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My Style Icon

Monday, 30 May 2011
By Georgina Heffernan

Four of Ireland's leading stylists and designers reveal the tastemakers who've taught them a thing or two about what it means to live a life of style. Prepare to be inspired.

Sinead Doyle

Fashion designer, Sinead Doyle has won numerous awards her cutting edge designs. She launched her eponymous luxury daywear label in 2008. Sinead Doyle Design now sells in the Loft Market and boutiques nationwide.

"The biggest impact on my notion of style probably came from Katherine Parker. And she's not even real. Parker was a character played by Sigourney Weaver in the 1988 movie 'Working Girl' and her wardrobe was created by Ann Roth.



She taught me all about power dressing and tailoring. Armani suits for work, red to stand out in a crowd. It was the first time I realised the power of clothing as a way of communicating. 'Simple, elegant, impeccable' are her work wardrobe rules and she advises her over-accessorised secretary 'You might want to rethink the jewellery.'

Okay, the character was a horrible person and the 80's style is hideously outdated but I can't help but love her. Because of Ann Roth and

Katherine Parker, one of my most exciting purchases was my first business suit (A black €201 Sisley two piece - more than I could afford at the time but love at first sight) and I'm still more comfortable in a pencil skirt and fitted jacket than I ever will be in a maxi dress."

Sinead Doyle Design
www.sineaddoyle.com
 Ph:

Lorna Claire Weightman

Presenter and stylist, Lorna Claire Weightman established her site StyleIsle.ie in January 2010. Since then it has become one of the top Irish fashion and style websites.

"It's hard to pick just one icon; I think my definition of icon is multi faceted - from old movie stars, to supermodels of the 1990s, to my Mum and Grandma! But overall I will always truly admire Grace Kelly. She represented style to me. I don't think I could ever emanate her radiance and elegance but she has influenced me in a way



Carrie in Sex and the City - A style icon to many



that has led me to believe that style is intrinsic. You nurture and develop it until you define what it means to you and then you thrive.

"Her effortless chic in roles such as Tracy Samantha in 'High Society' and Francie Stevens in 'To Catch a Thief' will always be my favourites. To date no one has really replicated the je ne sais quoi that she had, maybe Gwyneth Paltrow or Charlize Theron. If you look back at images of her, you would almost believe you were looking at someone who could comfortably fit into the contemporary fashion world.

"Her style simply has transcended decades. But her legacy does live on in her granddaughter Charlotte Casiraghi who has become a modern style icon. A dedicated follower of fashion and front row regular at Paris Fashion Week (particularly Stella McCartney), Charlotte has the poise of her grandmother but the edginess of her generation. The perfect contradiction."

Zoe Boomer



Zoe Boomer is fast becoming a hot name on the Irish and international scene. While evening gowns are a celeb favourite, her separates manage to combine extreme femininity with functionality. With a host of celebrity fans, including Natasha Bedingfield, she's certainly one to watch.

"Well to start, I have to say I am not someone who always has one person in mind as a style icon. My first job in fashion was as a stylist. I quickly learnt that it isn't the star that is the style icon but the stylist behind the star. The stylist I most admire, who creates the 'Style Icons' and who has done so much for fashion, is Patricia Field. She is the genius behind 'Sex and the City', 'Devil wears Prada' and 'Ugly Betty'; once you have watched one of these programmes wants to go out and buy a whole new wardrobe.

"I think what I love about her style is she is so creative in it. She puts garments together that aren't obviously what we might think to do, such as a sparkle skirt with an over sized plain T-shirt! Carrie Bradshaw's (Sarah Jessica Parkers character) style is amazing - ok so some of the garments are a bit way out, after all, there is no way we could really walk down the street in a pink large tutu but most of her style is brilliant. I am not a fan of things looking to perfect or matching, to me, character in a person comes out in clothes when a bit of imperfection and contrast is so interesting and intriguing."

Follow Zoe on Twitter: twitter.com/zoeboomer

You can see and buy Zoe Boomer collections on: www.zoeboomer.com

Natalie Coleman

Natalie B Coleman is one of the rising stars of Irish fashion and she's gained a huge following but in Ireland abroad. Lily Allen has some of Natalie's Damaged Goods pieces in her wardrobe.

"I think growing up my style icon was my mother, she had very distinctive taste and stood out quite a lot where we lived. Some of the pieces that I remember her wearing were knee length snakeskin boots with tassels and a gorgeous plaited velvet belt with gold panthers creeping around the waist. I also liked the austerity of the nuns' habits in the Convent where I went to secondary school.






"I take inspiration from film as well, I love the mood of the clothes in the 70's 'Harold and Maude' and my all time favourite obsessions are the mother and daughter, the two Eddies from the cult documentary 'Grey Gardens'. So I would say not one particular style icon but women from Margaret Thatcher, to Prisoner Cell Block H, to Sue Ellen from Dallas. I love them all."

www.nataliecoleman.com

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Style Icons have at least two things in common. A dignified grace, and they are tastefully, luxurious. Grace Kelly, Audrey Hepburn and Jackie o' had these wonderful qualities. Elegance is timeless.....

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