



Bridal looks you'll LOVE...but what will HE think?

Three men reveal their verdicts on our bride-to-be's style

PRINCESS GOWN

Rhodri says: This look's not for me. I'd like a wedding dress to show off my wife's gorgeous figure, and she would disappear under this huge skirt. Having said that, I do like her hair which is feminine, but not fussy, and the fact that the gown shows off her shoulders and arms. I could see this at a big church wedding.

David says: This is the dress that, in my opinion, gets most things right. It's got an understated beauty with the sculpted bodice, which gives way to a skirt that is made to be centre stage. It probably scores highly for me as it's the dress that most resembles the one my wife wore on our wedding day – she looked amazing!

John says: This gown is what comes to mind when I hear the words 'wedding dress'. It's the stereotypical look: right on top with a *massive* skirt. It's a nice dress but not my ideal choice. Looking at my bride as she walked towards me, I'd think she looked great on top but then I'd get to the skirt and think: 'Where are you hiding?'

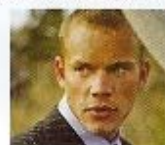
THE PANEL



THE GROOM-TO-BE
RHODRI GRIFFITHS, 34, AN
IT CONSULTANT, WILL MARRY
BRIDES COMMISSIONING
EDITOR YASMINE GIBSON
THIS SEPTEMBER.



THE STYLE EXPERT
DAVID BRADSHAW, 46,
EDITOR OF GO STYLE, MARRIED
CATHY LOMAX IN 1993.



THE MODEL
JOHN GROOVI, 31, MARRIED
GEMMA HENNESSY IN
AUGUST LAST YEAR.

CLASSIC LACE

The panel's views

THE GROOM-TO-BE

Rhodri says: She looks like an old woman wearing a massive doily over her head! I don't like this buttoned-up look – it's overly fussy and old-fashioned, and she looks really upright. This is very much the virginal-bride look for a strict church wedding. I like the shape of the dress but the lace cover-up at the top and the shroud-like veil are awful.

THE STYLE EXPERT

David says: I'm not a religious man but I have to confess to being rather susceptible to the allure of this Catholic-inspired lace number. They say less is more but that's definitely not the case here. It's deep-buttoning style, corsage and floor-length veil make it at once attractive, seductive and divine.

THE MODEL

John says: I don't like this one at all. I imagine she is quite shy and conservative as almost every inch of her is covered up. I like a veil on a bride but not one like this. She looks like she's going to mourn her dead husband in it, not get married to him! →

Opposite Tulle dress with crystal detail, \$185; Elizabeth Emanuel at Bhs; faux-pearl and crystal earrings, \$8; faux-pearl and crystal cuff, \$12. Accessories: Crystal tiara, \$220; Stephanie & Browne; Pearl and gold ring, \$2,240; Silks of London. This page Corded lace strapless dress, \$6,525; lace jacket, \$1,200; silk and lace veil, \$2,995; Black Label at Stuart Pearce; Made side table, \$195; Princess mirror, \$340; Bissel Verde a. Quokxand and Julia's Baby rose arrangement, \$50; Absolute Flowers.



Satin and laser-cut organza dress, \$5,300, Suzanna Neville. Silk-rose and net comb, \$270, Gina Foster. Pearl earrings, \$580; pearl and gold ring, \$2,240, Silks of London. Crystal and pearl bracelets, \$80 each, Filippa Scott. Patent-leather slingbacks, £330, Christian Louboutin.

SHORT 'N' QUIRKY

The panel's views

THE GROOM-TO-BE

Rhodri says: I'm usually all for a woman showing off her legs, but to me this is more 'ra-ra skirt on a night out' than 'wife-to-be'. On her wedding day, I think a woman should look amazing and, yes, sexy, but not in such an obvious way. This would be a brave choice but I can imagine someone young, confident and fashionable wearing this for a modern party reception rather than a church wedding.

THE STYLE EXPERT

David says: This little number with its sweetheart neckline, extended bodice and flirty skirt is as pretty as a peach and it's just the sort of thing that would grace any young (and slightly wild) bride, like Ms Geldof. I'd imagine this brat-pack bride would find herself walking down the aisle – if there is an aisle at all – after a whirlwind romance. After all, love is love and this dress is all about fun and impulse.

THE MODEL

John says: Wow, where do I start? I think I would have got a shock if my bride had walked down the aisle towards me in this dress. At first I thought: 'What are you wearing?' But the more I look at it, the more I like it – it's quite sexy and fun. I still wouldn't have wanted my wife to wear this for our wedding. However, if I was a guest and the bride was wearing this, I'd think she was cool – very outgoing and confident.

Silk-crepe dress, £996,
Gerry at Mirror Mirror. Crystal
hair slide, £300, Erickson
Beamon. Diamond and
amethyst drop earrings,
£980; rose-quartz and gold
ring, £2,240, Silks of London.
Vendola, Quick&nd and
Julia's Baby rose bouquet,
£80, Absolute Flowers.
Amaryllis arrangement, £80,
Vive La Rose.



EVENING GLAMOUR

The panel's views

THE GROOM-TO-BE

Rhodri says: Wow! I would be a very happy man to see my wife-to-be in this dress. It looks like something you'd see on a Hollywood film star. The silky material really shows off her figure and the plunging neckline is sexy, but it's still an elegant look. It would be perfect for a glamorous bride at an evening wedding.

THE STYLE EXPERT

David says: Zsa Zsa Gabor famously said: 'The only place a man wants depth in a woman is in her décolletage.' I'd have to say I disagree. This dress with its plunging folds certainly makes the most of the décolleté. It's the kind of fit-for-a-goddess creation, though perhaps this one's a little too 'Aphrodite in a nightie'.

THE MODEL

John says: If I was marrying a rich divorcee 20 years my senior, this is what I'd expect her to wear. She thinks she's young and she thinks this is sexy. It's not a bad dress but not what I see as sexy, and not what I consider a wedding dress – don't take the plunge on your wedding day. The hair is great, though. →

SIMPLE ELEGANCE

The panel's views

THE GROOM-TO-BE

Rhodri says: I like the fitted then flaring out shape of this dress. It doesn't look too huge, so you can get away with having the train. My worst nightmare would be a Princess Diana-style wedding dress: meringue, huge train, the works. The top half is a bit boring and needs some detail to make it look special – it's a special day after all! And she doesn't look like she has even thought about her hair – it just looks very everyday.

THE STYLE EXPERT

David says: When I was a teenager it was my dream to marry Katherine Ross, who played the daughter in *The Graduate*. Of course, this fantasy was eclipsed by the beautiful reality of my wife on my own wedding day. But there is something about the elegant line of the dress, as well as its serenity and grace, that reminds me of her. It's simple, timeless and enduringly beautiful.

THE MODEL

John says: This dress is definitely my favourite out of the five. It looks like a wedding dress without drowning her in material. I think a woman should look beautiful, sexy and confident, in a dress that suits her personality. From the natural hair to the easy shape, she looks happy and herself – just as you should on your wedding day. **B**



Lace dress with crystal detail and satin and crystal belt, £760, Maggie Sottero. Tulle veil, £95, Halo & Co. Pearl and crystal necklace, £603, Erickson Beamon. Crystal cuff, £90, Filippa Scott. Crystal and white-gold ring, £980, Astley Clarke. Platform peep-toes, £375, Jimmy Choo. Savita rose and stock arrangement, £150, Jamie Aston

Make-up Sarah Brock using Daniel Sandler. Model Quintessentially Models. See Stockists for details