

LIFE & ARTS

Neil Sperry Assess what changes will need to be made as winter backs off 3D

Prom fashion

Star styles

Teens are turning to red carpet-worthy dresses similar to those worn by their favorite celebs

By Susan Huston
Special to the Star-Telegram

Birds are chirping, the sun is warming up the latest freeze, and all thoughts turn to ... prom, of course!

For teenage girls, shopping for what to wear on that special night is as much a rite of passage as the dance itself.

One of their biggest inspirations? The red carpet.

Of course, we've always been inspired by what celebs are wearing to awards shows, movie premieres and other high-profile events. But thanks to bloggers, celebrity websites and social media accounts that keep images alive and easy to find, if prom girls can't go to Hollywood to shop, they can take their favorite Hollywood looks with them on their smartphones, right into local stores.

When I surveyed teen girls recently about their current celebrity style icons, the same names came up over and over, and a few surprised me: Taylor Swift, Selena Gomez, Rachel McAdams, Scarlett Johansson and Amanda Seyfried.

These young stars — credit their stylists — have worn glamorous gowns in luxe fabrics with design elements like mermaid silhouettes, high-low hemlines, and sequins and jewels in just the right places to flatter the body naturally. (No, plunging necklines and slits cut-up-to-there are not required for Hollywood glamour, ladies.)

Here's is a peek at some red carpet-worthy gowns available at local stores, as modeled by area teenagers who are shopping for their own perfect prom looks.

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Freeze frame!

Lauren Pundt, left, a 15-year-old student from Burleson Centennial High School, is on a silver streak with her swiny Taylor Swift-inspired look. **Details:** Aidan Mattox short silver beaded dress, \$440, Nordstrom; Gianni Bini silver peep-toe, ankle strap sandals, \$98, Dillard's; custom designed earrings, \$49, J. Saunders Boutique; Helen Heart dome ring, \$59, WhatchamaCallit Fashions; Sassy Couture bracelet, \$43, Bliss Prom & Social.

Seventeen-year-old Arlington High School model Olivia Reynolds turns heads with this strapless ruched and ruffled full skirt blue-print gown similar to one worn by Amanda Seyfried at a red-carpet event. **Details:** Tony Bowls printed gown, \$465, J. Saunders Boutique; jeweled drop earrings, \$10.90, Windsor.

More on PROM, 6D

Star-Telegram/Joyce Marshall

Reader contest

Round up your Peeps for our annual event

DFW.com's best bets

Raise a glass

Vetro Glassblowing Studio & Gallery invites you to celebrate St. Patrick's Day weekend creatively by attending the "Hot Glass, Cold Brew" event Saturday. Create your own beer glass while enjoying a couple of cold ones. The event takes place from noon to 7 p.m. and costs \$75. Reservations are required and can be made online. Those who attend can also select a premade glass for \$65. 701 S. Main St., Grapevine. 817-251-1668; <http://vetroartglass.com>.

Quick hit

The Stolen Shakespeare Guild continues it's limited run of *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* at 8 p.m. Saturday. \$18. Sanders Theatre, 1300 Gendy St., Fort Worth. 866-811-4111; www.stolenshakespeareguild.org.

— Courtney Ortega

It's that time, again, peeps — time for our annual Peeps diorama contest!

Last year's winner depicted the late, legendary pianist Van Cliburn's historic 1958 win at the Tchaikovsky Competition in Russia. Runners-up created scenes from *Hunger Games*, the State Fair, the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo, and more.

Who'll take home the prize for marshmallow madness in 2014?

This year marks the eighth time we're asking you, our clever readers, to get crazy-creative with those colorful marshmallow candies.



A diorama based on Van Cliburn was last year's winner.

Star-Telegram/Khampha Bouaphanh

We can hardly wait to see what you peeps come up with!

Winners will be announced in Life & Arts on Easter Sunday, April 20.

More details and rules to come, but here's what to know to get started on your entry. (Please read all the rules. Entries that don't follow them will be disqualified.)

1. Make a diorama (a miniature 3-D model) using Peeps. Other materials are also permitted. (Hint: The ones that win are the ones that use Peeps most creatively.)

More on PEEPS, 10D