

The fashion plate

Black and white romantic for spring

By RUSTLE SHAND

There's a lot to be said for the sophistication of black and white, particularly when it's done in the romantic mood of Valerie Porr.

New York designer Valerie Porr brought her spring-summer line to Bonwit Teller in Troy and we focused on "group that her new soft sportswear."

Calling it a "group that her coordinates," Ms. Porr does the same with white cotton batiste black and white leaf printed georgette and adds white silk linens and black crepe skirts and tassels.

We've sketched one of her print coordinates—showing a sashed, gored, panel skirt with a billowing sleeveless peasant top. Ms. Porr suggests you might wear this to a wedding or any festive occasion but adds:

"It's silly to buy something you love and wait for an invitation to a wedding to wear it—you should wear it and enjoy it."

SHE RECOMMENDS topping the coordinate with a white black blazer so it becomes an ensemble for days to come. Or team the blouse with black trousers and wear it over a black turban for a touch of whimsy, right now.

One of the models selected a black and white leaf print blouse, wore it with the white silk linen trousers and filled in the neckline with a large white pearl rope necklace and was instantly transformed into "big-city sophistication."

Ms. Porr is known for her soft prints and her graceful sleeve detail; which she calls a "celebration of femininity."

She likes to work with customers, and explained that she gets "reality" from them. "There is one thing that's called fashion and there's one thing that's called living," she added. "You must create a dress that looks terrific on but that you can also live in."

"Customers are frightened of making decisions of doing things on their own—of using their own imagination. They should do what they want to do. They seem to think there is a list of right and wrong about how they should look."

MS. Porr is a free spirit and encourages women to join her in her whimsical "fashion should be fun" approach to dressing. She has the sales staff at Bonwit wearing sheer print peasant blouses over their classic wool turtlenecks and skirts and loving the soft-pretty look they achieved.

She worked with a young bride-to-be who came in to see if her softly printed pale peach couture chiffon gown would give her the "funky" look she sought for her wedding gown. It did.



Ms. Porr would like to see a return to "dressing-up" and says "we have to get the men out of their leisure clothes and back into suits and the women back into gowns."

Valerie Porr is a native New Yorker who at one time wanted to be a doctor. She settled for teaching high school science and put her husband through medical school. Now divorced, she launched a career for herself in the arts as a painter which ultimately evolved into fashion design.

She has just moved her manufacturing operation from the back room of her home-loft in the Soho (artist's) section of New York City to the fast pace on Seventh Avenue.

Valerie Porr's black and white statement is very refreshing after a long, hard winter of mostly colorful and cluttered No-hum spring patterns. It has a bit of drama, it's crisp and fresh and it's very feminine. Black and white are emerging as the colors for spring-summer.

Davey singers perform hymns

The Max Davey Singers will appear in concert at 5 p.m. Sunday, March 12, at the sanctuary of Central Woodward Christian Church, 8920 Woodward, Detroit. Under the direction of

Max Davey of Farmington Hills, the 35 young singers and instrumentalists will present their new hymn program for the first time in the Detroit area. Radio personality Ted Strasser will be narrator.

Opening with Gordon Young's "Sing We Merrily Unto God," the program will include a gospel-style rendition of "Blessed Assurance" and a sing-along of familiar hymns such as "Rock of Ages" and "How Great Thou Art." Tickets at \$3 per person and \$1.50 for students will be available at the door.

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Hudspeth is chairman of scout drive

Detroit Lion Coach Tommy Hudspeth will serve as honorary chairman of the Southern Oakland Girl Scout Council's 1977 Friends of Girl Scouting campaign.

"I would hope that none of us would ever let it happen where we were responsible for not giving one more young lady a chance to be a part of the Girl Scout organization," said Hudspeth.

Community solicitors also will include national board member Ruth Frank of Bloomfield Hills, Gerald

Lindstrom of Orchard Lake, Bernard Nemer and Virginia Detloff of Southfield, and Don Greenbury of Farmington.

Hudspeth began the community division of the campaign with a breakfast in Pontiac Stadium.

During March the emphasis will be on the Girl Scout family contributions, with Nancy Gravius of Farmington Hills coordinating that part of the campaign.

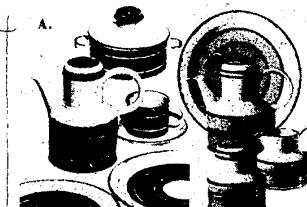
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