

StarChicinterview

Style secrets from fashionista Sonya

She's the woman in the know, and here she reveals what we should be wearing next season — and what to avoid. *Jenny Gorevan reports*



Stylist and Off the Rails star Sonya Lennon, the face of **Dublin Fashion Festival**, discusses all things fashion and lets us in on her line-busting beauty buy...

sequins are coming through this season.

● I'm delighted to be the face of **Dublin Fashion Festival**. Anything that supports the retail sector is a good thing and fashion as an industry needs be recognised for its role within our economy.

● It's a consumer market and the fashion buying public can benefit from our circumstances. The sales, for instance, have been increasingly good. I like going in at the very end and ferreting out the interesting stuff. My best ever sale bargain was a silk Emanuel Ungaro dress.

● Snakeskin is the animal print of choice but be careful about wearing too much as it's the preserve of youth. I'd approach snakeskin jeans with caution!

● Pleats are going to remain big news in A/W but they can be difficult to pull off — you have to be willowy. Stay dark or you'll have a double whammy by bringing attention to the hips and bum.

● *Vogue's Anna Wintour has green lighted bell bottoms this season. I'd go for a subtle kick which is the most flattering shape rather than a massive one.*

● Everyone can benefit from having a good shift dress in their wardrobes. They are a classic. You can enjoy them for the trend and stow them for future use.

● Lady Gaga and Rihanna have a lot to answer for as leather harnesses are in on the accessory front. Avoid the bondage reference by doing an androgynous hit on the trend. Chanel Helmut Newton and wear with a crisp white shirt, beautifully tailored black trousers and a classic court shoe.

● Thanks to Prada, oversized

● Colour is a great way to play with trends. Rich jewelled tones mixed with pastels looks fab.

● Earrings are going to be huge this winter. Big is better so dust off those chandeliers!

● The Middletons have brought back tan tights but I can't see myself doing it. I thought Kate's wedding dress was absolutely stunning but I'd say you'd have to see it in front of you to really appreciate it and get a sense of its fragility. I liked Kate Moss' wedding dress and headdress and the antique reference. But we live our lives on our face and she didn't look glowy.

● On Off The Rails, the public love the segment where we find out what's in a celebrity's make-up bag. Skincare and make-up is such an accessible market — women spend money on products.

● I'm a skincare junkie. I'm using a range called NeoStrata and I'm blown away by it. I've put so many people on to it. It's quite potent so your skin gets a whack of exfoliation, so don't make any date plans for the first few days of using it! But when you come out the other side, it's extraordinary — it reduces lines.

● When I was growing up my mum used to change out of her clothes when she got in — she had a fabulous lounge dress which had a Pucci print — and I do that as well. I'll get into a pair of trousers from H&M or Topshop and a T-shirt, or else one of my casual dresses. I have a little uniform for doing nothing. The only tracksuit I own is the Stella McCartney one I do my yoga in!

● My twins are six. I don't splash out on kids' clothes and shop in GAP as they're running around getting wrecked. I once succumbed in Italy and bought my daughter Evie a Marni coat in an outlet village, but I've held onto it and she can have it when she's an adult.

For more info on **Dublin Fashion Festival**, see *Style News* on page 20



BAGS OF STYLE

Sonya Lennon and (inset above right) she is a fan of Kate Moss' wedding dress complete with head dress