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Blazer to Earth Hour dinner

Soraiya Fuda | The Daily Telegraph | March 25, 2011 12:00AM

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Source: The Daily Telegraph

MANY countries around the world will switch off their lights for Earth Hour tomorrow. Restaurants in Sydney will take part in the tradition by holding candlelit dinners around the city.

Our experts tell our readers how to wear a black blazer to dinner on the day, so make your booking before it's too late and whip out that jacket.

The four fashion professionals have some good advice on how to take that blazer from the office to a romantic dinner for two - or maybe just a group of mates.

Every Friday, three fashion experts and a woman who simply loves clothes will be put to the test with a "mystery item" of clothing or an accessory - the What - as well as social event the mystery will be worn - 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, designer Sally Smith, Daily Telegraph Online Entertainment and Sydney Confidential Editor Paul Ewart and fashion lover / newsreader Michelle Taverniti. Here are their tips.

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Michelle Taverniti is a Newsreader and a fashion lover.

"A black blazer can really be worn with anything - depending on the venue of the dinner. For something more formal, I'd choose a tulip skirt with a loose singlet and some sexy black heels. The blazer will dress up the outfit and you won't look overdressed for an enviro-conscious dinner.

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"If it's somewhere more low key, I'd pair the blazer with some light-coloured skinny jeans and a cool, printed tee with either some ballet flats or platform heels. The blazer will transform a usually casual outfit into something a lot more special and on-trend.

"Don't assume that a black blazer and dinner means formal wear. If you pair it with black pants and a black shirt, you'll end up looking more corporate-appropriate rather than candlelit dinner.

"Try to break it up a bit, by mixing a fitted blazer with either a feminine/flirty or urban-style outfit.

"Don't forget an awesome clutch to top it all off - in either an animal print or bold colour. It's all about mismatching.

"A black blazer is a staple of any fashion-forward gal's wardrobe. I wear mine all the time - for both work and play. Therefore, I'd invest in a good quality blazer - one that doesn't fade or lose its shape.

"Mine's from Cue - it cost quite a bit but was sure worth it."

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

"A candlelit dinner sounds so romantic so I'm going for the romantic look with the black blazer. Earth hour has a special place in my heart as it was on the first Earth Hour four years ago that I met my husband. So with the romantic idea in mind, let me tell you what I'll be wearing on Saturday night for dinner with my black blazer.

"I love leggings and I can't wait any longer to wear my gorgeous 10-centimetre heel, black suede ankle boots so that will take care of the bottom half. Underneath the blazer - mine is long / boyfriend style - I'll wear a singlet top/dress - comes to mid thigh also in black.

"It has a low neck so of course the best underwear to create the best possible cleavage must be worn... is this too much information?"

"The all black will make me look impossibly tall - pretty easy - and skinny, which actually is impossible but this works to create somewhat of an illusion in this direction.

"Now black is not a great colour on me so an accessory close to the face in the right colour for me is very important. I love purple and luckily enough it loves me right back so I'll be wearing one of my light weight summer scarves in purple to get away from the Morticia look. It's also the colour of mystery and intrigue so right on theme for the romance.

In terms of other accessories, I'll wear the jacket open with a long silver necklace to add some interest, a silver cuff, a large purple ring and long purple earrings.

"Earth hour will of course mean different things to different people, a black blazer can also be worn beautifully with denim to dress it down or over a dress to be more traditional. Enjoy your evening!"

Sally Smith is the Director and Designer of her own business called Sally Smith. To find out more about Sally visit sallysmith.com.au.

"Well, it's a candlelit dinner, yes, with a serious reason for the candles, but lets have a romantic evening for two. So slinky, drapery jersey under the blazer would work for me.

"I wouldn't suit it up with anything matching, ie skirt or trouser, save that look for the office.

"Wear this with a simple strong statement piece of jewellery and I would probably choose silver.

"Keep the look simple, understated and elegant.

"And just remember, it's dinner, not a club."

Daily Telegraph Online Entertainment and Sydney Confidential Editor Paul Ewart.

"A classic black blazer is a true wardrobe staple and handily it can be dressed up or dressed down as required making it ideal for office-to-cocktail bar. Pair with either skinny jeans or satin cigarette pants a la Kate Moss, who is rarely pictured without her LBB - that's little black blazer.

"It's actually tricky to get it wrong unless you have the misfortune to be naturally sartorially misguided. So, instead of considering how not to wear it, let's look at blazer style.

"When investing in said LBB opt for ultra-tailored and eschew anything faddish - you want the blazer to last season after season and not merely the duration of a fleeting trend.

"With an outfit this simple you can go all out - pearls, statement brooches, chunky cocktail rings and sky-high platforms. Go on, be daring!

"If you're going for serious va-va-voom slick your hair circa YSL's Le Smoking collection for some painfully on-trend androgynous chic."