

herworld **fashion**

Forget the personal shopper in department stores and makeover photo studios. To stand out the way Hollywood celebs do, do what they do: hire a stylist. She's a fashion insider who not only overhauls your wardrobe, but also your image. Need that X factor? Three women asked to meet...

The new image makers

BY KAREN KWA



“I want to look like a star”

Suling Chee, 34, managing director (left)

CELEBRITY STYLIST:

Karen Ng, 35, stylist of Glitz by Karen N.G., a style consultancy

Cuff bangle from The Link. Outfit, stylist's own.



Suling's take:

“The long dress and the bling is very different from my usual self. I like the old-world glamour look, not the va-va vooom type of sexy.”

Karen's choices:

“Su is a simple jeans and T-shirt kind of girl. She has the taste; it just needs some refinement. Instead of the Little Black Dress, I worked with the Sexy Black Dress, topped off with chunky accessories.”

Karen's credentials: She styled Fann Wong for *Closet Affairs* and Kym Ng, Fiona Xie, Ong Ai Leng for last year's Star Awards. She has also worked with some Hong Kong celebrities though she's not at liberty to disclose their names. “I want to be able to bring an artiste and fashion together. I believe that if those in the limelight are well dressed, they can influence viewers and the audience.”

It also helps that she's pally with hairstylist David Gan. She launched Glitz by Karen N.G. four months ago. To prepare for it, she attended a six-month intensive image-grooming course in the UK.

The process: She gives a thorough two-hour analysis of your objective, personality, body shape and lifestyle at her office in Ngee Ann City (her choice of location allows easy access to the mall's shops). If you are still unsure of how to put together an outfit, you can engage her personal shopping service. She goes the extra mile by pre-selecting outfits from different shops for you to try on in her showroom, instead of in the stores.

Cost for image building: \$500 for a two-hour image consultation and \$300 for an hour of personal shopping. A tailored consultancy package to fit your budget is also available.

Formula for a new look: Set aside a minimum of 20 per cent to 30 per cent of your monthly salary to buy one investment piece a month. By the end of the year, you would have acquired 12 great pieces to create 88 different looks.

Contact: 9090-4569 or e-mail her at Karen@glitzbykaren.com. You can also check out www.glitzbykaren.com. →

Karen's quick tips:

- **Details work.** If your dress is embellished, keep your hair simple. “A celeb lets her hair and face shine.”
- **Iconic moment.** Think about who you want to channel, say Sophia Loren or Audrey Hepburn, and go from there. “Every element has to blend.”
- **Get fit.** Maintain good skin and physique. It helps you wear the clothes well too.
- **Doll up.** Invest in chunky accessories, like layering bracelets of different sizes. “It gives you the celebrity bling and glam.”
- **Mane event.** Trim short hair regularly and do hair treatments for long tresses. “Always have a good stylist on standby.”