

Why I LOVE her LOOK

What does he really think of your dress? Five grooms-to-be reveal all

PHOTOGRAPHS FIONA FREUND WORDS FIONA KERR

'I LIKE HER SENSE OF STYLE'

Craig Ellis, 26, a recruitment consultant, and stylist Sarah Tankel, 24, will tie the knot at London's Dorchester hotel in October.

Craig says 'This is not what I imagine when I picture a wedding dress, but it's very Sarah – she works in fashion and she loves to experiment. She looks amazing.'

Shopping editor Astrid Joss says 'Sarah and Craig are both confident, stylish dressers, so they can play with their wedding outfits. Sarah's asymmetric dress is given extra edge with a cool take on the tiara – it's a modern version of the princess look.' Sarah's verdict 'I love, love this! It's cool and contemporary.'

Sarah Silk dress, £2,200, Temperley London. Crystal headpiece, £350, Jenny Packham. Satin shoes, £415, Aruna Seth. Bouquet of Sweet Avalanche, Cool Water and Sahara roses, and astrantia, £55, Lucy The Florist at The Luxe. Craig Linen blazer, £490; linen trousers, £140, Favourbrook. Shirt, £50, ACKT. Scarf, £195, Drakes of London. Lace-ups, £75, Dune



**'THIS MAKES
HER LOOK
BEAUTIFUL'**

Sales rep Alastair Angus, 28, is marrying graphic designer Louise Polton, 27, in a classic English country garden-style wedding in Hampshire in July. Alastair says 'Louise is always very stylish. Her taste is classic, but she likes to add a twist of her own. She looks elegant and beautiful in this – it's a traditional wedding dress, but as it's fitted, it shows off her fantastic figure. I won't be able to stop smiling if she wears a dress like this on the big day.' Astrid says 'The traditional look fulfils all of a bride's fantasies. Louise's dress has volume, but it starts lower down so she doesn't get lost in a meringue; the flower detail adds drama and a modern twist on the traditional look. Tails on men always work well, while Alastair's pink shirt and waistcoat add a sense of fun.' Louise's verdict 'I love the big flower detail. I don't usually go for something so structured – but then a wedding dress isn't like any other dress I've worn.'

Louise Thai silk and silk-gazar dress, £2,250 Ian Stuart. Veil, from £125, Joyce Jackson. Faux-pearl earrings, £18, Allusions at Bhs. Faux-pearl bracelet, £35, Erickson Beamon at Debenhams. Alastair Morning suit jacket and wool trousers, £550 (£79.99 to hire), Hugh Harris. Silk waistcoat, £240, Favourbrook. Silk tie, £55, Thomas Pink. Patent leather shoes, £200, Crockett & Jones



'SHE LOOKS CHIC AND SEXY'

Harry Thwaites, 27, an oil trader, and researcher Natalie Marshall, 28, are planning a contemporary wedding in London in February.

Harry says 'Natalie looks like a cross between Audrey Hepburn and Jackie O in this outfit – it's so chic. The whole look works brilliantly. Although it could be a bit preppy and prim with the 1950s vibe, the nipped-in waist and the hair make it sexy.'

Astrid says 'Natalie's petite frame lends itself to this *Breakfast at Tiffany's* look. The retro glamour is perfect for Natalie and Harry's modern city wedding. They are such a fun couple and with Harry's cool blue suit, this is a really refreshing look.'

Natalie's verdict 'Wow! I feel as if I've just stepped off a film set. The retro look is not my usual style, but it works.'

Natalie Silk-zibeline dress with a Swarovski crystal belt, from, £2,745, Lisa Redman. Net and crystal veil, £175, Flo & Percy. Faux-pearl earrings, £28, Debenhams. Satin shoes, £195, Filippa Scott. Harry Wool and silk suit, £1,032; silk bow tie, £75, Pal Zileri. Cotton shirt, £50, ACKT. Leather lace-ups, £620, John Lobb



'I CAN SEE HER ON THE BEACH'

Banker Charlie Fildes Heap, 30, and Jigs Sandeman, 31, a PR account manager, will say 'I do' in Barbados in May. Charlie says 'This dress is perfect for Barbados. It's soft and pretty, and it matches our laid-back style. I can imagine her running along a beach in it.' Astrid says 'Beach weddings are not the place for a structured dress. Floaty styles match the carefree mood, they travel well and they are comfortable in the heat. Jigs's flower clip ties in with the chiffon flowers on her dress and also with Charlie's floral shirt. His white suit completes the summery look.' Jigs's verdict 'I absolutely love this dress – it's gorgeous. It's empire line, which I wouldn't usually go for, but it drapes perfectly and the train is beautiful. It suits the outdoor feel we are going for.'

Jigs Morbido-tulle dress with silk-organza petals, £2,300, Pronovias. Silk flower comb, £28, Charlotte Balbier. Pearl earrings, £32, Magpie Vintage. Bouquet of hyacinths, anemones and senecio, £40, Lucy The Florist at The Luxe. Charlie Cotton suit, £590, Paul Smith. Cotton shirt, £95, Ted Baker. Leather lace-ups, £280, Beatrix Ong. Jasmine (on the swing), £100, Rebel Rebel



'I LOVE HER RED-CARPET LOOK'

Fabio Arcari, 24, managing director of a restaurant chain, will marry Sophia Di-Mascio, also 24, an assistant lingerie designer, at a black tie event in Italy in July. Fabio says 'This dress is amazing. It's very slinky and elegant – she looks like a film star. When I first saw her, I thought, "Wow!" Elegant glamour is much more Sophia's style than the whole princess bride thing.' Astrid says 'Black tie is all about glamour and perfect for an evening wedding. Sophia's slinky silk dress oozes screen-siren style, while the crystal embellishment adds glitz. Fabio's suit is a modern twist on the James Bond look, with blue piping and a matching bow tie. It's the perfect look for this couple.' Sophia says 'This is so me. I'm surprised I can wear a slinky style so confidently. When I first saw it hanging up, I thought it might be too sexy, but with the crystal detail and the luxurious fabric, it looks classy rather than revealing.'

Sophia Silk-charmeuse beaded dress, £2,240, Jenny Packham. Silk top hat, £295, Ede & Ravenscroft. Crystal cuff, £18, Allusions at Bhs. Satin shoes, £375, Jimmy Choo. Fabio Wool and silk suit, £1,190; cotton shirt, £198; silk bow tie, £75, Pal Zileri. Patent loafers, £90, Ted Baker



STYLING: ASTRID JOSS. HAIR: TAHIRA HEROLD AT LHA USING KEHL'S MAKE-UP. MAKE-UP: SARAH BROCK USING DANIEL SANDLER COSMETICS. CAFFEINE AND FLORAL PROP. JENI CAMPBELL