



Sydney 11°C - 19°C . Possible shower. Very windy.

Belt to the Havana Rakatan

Soraiya Fuda | The Daily Telegraph | June 17, 2011 12:00AM

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What... To Where?

Source: The Daily Telegraph

GET those dancing shoes on for the Havana Rakatan at the Sydney Opera House this weekend - what shoes will help you toe-tap your way through the night? Well, let our experts answer that question.

Transform that black waist belt for a great night out on the town, using some of our expert advice.

Every Friday, two fashion experts and a woman who simply loves clothes are put to the test with a "mystery item" of clothing or an accessory - the "to What" - as well as social event the mystery will be worn - the "to Where?" The "mystery" will often be in your own wardrobe or at least affordable and easily found in most shops and the event will be one which most of us get invited to from time to time. Our three experts are Sydney stylist Annalisa Armitage, Daily Telegraph Online Entertainment and Sydney Confidential Editor Paul Ewart and fashion lover / newsreader Michelle Taverniti.

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Pull out that waist belt and lay back to the sweet sounds of Cuban music using this advice:

Michelle Taverniti is a newsreader and a fashion lover.

"I'm imagining a black studded waist belt with a long, maxi-skirt in grey/lilac/beige tones, a long-sleeved, off-both-shoulders top and peep-toe black booties. It's the winter equivalent of a dance-friendly, sexy outfit. You could even pair it with a faux fur vest when stepping outside to brave the wind on the Harbour.

"The point of a waist belt is to accentuate your waist, drawing your

clothes in to highlight your figure. Therefore, it works best on loose, not baggy, clothing as opposed to tight-fitted items.

"I find it's a good accessory to a boho-esque type ensemble and pulls a look together. In the instance described above, the skirt and top are quite girly and flirty, while a studded black belt contradicts that and matches the peep-toe boots.

"A nude lip, tousled locks and some chin-scraping earrings in either gold or silver - depending on what suits."

Annalisa Armitage is the Owner and Principal Stylist for My Image Consultant. Visit www.myimageconsultant.com.au for more expert advice.

"Get ready to be dancing in the aisles as this high energy show will have you losing all self restraint!

"So what does this mean for your outfit? Easy to wear footwear is first priority but you must get into the vibrant mood by discarding your first choice of an outfit of all winter black and pull out those bright pops of colour. Select your shortest, most girly, a-line skirt, grab a top in your bright colour and add a black short cardigan if you're going to be cold. Cinch in at the waist with a thick black belt.

"It's very important to have a thick belt here as you must show a waist with a skirt so full or you'll add 10 kilos.

"If it feels all too dark add a scarf in the same colour as before or another equally as bright in a different colour. Throw on your black, over the knee boots. If your legs are fabulous wear skin coloured tights if not black opaques will work just as well without drawing attention to your thighs. Up to you on heel height - if you're tall and the boots are slim/tight to the leg - even flats will look great with this outfit.

"Accessorise with wild sexy hair, bright bangles and bright lipstick. Keep nails neutral - you can go too far with fluro brights!"

Daily Telegraph Online Entertainment and Sydney Confidential Editor Paul Ewart.

"Dressing up for a concert - especially one held at the Opera House - is always fun, and the simplicity of a waist-clinging black belt allows for a multitude of sartorial choices. Opt for an A-line 50s-style skirt or dress with some volume and pair with a simple pashmina or faux fur stole.

"Err on the side of classic - yes, you may be watching Cuban dance but there's no need to theme your outfit to correspond! Opt for a simple colour palette - monochrome is obviously an option but also red.

"Patent vertiginous heels, a boxy clutch and a multi-strand pearl necklace will do nicely. If you're still reaching for the jewellery box, try a statement brooch pinned to the pashmina/stole.

"Go sophisticated with your 'do and work a high knot."

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