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Skinny jeans to Mardi Gras

Soraiya Fuda | The Daily Telegraph | March 04, 2011 12:00AM

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GET out your black skinny jeans if you're heading to the Mardi Gras this weekend and match it with glitz and glamour, our experts advise today.

It may seem like an old dust-collecting garment but a few accessories can make these pants go from drab to fab.

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.

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Here are their tips

Michelle Taverniti is a Newsreader and a fashion lover.

"Seeing as it's Mardi Gras and the town will be covered in sequins - don't be afraid to follow suit and team black skinny jeans with either a black or white singlet and a silvery sequined

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cape/bolero/cardi.

"This will ensure you're dressed for the occasion - and silver is everywhere now. Think Gwyneth Paltrow, Celine Dion and Michelle Williams at the Oscars - silver is stunning.

"Complete the look with some peep toe pumps or T-bar stilettos and you're guaranteed to look a bonafide Dancing Queen!

"I'd avoid an overly flowy top or on the other extreme, a structured corporate-type top. Black skinny jeans - if you've got the body for them - can be very sexy and fun if they're matched with something that allows them to be.

"Also, steer clear of an all-black ensemble - Mardi Gras is all about colour so have a bit of fun with it.

"A black patent or silver clutch and some statement earrings - but make sure they don't clash with the sequins or turn you into a visual disco ball.

"It's also a good idea to ditch the heels - if you're not partial to them - and wear some ballet flats or sandals. With most of the roads in Sydney's CBD closed for Mardi Gras - you're bound to be doing a lot of walking. Trust me, nobody wants to roam around barefoot.

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

"I have lived on Oxford street for the past four years and have seen the Parade and all the onlookers from my apartment and as such feel as if I am rather an expert on this one. Actually, for the Mardi Gras anything goes.

"The main themes however are S and M so leather, studs on clothing, black and silver in colour, underwear as outerwear ie not wearing very much at all, dressing up as a gay icon ala Kylie Minogue or the final option - just go as yourself! All of these looks can be achieved with the skinny black jeans but bear this in mind, it's going to be a long day and a long night so be comfortable and the fewer things you have the fewer things you can lose.

"Without wanting to sound like your mother, I advise no handbag; carry money, keys, phone and lip balm in a fabulous black leather bum bag.

"I am sure you can manage the dress up option described, however, if you are choosing the go as yourself option your consideration is firstly about how good your legs are. If you have great legs your top can be short and skimpy, if your legs and butt are a little less than fabulous treat your jeans as if they are leggings - wear long layered singlet tops (black, grey, white, light underneath and dark over the top is more slimming) and a stack of long chain necklaces. Wear dark coloured shoes that continue the line of your jeans. Wedged black ankle boots will be comfortable, stylish and continue the line of your legs ensuring perfect proportions.

"If you're going for a short top you could go for a sexy bustier of the type found at Wheels and Dollbaby or even a fitted T from there for a more casual look.

"If you are going as yourself, accessorise with a smile, some false eyelashes and some silver glitter placed high on the cheekbones just to show everyone that you know it's not just another Saturday night at the local.

"Most of all have fun."

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

"Skinny black jeans and Mardi Gras - it's definitely a high heel occasion. Let's face it, there's even more competition with the boys going all the way with their night of nights, so girls, heels and maybe sexy, drapery jersey top. One tight item of clothing is enough. Show skin though, maybe interesting twist detail or embellishment.

"You shouldn't wear thongs or flats of any kind because it's a party.

"Accessorise with long beads, cuffs. A fantastic belt detailed with metal work or cut/stamped leather can also work.

"Dress to have fun and even though heels are a must, make sure they are worn in and comfortable. We don't want to see you strolling home in the early hours barefoot and shoes in hand, it's not a good look!"

Joel Christie is the Daily Telegraph's Sydney Confidential Reporter.

"Mardi Gras is one of my favourite times of the year. Black skinny jeans goes with almost anything but on an occasion like this, it's about who stands out most.

"Wear a shimmery or glittery blouse for the occasion. Glitter high heels with a plain white singlet and a clutch with little pieces of sparkle, can work for this event.

"Avoid anything that will make you look like you're not there to have fun. Don't wear neutral colours or all black - it's a celebration and one of the only times of the year that you can go all out.

"Silver and diamonds would go nicely with a lot of shiny material.

"This is a perfect event to let your hair out. Messy sexy hair and glitter above the eyes will finish the look."