Helpful Hints for Holiday Dress

Lori wears tuxedo dress with black and white taffeta top and black organza leg of mutton sleeves. Wide black skirt is topped by full peplum.

FOCUS ON FASHION

By Paula Brooks

Happy Holidays! A warm family circle — loved ones — the spices from holiday baking — and attempts to bring about temporary world - wide peace — all make December one of the happiest months of the year. It can also be one of the loneliest of times for those who live alone.

Determine to enter this season with clear heart and mind. The body will outwardly radiate the warm flame of peace found within.

End your day with a hot, bubble - laden, fragrant bath, taken in a room lit by a single, holiday - scented candle. Bayberry, pine, and clove, are all quite suggestive of the season.

Use a loofah to scrub away dead skin cells, as you concentrate on cleansing your mind of all disquieting thoughts. Pay yourself dry, instead of rubbing, and moisturize your thirsty body with your favorite lotion.

There are bound to be all kinds of social functions going on — from the most charitable, to the all - out, get - down jams. Before making your rounds, splash your face with ice cold water, or use an ice cube to stimulate your circulation, and get you revved up for the coming events.

If you've never been the type for the slinky little party dress, you'll be thrilled at the abundance of tailored tuxedo looks around. Pants with a cummerbund or vee-shaped waist. paired with a beautifuly detailed blouse, composed of rows of ruffles, and a pert bowtie, come together to form one of the most comfortable, elegant looks of the season.

The stark contrast of black against white, is always dramatic. This is a fashion trend well suited for those size 14 and under, as the heavier lady will almost always look better in a softly falling skirt.

Red is still the hottest color of the season! If you're too timid to go all red, try a pretty red blouse, with rhinestone or pearl accessories, that will reflect a warm, red glow. The little black dress is also making a comeback, and threatening to steal the show.

Glass bead, sequin, and pearl encrusted evening wear, will always be holiday favorites, for they add just the right touch of glitter and glamour to festive occasions. The sparkle of gold or silver is also bound to lift your spirits, and ensure you of holding your own at holiday gatherings.

Choose the evening look that is right for you from a variety of fine, rich fabrics. Ever stiff, ever formal taffeta; sexy, peek - a - boo lace; smooth shiny satins; plush velvets; and gossamer silks and chiffons all create different tactile impressions to the observer. All create the illusion of butter - softness and sensitivity that invites touching — which may not be such a bad idea!

White lace blouse with ruffled yoke in front by designer Lillian Lsibon tops lime green moire taffeta evening pants by Pena Gray, accessorized with black and silver bumberbund.

Shown here are some of the best ways to liven up any social gathering of the season, in a variety of styles to suit every age and figure. The integration of tempered spirit, well cared for body, and outer finery are sure to get you started on a healthy, happy New Year!

Helpful hint No. 1 — If you're thinking you could never afford such opulent holiday dress, a trip to a second hand shop will be just the thing to put you in the ballpark.

Helpful hint No. 2 — It would seem unnecessary to mention, but quite a few young ladies have been spotted out shopping, with a headful highly visible, pink rollers. If your rollers are still at work, please cover your head. There are any number of inexpensive scarves and hats available.

Helpful hint No. 3 — Get the most mileage out of your selected holiday look at accessorizing. Hair ornaments, Jewlry, textured stockings, shawls, and gloves, should all be considered. Accessory colors don't have to match your outfit exactly — merely co - ordinate.

Helpful Hint No. 4 — Don't be afraid to wear back - baring halters; or delicate materials when going out for an evening of winter enjoyment. Just bundle up when going out — it's bound to get quite warm in the heat of holiday frolicking!

Lori Watkins shows off black with gold chiffon cocktail chemise by Kevin Garner.

—Celebrity Lookout

(Continued from page 4)

Q. — My husband and I have a disagreement concerning singer Jerry Butler. Could you please tell us if he was ever in the newspaper business?

Renee Walter,
San Francisco, CA

A. — Few people know that it was Jerry Butler's money that financed the first comprehensive black entertainment newspaper in the mid-1960s when blacks were very active in the pursuit of their civil and social rights. Butler and his wife Annette were co-publishers of "The World," which proved to be a well designed publication that gave timely accounts of entertainment happenings throughout the U.S. Even though the publication became a model for all entertainment newspapers that followed, it was the lack of an adequate distribution department that caused the newspaper to fold.

— —

Q. — Is it true that Hurricane Carter is in jail for killing someone?

Sylvester Reeves,
Atlanta, GA

A. — Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, now 45, the former middleweight boxing contender, had compiled a 28 - 12 record from 1961 - 1966. He was convicted of a triple shotgun slaying in a Paterson, NJ bar in 1966, along with John Artis, who was transferred to another prison from Carter and then released on parole. Carter, was sentenced to two consecutive life sentences, won't be eligible for parole until about 1996. Recently he lost his second appeal to the state Supreme Court for a retrial.