

The JM party

Designer Julien Macdonald has just launched his own made-to-measure service, but WM beat his A-list clients like Beyonce and Cheryl Cole to grab some exclusive tips on dressing for this party season ...Interview by Claire Rees

1. Ignore the long dress trend

Maxi party gowns might be everywhere this season, including on his own autumn/winter collection, but our Jules says: "You can't beat a short, flirty party dress. Long dresses can look really old fashioned. There's nothing better than a little black dress."

■ **Diamond** by Julien Macdonald black spot mesh dress, £50, Debenhams, www.debenhams.com, 08445 616161

2. Shine like a star

"Sparkle is really in fashion. Sequins and sparkle have had a complete makeover and they look young and fresh and can work on any age and shape."

■ **Feame Cotton** ticks the short and the sparkle boxes – bow detail sequin tunic dress, £99, Feame Cotton for Very, www.very.co.uk

3. Stay neutral

"Always go neutral with your make-up to enhance the natural beauty of the face. I see so many girls who've piled on the colourful eye make-up and it makes them look startling and not in a good way. Go to a beauty counter before a big night out and they'll do it for you. And with make-up, if in doubt, leave it out."

■ **Julien's a fan of neutral make-up**, as seen here on actress Carey Mulligan

4. Relax your hair

"A chignon makes for a super glamorous look this party season, especially when pulled to the side. But the long, tousled and natural-looking hair styles of Elle Macpherson and Kate Moss make a classic, sexy party look."

■ **Laid back locks:** Kate Moss – Julien Macdonald's party hair idol

5. Rock glam

"I love the '70s and '80s glam rock look. Anything with a big, bell sleeve or a puff sleeve looks wonderful and makes such a statement."

■ **Power sleeve tunic**, £35, **Star** by Julien Macdonald at Debenhams, www.debenhams.com, 08445616161

9. Wrap up

"Wrap jersey is a great option for a curvier figure. Wrap jersey dresses pull you in in all the right places and are really glamorous."

■ **Wrap dress**, £55, **People Tree**, www.peopletree.co.uk, 0207 042 8900

10. Make an impact

"If you want something completely different, there are some fantastic prints around this season. Go wild and wacky with print and enjoy it."

■ **Animal print dress**, £149, **Hobbs**, www.hobbs.co.uk, 0845 313 3130

■ **Julien Macdonald** is patron of the Cardiff and Vale Breast Centre at Llandough Hospital in South Wales and is aiming to help them raise an extra £1m for vital new equipment. His first nail polish, designed to raise money for the centre, will be launched in the new year. To donate, go to www.lengthsforlife.com

JULIEN'S CHRISTMAS SECRETS

My favourite Christmas tippie

"Mulled wine – I love the spices. I also love a spiced apple Martini in a great cocktail glass. I stay away from egg nog or snowballs though. Everyone brings out the snowballs at Christmas but they're too creamy for me."



My hangover tip

"Drink a glass of water and eat a mince pie before you go to bed. Then have a lie-in, and eat really naughty stuff all day, whatever's in your fridge. It is Christmas after all. I'm a huge fan of Peter's Pies but I can't get them in London unfortunately."

My favourite place for a Christmas night out

"In London I love the Purple Bar at the Sanderson Hotel. It's always so festive and they have a tiny bar full of mirrors and velvet sofas, and they do amazing cocktails. I also love Kate Moss's favourite place at Christmas, Claridges. Their Christmas tree is always amazing. In Wales, I go to a pub called The White Swan in Brecon. The whole family go there on Boxing Day to celebrate my sister's birthday and they make such an effort for her and

■ **White Swan, Brecon**

bring us all cake. I also love Nant Ddu Lodge just outside Merthyr and my dad also drags me to Merthyr Labour Club where he's in charge of the entertainment."

My favourite Christmas getaway

"I love to book a room at St David's Hotel and Spa in Cardiff Bay. You can wake up to the fresh air, spend a day in the spa which always cures a hangover, then book dinner – my favourite there is the Chateaubriand, washed down with my favourite wine, Rioja. Then you start it all over again!"



My favourite post-Christmas pampering treatment

"I go to the Elemis Spa in London or at home I use their Post Shave Recovery Mask the morning after. It gives you such a glow, no-one would have any idea the next day that you've been out all night."



6. If you're sticking with black ...

"Accessorise with some amazing jewellery – you can't beat a huge chunky statement necklace."

■ **Statement necklace:** Freshwater pearls £250, Astley Clarke, www.astleyclarke.com

7. Leave your coat behind

"There are some great fake fur accessories, feather or knitted shrugs – you don't want to be carrying around a coat all night. Plus, a good shrug covers any bingo wings."

■ **Embellished cape**, £75, **Wallis**, (blouse, £40 and black leggings, £18) www.wallis.co.uk, 0844 984 0266

