

mario claire | APPEARANCES

Why I love my little

Every woman has one: that perfect, goes-with-everything number that turns out to be the ultimate



"It makes my figure the main attraction."

—ELLEN

"It releases my inner diva."

—B'LUISHE

"This rock-and-roll dress gives me confidence."

—BROOKE

black dress

weapon in her fashion arsenal. Seven stylish women reveal why you can't live without one

BY KAREN ROBINOVITZ

PHOTOGRAPHED BY WICK CAROLLIACCIO



"It goes beyond pregnancy."

—SARON

"It's an heirloom."

—DITZ

"This 'safety outfit' works for every occasion."

—DANNA

"It's the perfect emergency dress."

—AMY

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was so structured that there was absolutely no tugging or pulling. I didn't even have to suck in my tummy!

Right after I bought the dress, I wore it to an invitation-only cast party for a play. Mingling with celebrities like Mary-Louise Parker and Liv Ullmann, I felt relaxed and happy. This dress finally made me believe I don't have to be a size 4 to be beautiful.

"This dress definitely 'sexified' my wardrobe."

Brooke, 40, actress



■ Fourteen years ago, I got the chance to indulge in a long-time rock-and-roll fantasy: I started dating a famous guitar player from a rock band. We met backstage at one of his shows in Hawaii, and the next thing I knew, I was going on tour with him and the band. My little black-lace tank dress came with me.

Dating this guy upped the ante in terms of "sexifying" my wardrobe, because I was up against all of the other girls backstage. At Giants Stadium in New Jersey, my guy and I walked past a groupie who was wearing a chain-mail dress with a G-string underneath! Chain mail is tough to compete with, and when I saw her, I wondered aloud if

I could ever cut it as a groupie. My guy took one look at me and said, "No way, you're far too classy." My sophisticated dress made me look great and feel more confident.

Whenever my guitarist called and said, "Hey, I'm playing Oregon this weekend,

want to meet me there?" I rolled the wrinkle-proof dress into a ball, packed it, and hopped on a plane. It's traveled the continent, from Vancouver to New York. Though it's been around the block, it has held up amazingly well! And even though I haven't worn it since 1995, I can't bring myself to toss it. I never know when I'll need something rockin' again.



"I never feel out-of-place in this dress."

Danna, 29, stylist

■ I have a few black dresses in my closet, but my favorite is this Prada number, which I bought a decade ago. It's a nylon shirt-dress with buttons down the front, a leather

collar, leather patch pockets on the chest, and a belt. I love it because it's perfect for any occasion: dinner, a meeting with clients, or any old day. It's also practically washable: I can't wear it in really hot weather, but I wear it in spring, fall, and winter.

I never feel uncomfortable or out of place in this dress. The one sure it's my greatest fashion accomplishment, but it's definitely in the top 20. And that's saying a lot, considering I'm a fashion editor!

I've worn this 10-year-old dress so often, it has more than paid for itself. I bought it at the Prada factory outlet in Florence, Italy, for \$200, whereas it would have costed for \$700 to \$800. Not long afterward, I wore it to a job interview out of college on the advice of my mom, who said, "You can never go wrong with a black dress." The interview was a big success—and I got the job! Since then, I've worn it everywhere. It's had everything from champagne to coffee dumped on it, so it doesn't matter. I know it'll last at least another 10 years. —Danna Lopez