

Boot to Smart Arts Festival

Soraiya Fuda | The Daily Telegraph | April 01, 2011 12:00AM

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THE Smart Arts Festival 2011 in Sydney is on this weekend, which is the perfect opportunity to wear those lace-up short boots and turn yourself into a glam-meets-artsy visitor.

Our fashion professionals have been given the hard work of choosing your outfit.

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.

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These are their suggestions.

Michelle Taverniti is a Newsreader and a fashion lover.

"I love these shoes!

"Depending on what your style is, but I'd pair them with a short floral dress under a chunky, knitted cream cardi. You could also tuck some printed tights (if you're game enough!) into them with a loose, white shirt, for an edgy, artsy look - I'm thinking leopard print or something featuring earthy tones, for a boho take.

"Don't wear them with bootleg jeans - the wide, 70s look in denim is making a comeback BUT these shoes are meant to be seen and add that extra flair to your outfit so don't cover them up!

"To keep in line with the boho, earthy look, accessorise your outfit with a sheer scarf, cream beanie and tan cocoon-shaped bag.

"This is a great trans-seasonal shoe - you can wear it now with bare legs right through to winter with either tights or stockings."

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

"With a heel like that, these shoes are going to be fabulously comfortable. In this light neutral colour they look delicate yet edgy with the dark wooden heel.

"As always, if you have great legs show them off with a short skirt or dress - let's say in a khaki/olive, or maroon or purple. We found some fabulous skirts from Cue in Myer on the weekend in these colours - and on sale.

"This shoe has some texture so go with it. With the short skirt wear a similar coloured singlet top and over it wear a long line cardigan in a similar light neutral to the shoes.

"Add a scarf in another of the autumnal colours, worn long if you're tall or wrapped around your neck if it doesn't make your neck look too short.

"If a scarf overwhelms you go for a necklace, again picking up on the autumnal colours. If you can't wear these colours, a mid blue works for everyone.

"Option two is for those of us with horrid legs - wear high waisted flared trousers that beautifully skim the fuller figured thigh in the light neutral. This will create a fabulous long line against the shoe.

"Light colours do make things look bigger so if you can't face the light coloured trousers try the same chocolate colour as in the heel. With both sets of trousers wear the same tops as described above. The long line cardigan will hide any hip or thigh bumps.

"For an outfit to wear to an arts festival you need to be colourful and eclectic or chic and all black.

"These shoes are fun and casual - don't wear them with black. This is not the day for the all black chic. Make sure you have texture and a mixture of colours to develop the eclectic in the rest of the outfit.

"In this instance less is not more - wear the statement ring, the bracelet, the long necklace, the belt and the hat. Combinations of maroon, purple, olive green, chocolate and our sandy neutral will completely fit the bill."

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

"I love this shoe. It's such a strong statement.

"I see it as a work shoe. My collection for this winter is using a lot of vintage Pendleton plaids from the USA.

"It's a beautiful quality wool still manufactured in Oregon. I'm cutting the dresses super slim fit and on the bias making what could be seen as a conservative fabric into a really sexy office dress. I team it back with my hand knitted cashmere shrugs from Nepal in ochre and ruby.

"It's a heavy shoe so it needs a substantial outfit to balance it, so nothing floaty or flimsy.

"This shoe doesn't need a lot of accessories, maybe just a chunky hand knit scarf."

Daily Telegraph Online Entertainment and Sydney Confidential Editor Paul Ewart.

"If you're blessed with legs a la Elle Macpherson, then opt for bandage skirts - the shorter the

better!

"Pair this with a cropped blazer and tee. Floaty baby-doll dresses are also a decent alternative.

"Avoid trousers or jeans - skirts or dresses only, I'm afraid. You need to go ultra-feminine in order to balance out the mannish shoe-boot.

"Accessorise with a beaten up purse or mini-satchel - circa 60s schoolgirl - and chunky bangles to echo the wide wedge of the shoe.

"If you're truly stuck for inspiration, try loitering around the entrance of ACP magazines offices on Park St.

"The assortment of fash mag hags going in and out of the building in identikit ensembles - all wearing clunky shoe-boots with ubiquitous top-knot hair, will definitely help!"