

# FASHION TALKS

WITH MAGGIE SEMPLE LTD



November marked the third birthday of Maggie Semple Limited

which we celebrated with an event at The Club at The Ivy. Friends, family and supporters of MSL came to acknowledge this achievement with a wine reception, and to hear myself in conversation with Mary Keane-Dawson. We were also able to celebrate the launch of the fourth issue of Semple Magazine which explored the concept of the future. Articles explored the future of fashion, style, technology and art, and the photoshoot was held in the upcoming and graffiti loving city of Bristol.

It was also a time to look back on our last three years, and here at MSL we are very proud of all that we have achieved. In a short space of time we have gone from one simple idea of our Behind the Seams bespoke gift product, to establishing our Semple Secret events which have featured inspiring females such as Julie Deane of the Cambridge Satchel Company, and the beloved author, Adele Parks.

Our online blog, [blog.maggiesemple.com](http://blog.maggiesemple.com), which is updated daily with thought-provoking fashion and lifestyle articles is growing in popularity, along with our magazines, and we hope that this will continue to grow from strength to strength.

Therefore, to celebrate our success over the past three years, we are offering all readers 20% off their purchase of a Behind the Seams bespoke gift product, which is the perfect unique Christmas gift for any female who has a treasured garment.

For more information please email [sophie@maggiesemple.com](mailto:sophie@maggiesemple.com) or pop in to visit us in our Covent Garden office.

*Maggie Semple*



Maggie Semple Limited presents Behind the Seams, a luxury service that provides a unique account of a treasured garment, its owner and their shared memories in an exquisitely hand-crafted book.

We understand that purchasing a unique gift for your special someone at Christmas can prove challenging, but we also know that every woman has a garment or accessory that she loves and cannot throw away; something that she adores and makes her feel special. One thing we know as women, is that this garment is special to her, not only because of how it looks, but because of its memories, and here at MSL we want to uncover these and its history. This is why this gift will last a lifetime, and will stand out amongst others underneath the tree.

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## BAREFACED CHEEK

“For me when I see pictures of Penelope Cruz looking less glamorous than I’m used to, I don’t turn my nose up and stare in disgust. I applaud them, and think finally at last we get to see the real them. These are their God given looks.”



*Sophie Maguire, Editor*

Last month, our editor delved into the world of perfection, uncovered the photos that celebrities wished didn’t exist, and asked, is it time to embrace our natural beauty, our flaws and go barefaced? Though we may look more pristine and put-together with a flick of mascara, we have a tendency to be scared, shocked and maybe even embarrassed by our natural looks, or have become so used to how we look with makeup on, that our pre-makeup face seems alien to us all.



I am sure that if more women embraced their natural looks, we would spend less time critiquing and comparing ourselves to other women, and start feeling content with ourselves.

As a woman who chooses not to apply any makeup, other than a touch of lipstick, I am very much in favour of women being able to feel comfortable in their skin, which is why my brave MSL team will be going barefaced in the new year for a blog post and will create their own before and after pictures in support of natural beauty. Keep an eye out for the announcement of this article on our blog.

As a woman who chooses not to apply any makeup, other than a touch of

*Maggie Semple*



## SAVE THE DATE

Semple Secrets event on 29th January is at The Club at The Ivy. Guest speaker to be revealed on @MaggieSempleLtd.

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## STYLE DIARY

It has been said that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, and while I am a strong believer in being your own unique self, I do believe that there is wisdom in those words.

I aim to live in a world where women help other women and that is why, when coming up with new ideas for our blog, the team and I decided to add our Style Diary posts. Style Diary sees us pick style savvy bloggers and delve into their daily dressing in the hope to inspire those out there who find themselves in a wardrobe



Berta Bernad from [bertabernad.com](http://bertabernad.com)



Stephanie from [wardrobeangel.co.uk](http://wardrobeangel.co.uk)

rut or simply admire the art of dressing. Clothes have the command to improve perception, outlook and opportunities, and we shouldn't underestimate them. Looking to other style conscious women for inspiration allows us to broaden our fashion horizons. It tempts us to step out of our comfort zones, to shape opinions on what we do and do not like, and to understand how dressing well can transform the female form.

While I appreciate that you might really love that trusted black skirt and think that florals just aren't 'really you', I challenge you to look to others this year. Draw creativity from our favourite style bloggers and borrow just one or two looks and use them as inspiration to transform your outfits. I promise you will be surprised at how radiant you feel.

Now go snap the results and start the style sharing #SempleOOTD Meet Stephanie from The Wardrobe Angel at our next Semple Secrets event at The Club at The Ivy. Purchase your tickets at [www.maggiensemple.com](http://www.maggiensemple.com)

*Maggie Semple*

Rebecca from [raspberrry-rouge.com](http://raspberrry-rouge.com)



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The beginning of 2014 has been a jet setting month of all things fashion for MSL. Here is our round up of the three best shows this Fashion Season...

## Franck Sorbier Haute Couture PFW

Opening the show in a delectable floor length gold crepe gown, adorned with intricate brocade patchwork, singer Kimbra whimsically enticed the pièce de résistance – a breathtaking giant wicker man – out to face the crowd of astonished onlookers. Like a master of creation, Sorbier took us on a captivating adventure, showcasing an eclectic collection of handcrafted creations, each inspired by the designers stunning geographical interpretations.



## Custo NYFW

With a base of nude, black, grey and camel and clever application of bright shades with metallic reflections, Custo's colour palette was pure sophisticated refinement. Fluoride, fuchsia and violet beautifully wrapped the looks, which were continuous yet intriguing from the first to the finale. Velvet, leather and technological fabrics were cut to embrace women's figures in a collection that celebrated femininity with elegance.

## DAKS LFW

To mark a staggering 120 years in the business, the DAKS womenswear collection for AW14 was a luxurious celebration of all that the quintessentially British label stands for. Fur trousers and woollen tailoring in shades of military green and maroon lent themselves beautifully to the brands iconic House Check, which adorned tote bags, guardsmen inspired fur hats and leather trench coats. Pops of metallic gold in the form of blazers and elbow length gloves elegantly represented the celebratory nature of the auspicious occasion.

*Maggie Semple*



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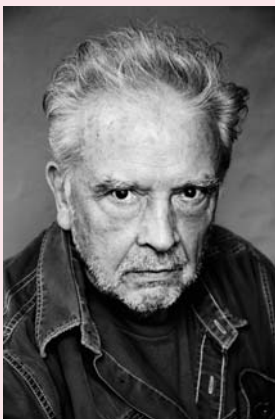
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*"It's not the camera that takes the picture; it's the person."*

*David Bailey*

Wandering the palatial halls of London's National Portrait Gallery it soon became evident that a truer word has never been spoken. I was met with a comforting, yet undeniably sinister sense of being watched; as the eyes of the 250 plus portraits practically escaped from their frames. Such is the strength of a David Bailey.



Walking into the exhibition, my heart was stolen by the 'Fashion Icons and Beauty' room. From Lagerfeld and Ford to Westwood and Moss the space was dedicated to icons; described by the man himself as the "the ultimate ones". Cynics out there may be of the impression that indulgent celebrity portraits can't possibly be branded as bona fide 'art', but after witnessing the collection first hand, it's clear that Bailey's

acclaimed status is more than justified. Up close, said portraits are dramatic works of art; evoking a surprising emotional connection with the all too familiar faces that we often see smattered across the tabloids. And it is not just the celebrity portraits that shatter the stereotype; the exhibition explores a side to Bailey that many may not know exists. Next door to rooms dedicated to The Rolling Stones lie intimate collections of personal family photos, evidence of his time



spent in the Naga Hills, and heart wrenching portraits from the famine stricken Ethiopia of the 80s.



Don't miss out on your chance to see this diverse body of work from one of the world's most renowned photographers, sponsored by Hugo Boss, all under one beautiful London roof.

*Maggie Semple*

*Photographs from top:*

*David Bailey Self-portrait by David Bailey © David Bailey*

*Kate Moss by David Bailey, 2013 © David Bailey*

*Mick Jagger by David Bailey, 1964 © David Bailey*

*From the series Nagaland by David Bailey, 2012 © David Bailey*

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As I'm sure you have all heard by now, Semple have a fantastic new blogger on board; Professional MUA Hannah Louise Serjeant will be blogging all things beauty in her monthly posts, so stay tuned for her tips, advice and must-try products.

*Sophie Maguire, Editor*

## Nanshy Makeup Brushes

These makeup brushes are fantastic. I am a loyal MAC brush user and these definitely compare! I have taken them on a few jobs to try them out and they will 100% be staying in my makeup kit. The clients I used them on even commented on how soft they felt. The brushes are all vegan and animal cruelty free, which is amazing.



The quality is fantastic; great for

professional and personal use.



**Karora Gradual Tan Golden Girl light/medium** I was very impressed with this product as I do a lot of sport, so fake tans tend to just sweat off me and go all patchy. I wanted to put this one through its paces so applied it to my arms and legs one evening and went to my exercise class the following morning. The tan had developed nicely overnight and, although I had applied it in a rush, it didn't look streaky. After my class I showered and noticed it had faded slightly in the creases of my arms, however it didn't look obvious. I applied it three times in one week and it went a really nice, natural colour, not orange! I'm not sure what the darker shade would be like but I really like the light/medium shade. When it faded it did go slightly patchy but on the whole it faded really well. Probably the best slow-developing tan I have tried so far as it withstood all my sporting activities really well.

## Ayurveda Pura Holistic Essentials

**Toner** It took me a little while to get used to this product as it has a very strong scent and felt quite oily, which always makes me wary as I have a very sensitive skin. However, I didn't



have any reaction to it and it made my skin feel as if it had been thoroughly cleaned. It did leave me with a bit of redness as most toners do, and a tight feeling on my skin. If you like this feeling, I would definitely recommend it, though possibly not for those with super sensitive skin.

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## Cosmetic Executive Women CEW(UK) 2014 Beauty Awards

On Friday 2 May, I was a guest at the CEW(UK) 2014 Beauty Awards hosted at London's Hilton Hotel, Park Lane. To celebrate the Awards, CEW(UK) commissioned a limited edition drawing by Barbara Hulanicki OBE – founder of 60's emporium BIBA, to grace their invitation. This collector's item celebrates the 50th anniversary of the founding of BIBA in 1964. Barbara Hulanicki was also presented with a special anniversary award.



When I received my invitation I secretly wondered if I might have the chance to meet Barbara, particularly as the first Semple book had a story about Harriet Cass, BBC Radio broadcaster and her BIBA skirt.



As the Awards ceremony - which sees over 300 products in 25 categories compete for the awards - began I realised that Barbara was on the next table. It was at this point that I decided to approach her. Welcoming me like a friend, I showed her our Semple book. We found that we had lots in common, so much so that I invited Barbara to a Semple Secrets event in the Autumn.

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Over the course of the lunch brands stepped up to accept awards and it became apparent what were the latest product trends. Eco grows in importance with Oriflame - Eco beauty Range and Unilever - Compressed Deodorants picking up awards and Oil based products also had their moment in the spotlight; Dr. Organic - Moroccan Argan Oil Hair Treatment Serum was awarded Best New Haircare Product and Bio-Oil picked up the award for Best Classic Beauty Product for the second year running.

*Maggie Semple OBE*

*Photographs supplied by  
Cosmetic Executive Women Beauty Awards press images*

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## Packing perfection for a summer city break

Rome, Paris, Zagreb - when picking that perfect mini break this summer the list of stunning cities is endless. But the thought of what to pack for a 3 day trip can soon become a travelling nightmare when baggage allowance is often restricted to a meagre hand luggage holdall!

So here are Semple's top tips for ultimate packing perfection for that all important summer getaway.

### The dress

The number one rule of mini break packing is versatility. A simple summer dress is perfect to take you from day to night. Just add heels and a statement necklace and voilà, casual daywear becomes on trend evening attire in an instant.



### The bikini

Packing light can often lead to forgetful errors. Whether you plan on shopping until you drop or enjoying the local culture you never know when an impromptu pool dip could occur. This Calzedonia bikini will flatter any body shape and ensure you don't get caught out this summer.



### The beauty product

Fast paced city breaks can cause havoc on the complexion if out and about for hours on end. In transit spray-on moisture provides instant moisture replenishment in a durable, airport friendly sized bottle.



### The bag

Kill two birds with one super stylish stone with this versatile handbag courtesy of The Cambridge Satchel Co. Big enough for all your daytime essentials, but small enough to mask as a classy evening clutch thanks to its handy detachable strap.



*Jenna Jones*

*Photographs: Dress supplied by Daks; Bikini, Calzedonia; Beauty product, This Works; Handbag, The Cambridge Satchel Company.*

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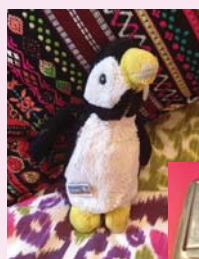
## The Story Everybody Is Talking About

The best kind of stories are those that make us laugh and cry, make us nostalgic for the past and revel in the future. They are the stories that resolve to make our world a better place. They show us who we are, where we have been and what we could be.

Stories are what make us human - they are our history, our family memories that bind us together. Whether savoured in quiet moments or shared amongst friends, stories serve to inspire us all.

Here at MSL we have always had a very special place in our hearts for stories - we based our entire business on the idea that treasured memories and stories unite the world.

It all began with our fashion event, Simple Secrets. Inviting people along to share the story behind their treasured item of clothing has allowed us to meet some amazing people and connect with like minded individuals worldwide.



Now we want to spread these ideas further so we came up with The Story Store; an online digital archive where people can store, share and like each others stories of their special something.

We want you to tell your story for yourself or tell it as a gift to future generations. Tell it to connect the past and present to the future.

To start documenting your story simply join The Story Store and in three easy steps MSL will curate your memories into a beautifully designed online memento.

Join The Story Store today and be part of the story everyone is talking about:

[www.maggiesemple.com/The\\_Story\\_Store.html](http://www.maggiesemple.com/The_Story_Store.html)

[www.thestorystore.wix.com/thestorystore](http://www.thestorystore.wix.com/thestorystore)

Follow us @The\_StoryStore

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## LFW SS15: Showtime

We may be in the midst of summer (yes, really!) but true fashion lovers are already well stocked up on their Autumn Winter wardrobes and will be desperate to know what the future holds for the fashion world next year. Thankfully the SS15 collections, shown at London Fashion Week, September 2014, are just around the corner. So what can we expect to be lusting after come next spring?

You just can't keep a good trend down so expect a few familiar themes; the midi appears to remain the skirt length of choice but a sleeker pencil version dominates the catwalks this time around. The sports luxe trend also shows no sign of abating but will take a step away from weekends and off-duty days and into our working wardrobes.



*Neon suit Ralph Lauren: Shining bright Ralph Lauren SS14 but who will take on neon this year?*



*Handbag, McQueen: McQueen has long favoured digital florals*

Prints are a popular choice for the Spring Summer collections and 2015 will be no exception, however, this time florals are likely to be less ditzy and more digital. Bold, digital floral prints were used by designers such as Giles Deacon in their pre-collections and we also

spied lots of cartoon inspired graffiti prints which are likely to find their way into the main collections, look out for Burberry Prorsum's printed macs in particular.

Colourwise expect to see flashes of neon amongst the usually muted tones of Spring Summer collections. Ultra girly pale pink looks set to be a favourite but only when paired with stronger colours. Black is a surprising colour theme for spring but seems to be sneaking its way in on lightweight sheer fabrics and lace.

Most anticipated show? Antipodium describe their collection as "Hollywood Hair Barbie takes peyote and goes on a vision quest through the desert" so that is definitely going to be a show not to miss!

*Samantha Vendersteen, Semple blogger*



*Moschino took pop culture to the extreme in their AW14 collection*

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## DAKS LFW

Far from resting on their laurels after the success of their anniversary AW14 collection, Daks was back bigger and better than ever for SS15, with a few surprises up their sleeve. Inspired by dance, Creative Director Filippo Scuffi chose the Royal Opera House as the backdrop for his romantic new collection.

And the all-new venue wasn't the only surprise in store as, for one season only, the British heritage brand decided to abandon its famous house check, in favour of a muted feminine colour palette of greys, mauve and bright white.

Inspired by grand surroundings, the aura of such an auspicious and creative space was reflected in the ethereal beauty of the models as they glided down the stark white runway. Extravagant cashmere gauze designs and dramatic collar details beautifully conveyed the theatrical emotion of the collection. While the clean cut tailoring and crisp structure offered a reassuring nod to the Daks style we have come to know and love.

Gowns were simple yet show stopping, with elegant decorative trim and cross over strap belts in classic shades of grey. Traditional tailoring was taken to a new level of sophistication; from trousers and pencil skirts festooned in dove grey feathers, to metallic three quarter length trenches and utilitarian sheer maxi shirt dresses.

While we look forward to the revival of the signature house check in future collections, we admire Scuffi's decision to take us somewhere new. Dreamy, elegant, and exquisite, the collection provided a refreshing alteration to the brands heritage style while subtly retaining the customary Daks charm.

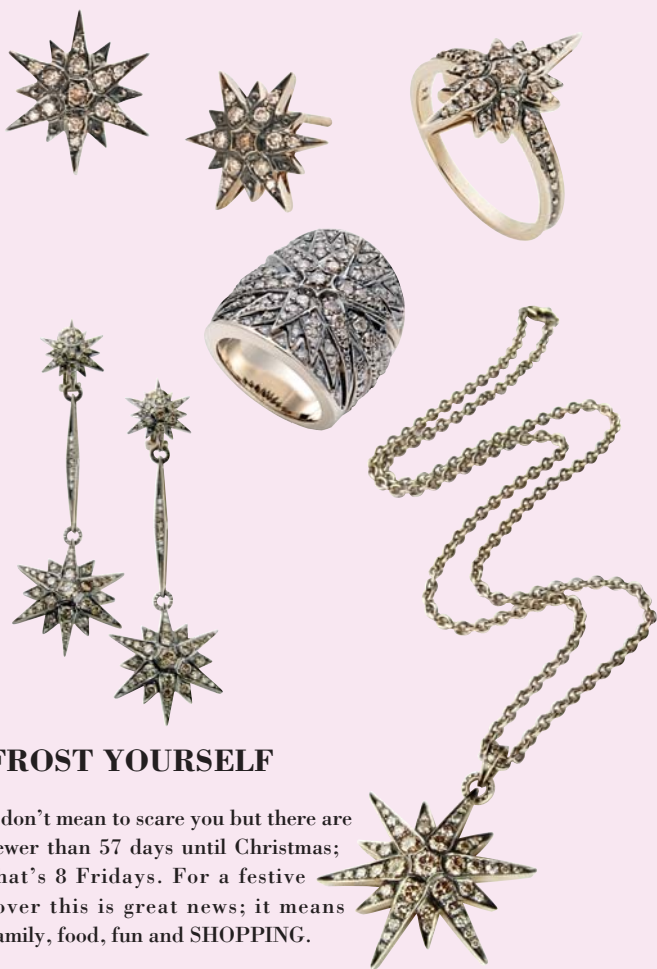
*Jenna Jones*

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## FROST YOURSELF

I don't mean to scare you but there are fewer than 57 days until Christmas; that's 8 Fridays. For a festive lover this is great news; it means family, food, fun and SHOPPING.

If there's one season that celebrates the art of shopping most, it's Christmas. But while you're out hunting gifts for loved ones don't forget there is one very important purchase that must be top of your list: a Christmas party frock.

This dress can be a stressful ordeal and unless you are blessed with a seemingly endless bank balance, it can be a tricky purchase to navigate. So you turn to articles such as these for advice and tips.

But here's the thing... many of us will attend several different Christmas events. There's the office party often viewed with trepidation, they are a hub of awkward small talk and embarrassing dancing, the family get together that calls for you to dress up and be force fed dry turkey by some distant relative whose name you can't quite remember and lastly the night out with your friends. All in all that's three outfits you'll more than likely never wear again and a credit card that won't thank you.

The solution? Choose one LBD and instead frost yourself; in other words let the accessories do the talking with the Stars Collection from H.Stern. Taking inspiration from an antique tiara, the collection which is based on the shape of a multi-point star, combines Victorian heritage with a modern dose of rock 'n' roll glam. Made of 18K Noble Gold and set with diamonds in shades from light cognac to off-white, the collection is the perfect Christmas party companion.

*Sophie Maguire*

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## All I Want For Christmas Is...Shoes

Men of London listen up! We love you, we appreciate you, but we don't love your present buying skills and in case it had escaped your attention it's Christmas soon. Couple the unimaginative ideas with the dwindling number of weekends until the big day and it's bound to accumulate in some disastrous present that is likely to be a generic heart embellished accessory, a voucher for a store we've never heard of or, the worst of them all, a functional household appliance. So do yourself a favour this festive season and get it right!

### High Hopes

Impress your fashionista with your style savvy know-how and gift her this seasons must-haves: knee-high boots in pastel hues. These French Connection ones will ensure smiles all round come Christmas.

*Boots by French Connection, £160*



### Nailed It

Ever changing manicure rules are a mystery to you men but for us girls groomed talons are important. Opt for this Caite nail polish advent calendar and you will have nailed it.

*Nail Polish Advent Calendar by Caite, £49*



### Spend A little Time

A watch just might win her over. But only if it's from Daniel Wellington. She'll wax poetic for days about how perfect you are for choosing such an 'of-the-moment' item. *Watch by Daniel Wellington, £119*



### Unwrap Me

Lingerie is a crowd pleaser. It shows how sexy you think we are and is a massive confidence boost. But a word to the wise, get the size right or you might be single come Christmas 2015.

*Lingerie set by Caprice, £41*



### What A Gem

Diamonds may be a girl's best friend but we love gems too. This ring from Londali is pretty and sentimental as they give to charities in countries they source their jewellery from. *Ring by Londali, £22.81*



*Sophie Maguire*

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## From Couch to Cross Trainer

If your Christmas was anything like mine it would have consisted of eating your entire body weight in chocolate, enough liquor to pickle yourself and a sofa stint that lasted the duration of the festivities. But while you wallowed in your own self-indulgence, surrounded by empty boxes of Quality Street, refusing to wear actual clothes, just around the corner January was calling, bringing with it the sobering reality of the post Xmas bulge.

As of January 1st it is, sadly, socially unacceptable to wander around in plaid PJ's feasting on turkey leftovers chased down with that flat bubbly that was lurking at the back of the fridge. Just as December is the month of the sofa dwellers, January is the month of the go-getters – it's all #CleanEating and gym selfies. So get yourself off the couch and onto that cross trainer and show 2015 who's boss.

For classes that make workouts a little more fun head to GymBox in Covent Garden and prepare to 'shake what your mamma gave ya'.

**Rock The Barre** Forget formal ballet etiquette and get ready to rock the barre. Create a longer, leaner body that any ballerina would envy. No Ballet experience needed so leave your tutus at home.



**Rave** Can't wait for the weekend?

Then Rave is for you. A burst of energetic dance and rave moves that will really get your heart racing. Complete with glow sticks.



**Tone N Twerk** If it's good enough for the likes of Beyoncé then it's good enough for us. Tone N Twerk out to some of this year's hottest tracks and get bootylicious in the process.

*Sophie Maguire*

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## Love Is In The Air

Valentine's Day, that one day you can shower the one you love with the most important thing you can give, GIFTS! Ahem, I mean affection.

Valentine's Day often gets a bad rep as being one of those holidays made up by card companies to rinse us of money and while I don't disagree that the legitimacy of the 14th February is somewhat questionable, I do think that any day that encourages us to love each other a little more is a good thing.

Don't get me wrong I love a bit of gift action; I enjoy the odd red rose and candle lit dinner as much as the next person but this year I'm hoping for something a little outside the box. It's time to get creative in love.

### The Deck

The best way to a man's heart is through his stomach so treat him to dinner at The Deck.

This pop-up restaurant offers spectacular views of the twinkling lights of London and will have you falling in love all over again.



Book now

[www.thedek.nationaltheatre.org.uk](http://www.thedek.nationaltheatre.org.uk)



### LaRose

Why not save some cash and get crafty with some DIY gifts that are both sentimental and sweet. Design by LaRose have some fabulous ideas that

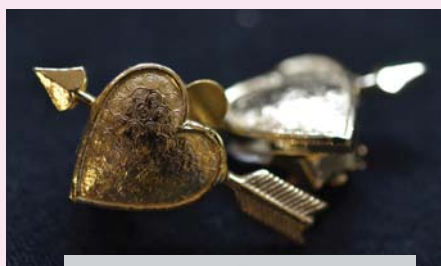
even the most artistically challenged can pull off. Check out LaRose for inspiration

[www.youtube.com/designlarose](http://www.youtube.com/designlarose)



### Fashion Fair

If you're one of those couples who can't bare to share Valentine's Day with everyone else why not move away from the stereotypical dates and get yourself down to Clerkenwell Vintage Fashion Fair on February 15th and pick out a unique gift for one another. Quote 'love is in the air' to receive 2-for-1 entry.



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## Mother's Day Gift Guide

Here at Semple HQ women play a very important role. Not only are we a compact team of four intelligent and creative females, we are also guided by our boss and mentor, Maggie Semple OBE, who inspires us to aim high and achieve great things. So with that in mind and Mother's Day just around the corner, we were eager to forgo chocolates and flowers and find some unique ways for you to spoil the inspirational woman in your life.

### Take the Plunge

Unleash your mum's inner daredevil with a once-in-a-lifetime experience, to snorkel with sharks at the London Sea Life Aquarium. The full experience includes



priority entrance, all equipment, an additional behind the scenes tour and access to the full aquarium. Book online at [www.visitsealife.com/london/ticket-prices/snorkellingwithsharks](http://www.visitsealife.com/london/ticket-prices/snorkellingwithsharks)

### Inner Soul

Why not avoid predictable presents with a Couture Skincare Gift Box. The lovely chaps at Inner Soul can help you put together a bespoke gift package full of organic and natural beauty products tailor



made to specific skin requirements. Order yours now and avoid the rush! [www.inner-soul.co.uk](http://www.inner-soul.co.uk)

### Colour Me Beautiful

Take pampering to a whole new level with a gift experience from Colour Me Beautiful Image Consultants. From makeup and colour advice to a full style makeover, each



unique package offers a personalised experience that any mum would cherish. [www.colourmebeautifulshop.co.uk/products/gift-experiences](http://www.colourmebeautifulshop.co.uk/products/gift-experiences).

*Jenna Jones*

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# FASHION TALKS

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## Savage Beauty

*"I want to be the purveyor of a certain silhouette or a way of cutting, so that when I'm dead and gone people will know that the twenty-first century was started by Alexander McQueen."*

**Lee McQueen**

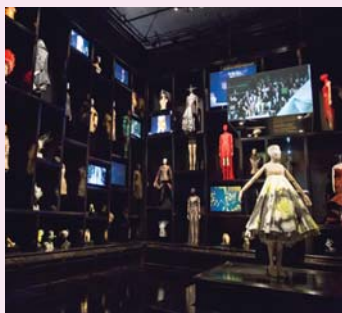
Described by the man himself as the sort of place he'd like to be shut in overnight, it came as no surprise that the Victoria and Albert Museum was chosen as the London home of *Savage Beauty*; a retrospective exhibition showcasing Lee McQueen's awe inspiring body of work.



Set over ten rooms, *Savage Beauty* spans more than two decades worth of collections, making up the extraordinary Alexander McQueen archive, each showcasing the eclectic and often controversial concepts that culminated in some of fashion's most inspirational moments.

Until seen in real life, it is hard to describe just how incredible the mind of Lee McQueen really was and the *Savage Beauty* exhibition is one of the rare times that his work has been on display in all its artistic brilliance. And what a body of work it is.

After witnessing designs from such noteworthy collections as *Highland Rape* and *The Horn of Plenty*, the senses are well and truly awoken by 'The Cabinet of Curiosities'. Described as the heart of the exhibition, the double-height gallery is a treasure trove of McQueen designs coupled with film footage of memorable catwalk presentations.



Words like legend, icon and genius get bandied around so much these days that their meaning is often lost in a haze of mediocre ability. Such powerful words should be saved to describe those rare and extraordinary talents that only come along every once in a while. Talents like Lee McQueen who left an indescribable legacy, and a lifelong marker on the world of fashion.



**Jenna Jones**

*Photographs courtesy of the V&A © Victoria and Albert Museum, London*

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# FASHION TALKS

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## The Semple Dress Collection

As many of you know I am someone who likes to wear well cut dresses made from exquisite materials. You will also know that finding a dress that is the right size, made from quality fabric and priced appropriately is often difficult to find.



The Semple Dress Collection is all of these things and more. Produced for intellectually curious women who are drawn towards elegant style, our exclusive collection is bespoke fashion at its finest. Cut from original designs and made to order from a range of Italian fabrics, a Semple dress is the answer to every woman's sartorial needs.

Tailor your very own Semple Dress by selecting one of our three unique styles from a range of hand picked fabrics in a variety of colours and patterns. Then complete the bespoke experience with a vivid contrasting coloured lining to ensure you feel extra special inside and out.



Curious but undecided? Why not come along to Semple HQ in Goodwin's Court and draw inspiration from our spring window display, featuring all the shades and prints to be seen in this season. Take a picture and share your favourites with us @maggiesempletd using #springpickings. So all that's left to ask is, what's your pick of the prints?

Prices start from £280. Contact [jessica@maggiesemple.com](mailto:jessica@maggiesemple.com) for more details.

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# FASHION TALKS

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## Ancient Greek Sandals

I can smell it in the air. The flowers are starting to bloom, people are spontaneously smiling, it can only mean one thing... flip flop season is almost upon us. For me there really is nothing better than banishing the boots and prepping my sun deprived feet for a season of sandals. No more awful blisters and aching soles, its comfort all the way from here on out; or for the next few months at least!

This season a new European brand has stolen my heart. While browsing Instagram for my daily dose of sartorial inspiration, I came across Ancient Greek Sandals, a range of jaw droppingly beautiful Grecian inspired footwear favoured by the likes of Beyonce, SJP and even little Harper Beckham.

Founded by Nikolas Minoglou and Christina Martini, all Ancient Greek Sandals are handmade in Greece using "traditional techniques that have existed for centuries". Minoglou and Martini's love for not only what they do, but also the ancient Greek history that has inspired them, is evident in each and every exquisitely made pair of sandals.



Despite being inspired by myths and legends, these beautiful sandals needn't be a figment of your imagination for long. With over 100 designs to choose from, in a range of colours and textures, your very own pair of handmade to order sandals could be in your hands (or should we say on your feet!) in just 15-30 days. So make like a Grecian goddess and turn this stunning footwear myth into a reality!

Shop Ancient Greek Sandals at [www.ancient-greek-sandals.com](http://www.ancient-greek-sandals.com)

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*Semple*

WOMEN FASHION STORIES

# FASHION TALKS

WITH MAGGIE SEMPLE LTD

## Simple Magazine

Here at Simple we pride ourselves on our courage. OK so we're not saving kittens from burning buildings or profoundly changing the world, yet we are brave in our own way. We pride ourselves on our courageous approach to editorial. We aren't afraid to tackle controversial themes and really get to the heart of what people are talking about through our thought provoking editorial.



Never is this more evident than in our bi-annual publication Simple Magazine. Once again we are offering young adults a refreshing take on important issues and challenging them to think differently. After previously delving into themes such as The Future, The Mind, and Travel, our latest focus is Sexuality; tackling gender, sex and everything in-between.



From oversexed media and modern day feminism to an exclusive interview with fashion designer of the moment Charlie May, we aim to stimulate your mind and arouse discussion. Be inspired by some of London's most sought after boutique lingerie brands featured in our photoshoot celebrating the female form and discover what we really spend most our time doing in bed. Simple Magazine is the perfect addition to summer park lunch breaks and lazy sunday mornings.



Issue VII of Simple Magazine is out now. Order your digital copy for £2.99 at [www.maggiesemple.com/magazine](http://www.maggiesemple.com/magazine)

*Jenna Jones*  
Editor, Simple Magazine

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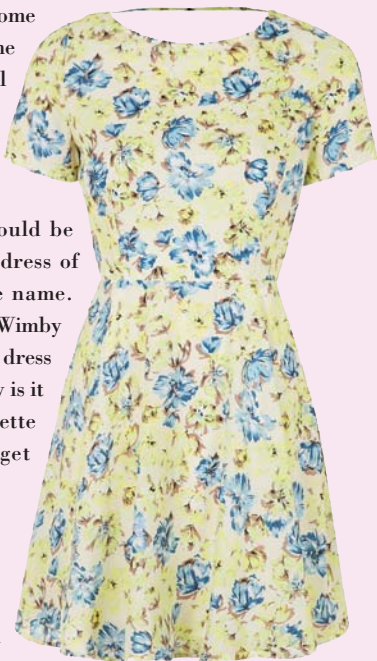
## Afternoon Tea Attire

As much as we Brits are the first to shun a stereotype, there really is no denying our love of a great brew. Whether young or old, male or female, a good cuppa is as much a part of the great British institution as discussing the weather and Her Majesty herself. And as of late we Londoners have been upping our tea game as more and more quirky establishments are popping up for us to enjoy the perfect afternoon experience. So once you've found your favourite spot why not take some tips from us on how to dress the part for this quintessential British pastime.

### The Dress

No trip for afternoon tea would be complete without, well a tea dress of course! It really is all in the name. Make like Pippa Middleton at Wimby with this kitsch floral print tea dress by Goldie at Topshop. Not only is it the perfect pastel colour palette for summer, it's also budget friendly at just £49.

[www.topshop.com](http://www.topshop.com)



### The Heel

Finding the right heel for a day in London can be tricky, especially

when you have a special occasion planned. Luckily this season's stylish mid stack heeled sandal is the perfect pick to ensure happy feet for a day in the capital. These Dune beauties in silver are the perfect pairing for a floaty tea dress, and the rest of your wardrobe come to that.

[www.dunelondon.com](http://www.dunelondon.com)



### The Bag

Pastel in colour and perfectly formed, this push lock Cambridge Satchel is just begging to be taken out for tea. Complete with a handy detachable strap the sky blue beauty is the ideal handbag for smuggling the odd finger sandwich!

[www.cambridgesatchel.com](http://www.cambridgesatchel.com)



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