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## Gold clutch to Sydney cruise

Soraiya Fuda | The Daily Telegraph | March 11, 2011 12:00AM

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Source: The Daily Telegraph

IF you've had a tough week at work, the comedy cruise on Sydney Harbour may be able to lift your spirits. Take out that gold clutch bag and let our experts figure out the rest of 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, Sydney Confidential's Joel Christie and fashion lover / newsreader Michelle Taverniti. Here are their tips:

Michelle Taverniti is a Newsreader and a fashion lover.

"I'd opt for a stylish pants and top combo because with Autumn now upon us, it can get quite chilly on the Harbour of a night. I'd wear some fitted, cropped-to-the-ankle pants, either in a navy or khaki with, depending on the weather, a cream silk shirt or dressy tee.

"Add tan-coloured heels - or if you're bold enough a coral-coloured lace-up bootie with wooden heels (I have a pair, hence the specificity!) will really set off a khaki/cream/gold combo - some gold accessories plus the clutch and you're ready to go.

"I'd avoid trying to match it with too much gold - gold shoes, gold necklace, gold bangles... you get the point. You don't want to look like you're back at your year 10 formal.

"Some subtle gold jewellery would match an outfit in earthy tones, like the one I've described - think a simple, draping gold chain or a statement gold rock on your finger.

"If I were shopping for a gold clutch, I'd look for something in a cool, unusual shape, which would make it an accessory that's more funky and less Vegas.

"Also, I'd stay away from a gold-coloured clutch in satin - something in a solid material will not only look better but will be easier to keep clean and in good nick."

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

"Gold can be very dated when paired with black or anything bright, such as red or bright pink as it yells 80's flashback. So, that's all good if you're under 30 but you know how the saying goes, if you're old enough to have worn it first time round and you wear it again, it looks like you're rather behind in the annual wardrobe clear out'.

"Under 30's you're sorted, go big on the 80's look, for everyone else go neutral, take advantage of your super fabulous nude shoes (I'm sure you have these ankle slimmers and leg lengtheners that go with everything in your wardrobe) and wear a dress in a similar colour.

"A light neutral - could even be 'your white' for instance ivory , cream, silk or bright white, with those nude shoes. A very classy elegant look which will tone down the bling of the clutch.

"If you have dark hair you will need to balance and contrast this 'light look' with some other pops of darker colours - navy or purple looks beautiful with gold - so how about a belt and necklace in one of these colours.

"Make sure the belt buckle is gold or bronze and the necklace also has a yellowish metal in with the colour if any metal shows.

"Dress should be knee length or above - a maxi (unless it has very colourful patterns) with a gold clutch will look like you took a wrong turn and didn't make it to the black tie event on the other boat.

"Give the jeans a rest tonight. It's a harbour cruise - dress up for it!"

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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 gold back with chocolate brown. I would wear this with a slinky jersey, not too dressy, just a simple tank dress but just remember it is a boat cruise not a night club so don't over do it.

"My advice is simple, don't wear with more shine or silver in any way. One metallic is enough.

"But I'd even break my own rule and go matching little gold leather thong, maybe like a glomesh.

"A tan always looks good with gold and chocolate. I'd fake it just to be on the safe side, the real thing is it can look way too harsh and aging!"

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Sydney Confidential's Joel Christie.

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"Don't wear this with nothing ostentatious. Make the clutch the feature with maybe perhaps black jeans and a grey cardie over a tee with neutral heels.

"I would suggest not to wear this with anything over the top. You risk tacky and trashy with too much bling or sparkle.

"Since it's a casual event, costume jewellery, like a statement ring, could be a good way of funky-ing it up.

"Don't be afraid to wear silver either. A bag like this does not need to match the jewellery."