

# ESSENTIAL wardrobe ITEMS

## EVENING WEAR AWARDS DRESS

"The most sentimental thing to me is my evening wear awards dress. I designed it and it got through to the finals of the Australian Fashion Industry Awards in 2005. I have only worn it once for a photo shoot and I felt fantastic. I was glad I fitted in it for a start, so that was a bit of a confidence boost after models had worn it. The dress was the first thing that took me from being an ex-TAFE fashion student, to being recognised nationally. It put me into the same level as some of the professional designers and up there with Australia's best. I keep it at home in a bag in my cupboard."

## BLACK SACHI HEELS

"This was the start of a major shoe fetish. My girlfriend and I both bought the same pair of shoes for a fashion parade, they weren't the most comfortable shoes unfortunately, but they are still very nice and very high. We had to dance as well as walk, which we did with difficulty and blisters. Even though I have a lot of heels now, they were the start of it all. I felt awesome the first time I wore them, I felt very glamorous. Buying your first pair of heels is always a big thing. Girls go through their training bras and getting your first pair of heels was a big deal for us. I would have been just out of school, so I was 19 and we thought having them so high was fantastic."

## DIAMOND PENDANT NECKLACE

"My diamond pendant necklace was my 21st birthday present from my boyfriend, Daniel. I was 21 last year. We have been together six years this year and that was my first real proper piece of jewellery. Every girl wants diamonds: as they say, diamonds are a girl's best friend. It was very special, he had gone out and actually picked it, looked for it himself, and it came with a beautiful set of earrings as well. When he gave it to me I cried. It is my good luck charm now. I wear it with anything and everything. When I am going to competitions I have it on me somewhere: even if I am not wearing it, it will be in my bag. It is very simple, so I can wear it with everything. Daniel is my first serious boyfriend, so it is very sentimental."



KARLIE JAY - FASHION DESIGNER



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