

Welcome to The Wardrobe Studio's 1st seasonal newsletter!

Spring is (finally!) here, and although it doesn't feel that way in Cape Town, the shops are full of gorgeous clothes in mouth watering colours. Now is the time to spice up your wardrobe with a few of the latest looks and some up-to-date basics, but before you hit the shops, here are a few tips to make sure you purchase wisely and avoid those disastrous impulse buys that lurk in your wardrobe, filling you with guilt.

- **Pack away your winter wardrobe** - this eliminates excess choice, frees up a lot of wardrobe space and makes getting dressed a much simpler task.
- **Organise your summer clothes** - go through everything systematically, creating piles as you work - clothes to keep, clothes that need mending or altering and clothes to toss - if it doesn't fit, doesn't flatter or has not been worn in over two years, get rid of it! Now organise what's left into categories within your wardrobe - tops, dresses, skirts, pants, jackets etc, and then into colour groups within the categories. Knits such as jerseys and T-shirts should be folded neatly to retain their shape, and woven items hung up - one item per hanger.
- **Identify the gaps** - Now that your wardrobe is organised, you can look at what you have and easily identify what it is you don't have. Make a list of the pieces you feel you are lacking, and the colours you need to compliment your existing wardrobe - shopping, armed with a list makes the job easier and insures you get what you need and avoid expensive mistakes.
- **Spend Wisely** - spend your money on good quality, investment pieces and basics that will last, and buy inexpensive trend items - chances are that by the following season, you'll be tired of these pieces anyway. Incorporating a few key seasonal accessories into your wardrobe is a good way to look trendy without breaking the bank, and will also insure you look up-to-date and modern without looking like a fashion victim.
- **Know your assets** - make an honest assessment of your body shape and only buy styles that compliment. Never be tempted to wear an item simply because it's in style - skinny jeans and hot pants were not designed with all women in mind!
- **Shop like a professional** - if unsure about a purchase ask yourself: does it fit properly and flatter your body shape? Is it a good colour for you? Is it appropriate to your lifestyle, personal style and age? How quickly will it date - is it a classic or trend item? Will it go with at least three other items in your wardrobe? How useful is it - can you dress it up and down? Remember that if you are very unsure about an item and find you can't make a decision; chances are it's not a good buy!

WHATS HOT...

Now that your wardrobe is organised and crying out for fabulous new things, have a look at some of this season's key looks:

- **Flowers bloom** - floral is huge this summer, ranging from small whimsical prints to bold blossoming blooms. My favourite; a gauzy chiffon blouse in dainty sprig.
- **Tailored style** - Blazers, high-waisted pencil skirts, slim-fitting trousers, crisp shirts and shift dresses are all key pieces for this season's tailored look.
- **Oh so boho** - the 70's are back. Faded wide-leg jeans, floaty maxi dresses, folk print kaftans, waistcoats, platform heels and fringed bags... need I say more?
- **Tribal chic** - fashion has gone tribal with safari-style cuts, striking geometric prints and ethnic inspired jewellery in wood, brass and amber.
- **Feminine fashion** - feminine dressing is big with voluminous skirts, blouses with ruffles and pussycat bows, floaty dresses and cinched waist silhouettes. Team pretty blouses with skinny jeans or denim shorts to keep the look fresh.
- **Accessories** - summers most popular; the clutch bag, slouchy leather handbags, skinny belts, wedge heels, peep-toe sling-backs and gladiator sandals.
- **Colour** - look out for delicious citrus shades of lime, lemon, orange, grapefruit, tangerine and satsuma. This season's neutrals take a sophisticated turn, in black, white, cream, navy, khaki and all shades of grey. Also big are red and blue for a nautical feel, and semi-precious hues such as coral, turquoise and amethyst.

TOP TIP FOR SPRING...

If unsure about what to buy when choosing shoes, bags or a belt, go for anything metallic. It will be your most versatile purchase ever, I promise!

Click [here](#) if you'd like to read more about what's in this season.

And with summer comes the holiday season - Christmas is once again around the corner (I realized with horror when spotting Christmas crackers at the Woolies checkout), so if you are looking for a festive treat for someone special (or perhaps yourself?) why not spoil them with a wardrobe make-over, a shopping trip or a make-up lesson covering this seasons looks. Take a peek at the latest [specials](#) or alternatively, you can contact me directly to discuss a tailor-made package.

New for this season and already proving to be popular is a [Teenage Styling Package](#) - if your daughter's laments of "I have nothing to wear!!" are getting you down, then this might be just the thing for the holidays.

Until next time, when I'll share with you some top tips on how to be a thrifty dresser during hard economic times.

Enjoy the sunshine and happy shopping!

Alice