

Stylish

Fashions help make fantasies come true

By Denise Lucas
special writer

In 1965, it was Julie Andrews who inspired brides-to-be with her regal bridal splendor in the Academy Award-winning film, "The Sound of Music."

Captivating Bo Derek became the silver screen "Bride of the Year" in the 1979 romantic comedy, "10."

This year's Hollywood bridal sweetheart is Kimberly Williams, co-starring with Steve Martin in the remake of the 1950s "Father of the Bride."

Every bride is the star and director of her own wedding dreams come true. Every fantasy the enamored bride has imagined from early childhood to shared secrets with her best friends in college will soon become a treasured reality.

According to Kris Bach, owner of The Bridal Basket in Livonia, carrying bridal apparel for the complete bridal party. "We're back to more traditional formal looks . . . black tuxes and tails, more attention to detail, cathedral trains, a very formal, classic look. This is because brides are older, better educated and have more spending dollars."

REFLECTIONS OF individual style are distinctively expressed as the betrothed maiden selects her wedding dress. Choices of traditional Renaissance gowns, romantic Victorian looks, understated sophisticated styles and dramatic contemporary gowns give the '90s bride a variety of choices to express her timeless beauty and magical dreams.

Selecting your gown style is a matter of personal preference. It should also reflect the location and mood of your wedding (formal, informal, cathedral, garden, chapel, historical site, lake side or gazebo), with a strong emphasis on a gown that will complement your figure and body proportions.

You may also want to consider this year's bridal trends. Bridal fashion for '92 is significantly influenced by current couture designs. Many of the haute couture designers are now crossing over the bridal threshold . . . Bob Mackie, Carolina Herrera, Scarsini and Victor Costa, to name a few.

Laura Rubin, director of Alvin's Brides in Birmingham, reports, "Our store is experiencing this year a much more elegant, less fussy bride . . . with less heading on the gown. We're seeing



Rhapsody in white. An all-silk gown, made by Jean Phoenix, has the look of 3-D rose petals that flow into a pleated bodice with beaded insets. The pleated, deep V back flows into a butterfly bustle with rosettes, which sit at the top of the lace-trimmed, chapel-length train. In white and ivory, \$1,000. At The Bridal Basket, Livonia.

simple, elegant, yet romantic gowns.

"Also, a lot of tulle (that fairy tale, Tinkerbell, Good Witch of the North look). Lace, heading and pearls are detailed more on the veil, while headpieces are moving from the forehead to the crown or back of the head."

BRIDESMAIDS ALSO are making new strides down the aisle.

"The bridesmaids' choice for '92 is the sophisticated, formal two-piece suit . . . a look that can be worn again," said Debbie Pollak-Zimberg, co-owner of Pollak's Bridal in West Bloomfield and Rochester.

Chris Morrisroe of Hudson's sees trends going from tea length to floor length. Softer pastels, peaches, mints, brighter pinks and floral and tapestry prints. Shorter looks are more sophisticated and cocktail-like.

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Right: Reflections of spring are captured in the Victoria royal bridal gown. Open portrait neckline and long-fitted sleeves crown a faille basque bodice adorned with silk thread embroidery and beaded, three-dimensional flowers in pale pastels. A full tulle skirt completes the soft romantic look. \$1,598. At Sue Gordon Bridal Salon, Birmingham.