

## FEEL FANTASTIC IN YOUR FANTASY GOWN

*By Maggi Carless – Dona Fina Bridal Studio*

Don't let **Maggi Carless'** tiny stature fool you into thinking that she has small ideas or limited scope. Dynamite definitely does come in small packages and Maggi thrums with so much energy that she appears ready to explode with suggestions on how to wave her magic wand and conjure up your dream wedding dress.

When searching for the perfect wedding dress, humming the famous refrain from the Big Crosby song will remind you what your main objective should be: "Accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative". No matter how hard you've dieted or worked out to look your absolute best, there are certain figure flaws that your fairy godmother can't work her magic on. Knowing what your best and worst features are, as well as how to make the most of them, will make finding your dream gown a lot easier.

Traditional wedding dresses come in four basic styles: A-line, ball gown, mermaid and sheath. When deciding on a dress that is going to complement your best features, you need to look at the cut of the dress, the neck line, the waistline and how full the skirt is going to be. Figure flaws can be hidden in the following ways:

- A Pear Shaped Figure – wear a ball gown which has a full skirt so that the eye is drawn to your small waist. Also, draw attention to the top of your body by having a detailed beadwork at the bodice which will draw attention to the bust. Since the bottom of the dress is wide, you might want to bring attention to your shoulders by wearing something that is shoulder hugging so that you look proportionate.
- A Thicker Waist – don't wear a ball gown as this will emphasise your waist and the full skirt will make you look bigger than you are. An empire waistline which starts under the bust or a classic A-line gown will hide this figure flaw by drawing attention away from it.
- The Full Figure – stay away from ball gowns and tulle since they will create the illusion of an even fuller figure. Rather wear an A-line dress and cover your arms with sheer, light material. Avoid anything with puffy sleeves. Opt for a lower neckline which will draw attention to your face; a V neckline and square neckline are the best.
- The Very Slim Figure – you need to be mindful of the material you select since hard satin is too harsh on a slim figure. Organza, chiffon and other light materials in an A-line, ball gown or sheath style look much better on a slim figure. Pay special attention to the neckline of your dress as you don't want to emphasise bony collarbones – a higher neckline will make you look like you have a fuller bust.
- Large Breasts – avoid high necklines, halter necks and empire waistlines as these will all accentuate large breasts making them appear fuller.
- Wider Hips or Rounded Stomach – embroidery here will draw attention so keep the decoration down to a minimum. A more loose fitting A-line dress is the most forgiving and flattering of all the traditional dress styles.

- Small Breasts or Lacking Height – if you don't have it, fake it! It's a wonder what a padded bra or high heels can do to transform you and your dream dress.