

style



GLYNIS
TRILL-NASH

Sharp as a tux

AS TROUSERS and pantsuits return to favour after the long reign of the dress, we can also applaud the re-emergence of the tuxedo, although style stalwarts would argue that it has never really gone away. This most stylish of ensembles that owes so much of its modern history to Yves Saint Laurent's *Le Smoking* of the mid-1960s and '70s is popping up in numerous collections this autumn-winter.

Most notable are Alex Perry's exquisitely tailored treats, with flourishes including pleated satin detailing on the back of jackets and fabulously wide, curved cuffs; trousers come in a variety of shapes including cigarette pants, straight and tapered leg. Melbourne's *Little Tailleur* (0418 216 024), by designer **Georgette Tahche**, offers up a beautifully streamlined version with tapered trousers and pick stitching on the satin jacket lapels. *Morrissey*, which features a tuxedo almost every season, has updated its silhouette this time around with a cropped jacket and self-belted trousers. Cue also has a version in store from this week, made from stretch satin with a slightly 1980s shoulder and tapered pants. So next time a black-tie invitation comes through, opt for a tux paired with killer heels and clutch. If you don't add a camisole or pussy-bow blouse underneath, you could always try the plunging neckline over bare décolletage. But when it comes to hair, beware the '80s slick-back-with-suit schrick. "The slick-back is a bit predictable," says hair supremo **Brad Ngata**. "Because the suit is so sharp, it's really nice to put a dropped curl in the hair and mess it up a little. Or if you have long, layered hair, put the length into a tight little bun and then set the top layer so it gives the appearance of a short, messy bob. It's old-world French chic that softens the suit and opens up the neckline." And it's drop-dead sexy.



Free spirits ... Kate Sylvester (left) and Emily Barclay in Kate Sylvester dress. Photo: Simon Alekna

Melbourne during the Fashion Festival in just over a week's time. Designers were invited to bring along a muse in their designs and actors, musicians and TV personalities were high on the list: **Carla Zampatti** dressed **Melissa Doyle**, **Yeejin Bae** brought **Sarah Blasko** and **Pia Miranda** came for Third Millennium. Making the trek from New Zealand was **Kate Sylvester** with *Suburban*

Mayhem star **Emily Barclay**, who was tossing up earlier in the afternoon between two dresses from Sylvester's Art Groupie collection. The two have been on each other's radar for some five years, since Barclay did a shoot for *Pavement* magazine and wore items from Sylvester's label. "I still have the shorts I wore on that shoot," said Barclay. For Sylvester, Barclay embodies the slightly left-of-centre style she adores. "I love Emily's renegade style," said Sylvester. "What I see in Emily is that attitude and free spirit. When I

think of Emily, I think of her red lips, so this seemed like such an Emily dress." A notable invitee to the dinner was **Lisa Ho**, seated at the main table right next to **Judy Coomber**, Myer's director of apparel. Ho is one of David Jones's star designers and is not stocked at Myer. Apparently, however, her presence was due to her business interests in both Third Millennium and Mad Cortes (which has just moved over from David Jones to Myer) rather than any decamping of her own label.



Sexy and streamlined ... Little Tailleur tux (left) and Alex Perry tux.

Barclay a stylish muse

Myer's season launch in Sydney on Thursday was a stylish dinner at Est before its big event in