

Fashion **on** Friday

Add some sparkle!

IT'S CRYSTAL CLEAR
All these Swarovski crystal accessories are available from designer Helen Rhiannon. Prices range from £35 to £50 for earrings, combs and brooches.



PRINCESS CHIC The Bolgrade wedding dress (above) and (inset) the Couture Heaven dress, both available from Huw Rees bridal boutique, Rhosmaen Street, Llandeilo.



NIFTY FIFTIES Wedding dress by Ian Stuart, available at Allison Jayne, Caer Street, Swansea.



DRAMATIC EFFECT Wedding dress by Ian Stuart, available at Allison Jayne, Caer Street, Swansea.

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Fashion **on** Friday

Get perfection on your big day

BY EMMA JONES



LET'S face it, your wedding dress is THE centrepiece of the big day.

Choosing it has to be one of the most exciting elements in the build-up to any marriage. You get to try on a lot of frocks and find one that is just perfect for you.

But it's not always that simple, is it?

Every blushing bride has a clear image of the perfect wedding dress in her mind.

But choosing from the huge range of styles, shapes and shades on offer can seem like a daunting task.

On your special day, you have to do more than stand out.

It has to be the perfect outfit, along with just the right combination of

everything else. The vast majority of brides-to-be go bridal dress shopping with a preconception of what they want to buy.

Some brides can end up really disappointed when the magazine pages they have in their hand don't look true to the picture when on their body. So how can you make sure you get it right?

Linos Davies, buyer at Pleser bridal shop at St Teilo Street, Pontarddulais, has been in the business for 21 years.

Her top tip for brides-to-be is to try things you wouldn't normally consider.

"People can be reluctant to try on something different, but you never know when something will actually look great," she says.

"If you don't like it, that's fine. As for styles this year,

vertical layers and feminine vintage dresses are in, but I think what the person likes matters more.

"Ivory will always be the most popular colour.

"Shopping for a wedding dress doesn't have to be stressful — people come in a little bit uptight because they don't know what to ask for, but we take over for them and handle everything."

A wedding dress is probably the most expensive dress you will ever wear. So are brides-to-be spending less on gowns for their big day due to the recession?

"Not really, no," Linos tells me.

"A lot of people have saved for their dresses, and they come to us with no set budget in mind.

"Spending more doesn't necessarily mean you'll get a dress which suits you better. We have dresses here from £300 which look

stunning on some people." Pleser is one of 45 exhibitors which will be on hand with tips and advice at The Evening Post's Wedding Planner Live show at the Liberty Stadium on Sunday, February 28.

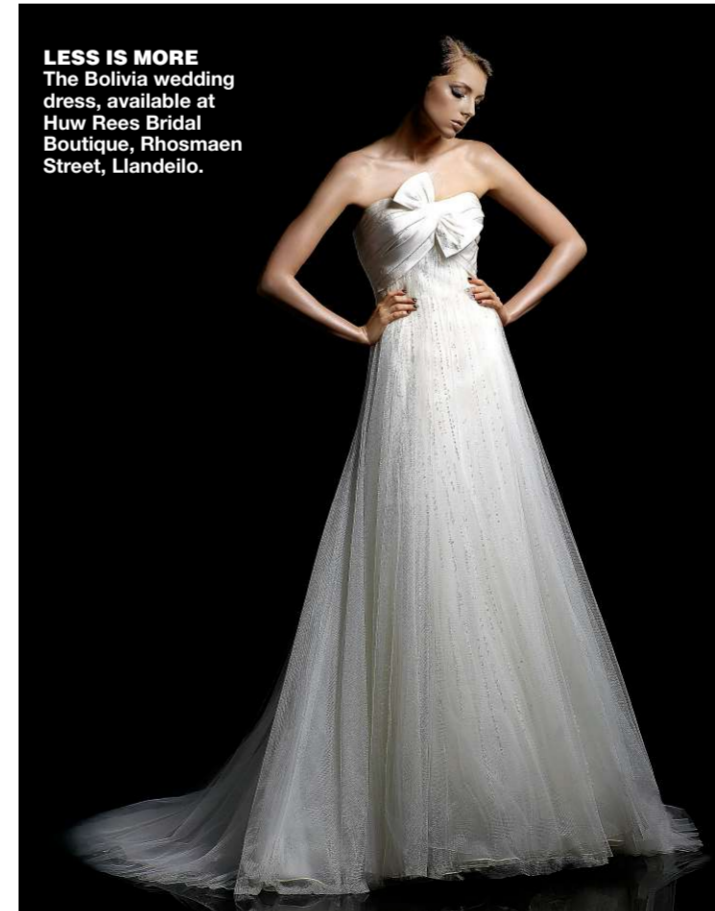
The event will feature everything you can think of to make the big day run smoothly — from men's formal hire, stationery, dresses and photographers, to flowers, chocolate fountains and venues.

It will also see the launch of our competition to win a dream wedding. The Evening Post has got together with The Towers Hotel & Spa to offer one lucky couple everything they'll need for their special day.

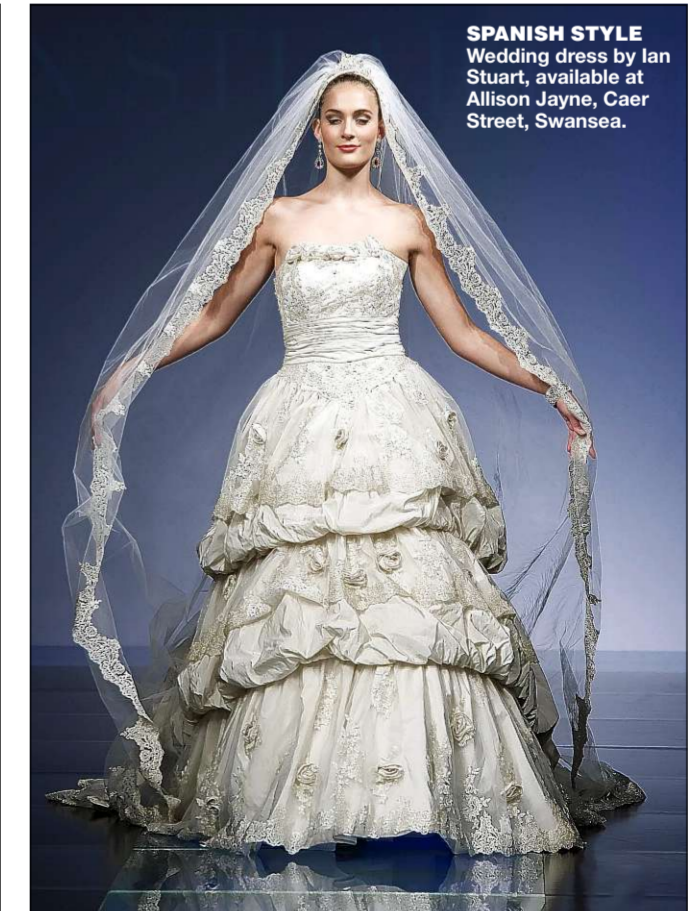
S4C's Huw Rees will compare two fashion shows at the event, which give visitors the chance to see how gowns and accessories work together.

Rhapsody Bridal, based in Swansea's Castle Street, will provide wedding gowns for the fashion shows, with Dyfed Menswear of Cross Hands handling the men's attire, Molly's Fashion on Carmarthen Road, Swansea, providing mother of the bride outfits, and fashion designer Helen Rhiannon offering outfits for guests.

●The Wedding Planner Live show takes place between 10.30am and 4pm, with fashion shows at 11.30am and 2.30pm.



LESS IS MORE The Bolivia wedding dress, available at Huw Rees Bridal Boutique, Rhosmaen Street, Llandeilo.



SPANISH STYLE Wedding dress by Ian Stuart, available at Allison Jayne, Caer Street, Swansea.

The perfect fit!

RIGHT from the start, knowing your own body shape is key.

It goes beyond tall, petite, slim, plus size — you also have to bear in mind your colouring, physical features and the line of your body.

Figure it out with our top tips . . .



HOURGLASS: Go for strapless or off-the-shoulder dresses to accentuate curves without overloading them.

Avoid heavy beading or large accessories — one-piece dresses with a ripped-in waist are much more flattering. A two-piece can tend to give you a choppy look, whereas you should try to create a seamless effect.

PEAR SHAPED: This shape consists of smaller shoulders and upper body compared to the lower body, so choose a dress that gives you volume on top and simplicity at the bottom.

Draw attention to your top half and add a shoulder wrap made of delicate feathers around your shoulders, or have silk flowers attached to the straps of your dress.

PETITE: Those with a petite figure have the most options when it comes to dress style and shape.

Avoid heavy fabrics and instead go for something more delicate — a netted princess-style dress would look beautiful, as would shoestring straps and off-the-shoulder empire line dresses. If you are wearing high heels to create a taller body line then remember that if you change into flats in the evening this will change the overall effect.



BROAD SHOULDERS: If you have broad shoulders and narrow hips then choose a dress that creates balance because you need volume from the waist down.

If you are tall with it, then a full flouncy skirt will work well as it creates the illusion of symmetry in size for top and bottom.