

# Fashion file

By Linda Dano

Dear Readers, What are the rules about proper dress to weddings in 2007? Years and years ago — before a lot of the people reading this column were even born — weddings, like everything else, had a set of rules. You didn't wear white because that was the bride's color. You didn't wear black because that would be like going to a funeral. But now, all the rules seem to have gone away. Wedding guests ask themselves, "What am I going to wear? Should I dress up? Should I wear an evening dress or should I wear day clothes?"

I recently helped Vivien Stern, my publicist and her daughter, Dana's wedding. The one question she was

what *was* the proper attire?

Invitations usually don't come with an added note saying what the attire should be. You really are on your own. That's why, when in doubt, go basic. GREAT. What do I mean by that? If you have a lovely crepe, light gabardine or silk skirt, you can wear that with a tailored silk blouse, appropriate accessories and jewelry (make the outfit look finished) and you will be as dressed as you ever need to be. That outfit would actually work for any wedding, day or night. I didn't wear an evening dress to Dana's wedding, but I did go in a dressier fabric (silk dress

*"Don't upstage the bride."*

asked most is, "What do we wear to this wedding?" The wedding started at 6, so guests arrived at 5:30. It was an outdoor wedding, and the service was held at a private home, followed by the reception and then dinner under a tent. It was an evening wedding, so

and jacket), wore a little bling and I fit right in. Nothing is worse than looking like you belong at a different party.

If it's a black-tie wedding, then you know what to do. Men should come in a tux and the girls should come in wonderful evening

dresses. Even if it says black tie, a beautiful dress or a silky suit would work. A formal wedding can be just that if you want. But I do believe that when you go to a wedding, it isn't the time to dress like you're going to the Academy Awards. Don't upstage the bride. She'll never feel quite the same about you.

If it's a day wedding, day clothes are required. I go to day weddings where women come in all kinds of sequins and beads and glitz and bling and it looks stupid. And tacky. It's *day*. If you're going to a night wedding, that's when it's appropriate to pull that out. Glitz is everywhere. Just because designers are telling you you can wear it anytime — morning, noon or night — doesn't mean that it neces-



YOLANDA PEREZ

sarily looks right. I don't like it. (I know, you're about to start the letter to me.)

What about men? A man in a suit and a tie is an absolute. In fact, I believe a suit and a tie on a man for any wedding at any time is appropriate, unless it's a casual wedding. Then you can come in an open shirt or whatever the couple requests of their guests.

Another thing that people get nervous about is what shoes to wear to an outdoor wedding. It's a big issue. Fortunately, right now the wedge is so popular. I'm sure you can find a dressier shoe or something that will work in a wedge because if you wear a thin heel, you'll sink right into the ground. In fact, Dana, the bride, wore a wedge on her wedding day. Her dress covered the shoes, so it didn't matter. I've even known brides who've worn tennis shoes because they refused to have their feet hurt on their special day.

I always think bringing a wrap is a good idea when you're going to an outdoor wedding or even inside with air-conditioning. Women today should have four or five shawls in various colors and styles in their wardrobe. You need to have evening bags in your repertoire of accessories. The thing that makes me crazy when I go to the Emmys or any special event or benefit is when a beautiful girl will be in a fabulous

evening dress and carrying her day bag. It's so inappropriate. If you wear only black to events, you can have just one black bag with no hardware. That way, you can wear it with either gold or silver jewelry. But if you wear other colors, you need more choices. It's fun to have evening bags and this is the time to buy them on sale, even invest in a really good bag because you're going to have it forever. It won't matter if you get heavy, skinny or old; it's going to stay in style and you'll always love it because you'll never wear it enough not to love it.

There are a few things that you need to have in an evening bag, so be sure you buy one big enough: a compact, lipstick, money, a credit card just in case. (You never know, you may come across a store and have time to go shopping.) It's also nice to have a tiny bottle of cologne or perfume. And I say that because if you're at a long event that has dancing and activities, it's lovely for you to go into the ladies' room and dab a little bit more scent on yourself before the end of the night.

Events and weddings are a time of joy and celebration. Feel beautiful when you leave your home, put together, elegant, comfortable and confident. These are the moments that make memories.



PAUL SKIPPER/UP!

**Just Peachy:** A pale, strapless dress worked for DAYS's Chelsea (Rachel Melvin) at Sami and Lucas's nups.

Send your style and fashion questions to: Linda Dano c/o Soap Opera Digest, 261 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016. (Letters will not be answered personally and may be edited for purposes of clarity and space.)