

# Metropolis



Film dress €1,260

# Exclusively *yours*

Customers of Irish bespoke designer Maire Forkin are guaranteed an elegant, flattering and unique outfit for any special occasion

**C**outure is a rarity in the fashion world today, with just a handful of Irish designers providing a bespoke, made to measure service from scratch. One of them is Maire Forkin, a Dublin-based designer who specialises in contemporary clothing that can be worn time and time again, year after year.

Every year, Forkin designs a capsule collection which she describes as trans-seasonal, meaning the pieces are designed to be interchangeable and are available in

## Fashion

Lisa Brady



a selection of fabrics and colours. Her mainstay is wedding and event attire, and customers come to her elegant Georgian studio and show-

Beline dress €1,100;  
cape €480





Niece coat €1,060



Mink dress €980



Jewel dress €1,050

room on Fitzwilliam Square in Dublin to have pieces individually hand made for them.

The beauty of couture, she says, is its attention to detail and tailoring, exclusivity and use of luxury fabrics – she sources hers from the home of couture, Paris. Despite her old-school approach to design, her pieces are contemporary without being too fashion forward.

“I hint at trends, but don’t let them dictate as they date too quickly,” she says. “My designs tend to be very body-conscious, the collection is structured and tailored, and then customised to each client’s body shape. This way, garments are made to best flatter the client’s particular silhouette.”

For her latest collection, Forkin’s inspiration is geometric and asymmetrical shapes, and she has used them to create an innovative, modern elegance that serves to enhance the female form.

She has utilised her tailoring skills to create a 3D effect in unexpected ways – details include exaggerated shoulders, a play on peplums, split sleeves, waterfall folding detail and double layered fabric effects.

“The theme throughout the collection is structured, sculpted and shaped dresses with asymmetrical style line, which work in ways to enhance the figure.

“These strong bold shapes are most effective with the use of a solid colour block, for example fuchsia, deep purple, black with a mix of black leather and cream,” she says.

Originally from Ballyhaunis in Co Mayo, Forkin lived in London for 16 years before her return to Ireland ten years ago. She studied tailoring at the College of Fashion at Oxford Street before she cut her teeth in couture, working with William Hunt in Savile Row,

and Catherine Walker, who was Princess Diana’s favourite designer. She also designed collections for high street multiples including Wallis and Dorothy Perkins before her return to Dublin ten years ago.

If the words ‘body conscious’ instill you with fear, dismiss any notions of something tight and uncomfortable with unflattering bulges. The reality is quite the opposite – a talented couturier will focus on highlighting the best areas, while subtly disguising the less forgiving parts.

“Larger ladies tend to be terrified when you first introduce a fitted garment,” Forkin says. “But an oversized, non-descript piece is not always the right answer. In fact it rarely is. My job is to discover what suits their silhouette, and cut and flatter to their exact shapes.”

Many of her customers are mothers of the bride, she says, who are steering away from fussy and

fuddy-duddy territory, looking for a twist on the usual dress and coat combo.

No need to worry here about someone showing up in the same outfit – exclusivity is key to her label’s success, Forkin says, adding that because of this and the nature of her work, she would never start selling in boutiques.

And those looking for a knockout dress on their big day might be pleased to hear that Forkin also designs customised wedding dresses, giving you the opportunity to have the best-dressed wedding party in town.

*Photographer: Agata Stoinska  
Stylist: Tanya Grimson  
Headpieces: Princess Pallace  
Hair and Makeup: Billy Orr  
Shoes: Supplied by Brown Thomas*

*Maire Forkin, 58 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin 2, maireforkin.ie*



Film top and skirt €1,350



Dune dress €1,300



Opel dress from €1,060

# Guilty pleasures

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## Sun lotion for summer skin

■ Guilty Pleasures has just returned from her summer holiday and one of the products trialed was Nivea’s Sun In-Shower After Sun Lotion. This lotion is activated by water and Nivea promises that it will cool, refresh and moisturise skin after exposure to the sun.

Guilty Pleasures found this left her skin really well nourished and did not leave a sticky residue. This product is a keeper and given it costs just €3.33, it won’t break the bank.



## 12 ways to gloss

■ Given we all ingest so much lipstick, Guilty Pleasures is an advocate of organic lip products – where possible! Burt’s Bees has launched a new range of glosses that doesn’t skimp on nourishing moisture.

Formulated with 100 per cent natural ingredients, the new lip glosses are infused with moisturising botanical oils and beeswax. The colours are rich and are as long-lasting as other products on the market. Available in 12 shades, they cost €11.95.