is about your figure that you love and would feel confident showing off. For example do you have great boobs? Is your waist small or is your décolletage delicate? Have you got great skin or long legs? And most important of all what does the husband love about your body? After all the dress is ultimately for him. What would he like to see? A low back, a low neckline and so on. Once you've got these and you try on a dress it should highlight all those attributes. If it doesn't do justice to any or all of them, get it off. Don't waste time if it's not you or you can't imagine walking down the aisle in it.

A good designer should be able to help you highlight the good things about your figure and direct you towards dresses that will show these off. Anyone who does not



ask questions and listen to your thoughts about this is not showing enough interest in you as an individual and will hope that you'll fit into their dress. The dress should fit onto you, especially if you're having it made to order as everyone is different in shape even if their measurements are similar.

What if I don't know anything about fabrics?

Oh, who cares about that?! Just try a few different fabrics to see what each does for you. Silk satin is more languid and slinky and can look fabulous in photos. But depending on how it's used, it can highlight a few sins you'd rather not! Then there's silk georgette and chiffon for more floaty and dreamy dresses, great for outdoors as the fabrics can have a life of their own and look marvellous. Then there's French and Italian laces, organzas, tulle, dupions, crepes and all sorts of wonders. Don't be baffled

or try to remember their names, just have a feel and a drape and see what you like. The fabric should feel lush and rich. And remember if you want a risque style dress, the better the fabric the more fabulous. There's a lot you can get away with when the fabric is beautiful.

If I haven't found 'the one' what does that mean for me?

The best opportunity of all! It means you are unique and need to find a good designer to work with.

If you've been trying dresses on, you probably have a good idea which fabrics you like, which colour is best for you and if you'd like lace or beading. You also probably have a better idea about the styles that suit you. If you haven't found a dress that looks like you own it, it's time to take all this research and put it together to come up with 'the one' that will make you feel at least one million dollars.



You need to find a designer who will be able to interpret your ideas and guide your decision making so that those ideas translate into something more beautiful than you had in mind whilst still being all the things you wanted. Someone who will be honest about your figure and help you choose fabrics, textures and colours that work wonders. Remember it's all about elegance so we want elongation of the body. We want to look great from all angles and we want to feel as if the dress is our second skin.

If you have time, enjoy it. Don't set everything in stone right from the beginning. Perhaps there'll be some aspects of the dress that will evolve like the colour or this lace or that. Remember the experience is what it's all about too. Engage in the process, learn to appreciate the beauty of your own shapes and see the dress come alive in front of you. You can still know where you're headed and what the outcome will be, but there will be

some small details that can make all the difference and they can only be discovered along the way.

Well, best of luck and I do hope you find the right path to take. It should be one of the most enjoyable things you'll ever do and be one of the highlights in the lead up to the wedding. It's your one chance to experience what screen sirens and other wonderful women of days gone by experienced as a matter of course. That has to be fun, doesn't it?

Best Wishes

Nina Field

Call Petal Bridal on 02 9212 0215 to book an appointment with Nina to discuss your perfect dress today.

Please visit our website at petalbridal.com or email us at nina@petalbridal.com



We had a fabulous day - I felt sensational. You were fundamental to how I looked and 'that frock' was an absolute hit with everyone - the girls, the guys, and most importantly, the groom! The split even received an impromptu mention in his speech.

I don't know how to thank you enough for creating such a gorgeous gown that was me to a 't'.

**Nelie xx
(2008)**

*Just wanted to say a HUGE thankyou for doing such an sensational job of the dress!
It was absolutely magical to wear and I had so many complements about the dress I lost count!*

Thanks a million.

**Belinda
(2008)**