

essential



Fashion police

Kellie Hush

All that glitters ...

Luxury fashion houses such as Yves Saint Laurent, Chanel, Louis Vuitton and Christian Dior create sophisticated costume jewellery designs today – some of which costs as much as the real thing – so the stigma of fake jewellery has long, long gone. It's not uncommon to see fashion savvy women mixing fine and faux in the same outfit with Chanel's crystal double C earrings, at \$300, selling out the moment they arrive in Australia. Vintage pieces are also popular. From December 14 to 21, Shapiro Auctioneers will hold an exhibition and sale of Australian and international costume jewellery. About 100 pieces from 1880 to 1980 are for sale, including designs from Coro, Miracle Jewellery, Kenneth J. Lane, Weiss and Simpson Jewellery – the most important Australian costume jewellery design company from the 1950s. Sale highlights include a Yves Saint Laurent gilt metal finish cross pendant, \$495; a rare Australian art deco style white metal bracelet, \$600; and several beautiful Czechoslovakian pins starting from \$225. "All of the pieces are beautifully designed one-off pieces and it doesn't matter if you are 80 or 18," says curator Alex Renwick. "We have the Mini Moke and the Rolls-Royce of costume jewellery." A preview will be held next Thursday, 6-8pm. The "first come, first served" sale is open daily from 10am to 5pm at 162 Queen Street, Woollahra. www.shapiroauctioneers.com.au

On the Marc

Some said the Beckhams would never make it. In the US, that is. How very wrong those Yanks were. Not only are they well and truly on top of Hollywood's A-list, thanks to Mr and Mrs Cruise, now Marc Jacobs has given his stamp of approval. The designer has employed Victoria Beckham as the face of his new spring advertising campaign, persuading her to show the real woman behind the air-brushed image. Photographer Juergen Teller, who shot the Dakota Fanning campaign for Jacobs last year, worked with Beckham. According to Jacobs, she "agreed to do something rough and tough and quite raw". Jacobs told *Women's Wear Daily* that "it wasn't days and days of hair and make-up. She was like, 'I totally get it and I'm totally into it.' She has an amazing sense of humour about herself... She just gave herself over to it."

Super designs

If you don't look like a supermodel, the next best thing is to dress like one. Designer Gail Elliott's new Little Joe Resort Collection includes pieces named after the former model's famous friends – including Cindy Crawford, Christy Turlington, Yasmin Le Bon, Helena Christensen and Claudia Schiffer. The Crawford Blouse, Le Bon Camisole, Christensen Slip and Mulder Dress (after Karen Mulder) are now in store. Little Joe by Gail Elliott, Shop 3, 181c Edgcliff Road, Woollahra, and shop 70, The Strand Arcade, 412 George Street, Sydney.

Final scene

Costume designer Marit Allen, who created the on-screen wardrobes for *Mrs Doubtfire*, *Eyes Wide Shut*, *All the Kings Men* and *Brokeback Mountain*, died in Sydney on November 26, aged 66, of a brain aneurism. She had recently started work here on George Miller's adaptation of DC Comics' *Justice League of America*. Born in England, the former British *Vogue* magazine fashion editor commissioned photographers



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Sparklers ... costume jewellery on sale at Shapiro Auctioneers; Christensen slip from Little Joe by Gail Elliott; have a MAC Christmas.

such as Norman Parkinson and David Bailey to take shots for her fashion pages, and often modelled for them, too. Her first major film project was dressing Julie Christie in Nicholas Roeg's 1973 film *Don't Look Now*. Allen withdrew from magazines when her work with Roeg increased – she created the wardrobes for the director's *Bad Timing*, *Eureka* and *The Witches*. Some of her most elaborately costumed movies included *Little Shop of Horrors*, *White Mischief* and *Thunderbirds*. She based Robin Williams's *Mrs Doubtfire* character, with her nanna blouses, on her old schoolteachers. Some of her toughest assignments was working with Stanley Kubrick on *Eyes Wide Shut*. To find the perfect white dressing gown for Nicole Kidman, Allen had to call in an excessive number of garments so the perfectionist director could find the right one. Allen later teamed up with director Ang Lee, working on *Ride With the Devil*, *Hulk* and *Brokeback Mountain*.

Gift of giving

World AIDS Day was on Saturday but you can still make a contribution. For the rest of December MAC will have its Christmas greeting cards and gift wrap available at counters across Australia with 100 per cent of the price going to paediatric AIDS organisations worldwide. The Kids Helping Kids greeting cards began in 1994 with the illustrated cards created annually by children aged three to 15 affected by HIV/AIDS. Cards are \$12 a pack and wrap \$16 a roll. www.maccosmetics.com.au.

