

Fall Bridal Showcase

Fashions aren't just for brides

By Sharon Mosley
Copley News Service

Brides, watch out! The groom doesn't have to take a back seat anymore when it comes to being fashionable at his own wedding. That guy who's been wearing jeans for the past few years might look like someone who just stepped out of a Hollywood movie when it comes time to walk down the aisle.

With all the dashing options now available at formalwear shops, grooms can put together a black-tie package that not only coordinates with the bride's attendants, but makes a special fashion statement as well.

"Whether they choose to buy or rent, men will find formalwear is no longer uptight, but reflects an easy air that helps a man look good and feel totally confident when and where it counts," says Edward S. Kaminow, president and chief executive officer of Lord West Formalwear.

There are many things to take into consideration when choosing what to wear. Is it going to be a large, formal wedding, or a small, intimate affair? Daytime or evening?

Cutaways for the groom and stroller coats for the groomsmen are appropriate for daytime weddings, tuxedos for late afternoon and evening weddings, according to Bernie Toll, spokesman for Lord West Formalwear. In warm weather, a white or ivory dinner jacket is fine.

After the bride has chosen her dress and her attendants' dresses, the next stop should be the local formalwear specialist, says Kaminow. With so many choices available, it's necessary to get expert advice.

Don't even think about wearing something as boring as a one-button tuxedo. "That's past history," says Kaminow. "Now manufacturers are producing single-breasted models with two-button and as



Consider the time of day and the wedding's formality when choosing formal wear for the groom and attendants.

many as seven-button closures." For spring, tuxedos take on new lapel treatments with jackets that are slightly longer, great for enhancing any groom's physique.

"Forget cookie-cutter expressions," says Kaminow. "The black-tie world is changing."

Designers of formalwear are offering a host of options for the groom. Lord West has a new, longer jacket with a defined silhouette emphasizing the full chest and suppressed waist. Designed with satin notch lapels and a four-button front, this design may be worn with a Euro four-in-hand tie, vest and wing-collar shirt — a very fashion-forward look.

Chaps Ralph Lauren offers notch, shawl and peak lapels edged in satin in addition to the tradition-

al full satin lapels. Silhouettes from this designer emphasize the natural slope of shoulders and an expression of ease through the chest and waist.

Ralph Lauren adds his own accessories with vests in neat patterns and subtle colors, most often paired with wing-collar pleated-front shirts and satin bow ties.

Perry Ellis also emphasizes a more relaxed silhouette for grooms.

This designer collection features two-button and three-button single-breasted styles and six-button double-breasted styles. Accessories permit men to create an individual look with choices of wing-, stand-up or cross-collar treatments. Use of bow ties or button covers is the wearer's option.

Perry Ellis vests are designed with six buttons in a wide variety of colorful silk patterns. Vests are a perfect way to coordinate color with the bride's attendants and the groomsmen.

Pierre Cardin offers one of the newest formalwear looks around for grooms with a new tuxedo designed for a body-conscious fit with satin plackets and satin neckband with throat latch. This is worn with a stand-up collar shirt and striped silk vest with metallic accents.

Formal shoes are also available at many specialty stores, including classic slip-ons and lace-up oxfords.

Indeed, accessories can play a defining role in creating a unique wedding style. With a wide variety of shoes, vests, cummerbunds, ties, button covers, stud and link sets, each groom can choose an individual look — for himself and his attendants as well.

The bride and her bridesmaids will be sure to notice.

BRIDEFACTS

Check out the photographer

Wedding photographs are a lifelong memory of your special day. Make sure the photographer you choose will get the photos right.

Experience:

An experienced photographer has already made his mistakes and is less likely to spoil your day.

Personality:

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