

## prom rewind

"Because prom is often one's first defining fashion moment, our fashion students thought it would be fun to ask today's style makers to look back and critique their prom look. Surprisingly--or perhaps not--our poll reported many top fashionistas to be self-proclaimed 'fashion don'ts' in high school," said Anthony Miller, chair of the SCAD fashion department. Here's what they said:

### Kourtney Kardashian "Keeping Up With the Kardashians"

"I would not do my prom differently. Since Kim and I went to an all girls school, we had to find boyfriends elsewhere, so I went to his prom. He was a senior and I was a junior. I wore a fabulous black "product" halter gown, carried a Prada clutch of my mom's and MADE my mom buy me some black Gucci heels. I think they were my first pair of designer heels and the love affair has never ended. I still have the dress and wore it a couple months ago when we did an Oscars segment for E! Thank god I still fit in it and I'm almost 30! And I still have the Gucci shoes! I was the best dressed girl at the prom, I must say!"



### Paige Davis Host, "Trading Spaces"

"I was so concerned about looking trashy that I forgot to look like a 17-year-old girl. I dressed way too adult. Nowadays there are great prom options that are appropriate, but also fun and fresh and young. Think cocktail dress, not full-length gown."

### Nigel Barker "America's Next Top Model" Fashion Photographer

"Everything was perfect; I wouldn't change a thing about my prom."



### Ted Allen Stylist, "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy"

"What a fun thing! Unfortunately, my friends and I were major dorks/freaks in high school. We did not go to prom; never been to one. I will say in our defense, however, that the party materials we enjoyed instead were of the utmost quality, and that we listened to much cooler music than the people who could actually get a date. And we still do."

### Tim Gunn Mentor, "Project Runway," and Host, "Tim Gunn's Guide to Style"

"I'm prom-phobic. In fact, I've had a profound aversion to proms for as long as I can remember. Some people believe that my phobia is discredited by the fact that I've never attended a prom. I don't need to! And regarding my aversion, I won't even get into the odd societal aspects of prommery. I'll stick with the fashion aspects: Most prom dresses aren't even remotely "fashion." Rather, they're costumes. Care to debate it? Then ask yourself, "Where else can I wear this prom dress?" Furthermore, why do teenage girls dress to look twice their age? Finally, why do teen men choose to attend a prom wearing anything other than a classic black tuxedo? But a tux becomes a costume, too, when it's worn with sneakers or flip-flops or it's without a shirt. If I want to date a clown, I'll go to the circus. So, my view on proms is the same today as it was a zillion years ago: I wouldn't change a thing in my rewind. And if I sound like an old fuddy-duddy, I am. I guess I was born 'old.' "

**Nicole Miller**  
**Fashion Designer**

"If I could do prom the second time around, I would do a lot more shopping for dresses before bringing my mother into the process. She convinced me to buy the first dress that we saw and both liked. I wish I could have looked at many more before making my decision!"



**Thom Filicia**  
**Interior Designer, "Queer Eye For the Straight Guy"**

"I strongly suggest eating before you go to prom because my experience of eating at the prom was definitely not a success story. I would also forgo the matching madras cummerbund and tie. It was something I did and would never choose again! Lastly I would avoid the staged photo op and rely instead on candid photographs to historically document the evening."

**Bobbie Thomas**  
**"TODAY" Style Editor; E! Fashion Correspondent; InTouch Weekly Fashion Editor**

"I actually made my own dress for the prom, and funny enough, all the lamé that has gone down the runway at shows like Marc Jacobs were recent reminders. I even built in my own jewelry! I had Swarovski crystal strands connected from the strapless bust line to a choker made of the same fabric-it was halter style. If I could "rewind" and do it over again, I wouldn't do anything differently. While I feel like your wedding pictures should be timeless, your prom pictures should be time-stamped. They should be a fun flashback to who you were, what you were about, and what you were interested in at the time-providing photographic evidence of your evolution! When it comes to fashion guidelines and tips, it's all about being a risk taker, exposing yourself and literally wearing your heart on your sleeve. I always like to say "Style is the way you speak to the world without words" and "a layer of language you wear" so when you look back at a photo of yourself, it's a really great way to see what your message was and what you were trying to say about who you were and what you believed to be true about yourself. I'm a big believer in using your fashion to make a statement and I think you should just have fun-indulge in absolutely anything your heart desires-it's YOUR fantasy, your dream night. Like they say, it's a night to be remembered! I am glad that I went my own direction, made my own dress, and took a risk. It's not about trying to fit in or look like a celebrity, it's about being yourself, having fun, breaking the rules, and thinking outside of the box! If you are someone who never wears dresses, wear a suit, wear pants, do something different, have fun with it! You don't want to look back at a picture where you and all of your girlfriends are lined up like clones of each other. We focus so much on what other people will think of us-but it's more important to focus on what you think of yourself and really be sure that you are wearing what YOU want to wear (not what your mom wants you to wear, not what your friends think you should wear). Be you, do you."



**Estee Stanley**  
**Celebrity Stylist**

"It is likely you would not recognize me, the ever-so-chic power stylist, Estee Stanley, at my high school prom. In a lipstick-red, shiny spandex dress of my own design, I embraced the feel of the late '80s era. The dress was a showstopper, or at least sounds like one; a crisscross strap covering the chest area, the stomach exposed, and the remainder a fitted mermaid style with nothing less than red tulle peeking out from the bottom. My girlfriends were all dressed very similar with crazy Aqua Net-styled hair and Boy George rainbow makeup.

If I could "rewind" I would dress completely opposite, something much more classic and less revealing. I would advise wearing something you won't feel uncomfortable or embarrassed to talk about 20 years later like I was!"



**CariDee English**  
**"America's Next Top Model"**

"My dress was literally a \$20 dress from a store in the Fargo mall. It was purple with spaghetti straps and was covered in glitter. My shoes were silver heels with a huge thick heel and covered in straps. The color was literally spray painted on and they were also covered



in glitter. At the time I loved what I wore. Looking back now I would have picked an elegant black dress-actually just anything without glitter!

Chunky heels and spaghetti strap dresses were so in! That's all I can think about when I think of prom. That and the dress with a corset top and puffed out bottom; some were even two pieces! Those were huge too. My first modeling job actually was a prom dress in a Fargo mall; I was literally a mannequin in the window.

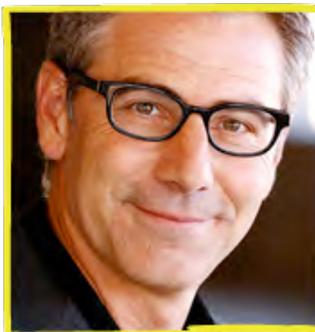


If I could "rewind" I would do LESS GLITTER! My glitter even got in my date's eyes. I even put glitter in my hair so I would have not done that. Also I would have shopped around more for a dress. I was asked to the prom last minute so I didn't really have the time.

My advice: no glitter. Growing up I realized I should use my smile to sparkle and not use glitter. The next year I wore a really cute simple white dress. It was SO much better. Less is more! Wear something that is good for your body type not just because it's popular. The better a dress fits the better it looks and the more confident you feel."

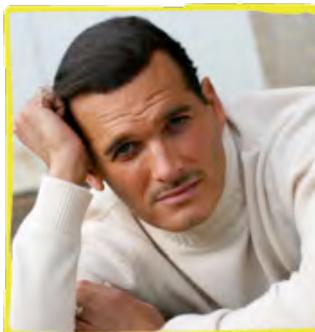
**Paul DiMeo**  
Designer, "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition"

"I have very fond memories of my prom. Led Zeppelin was the music of choice and "Stairway to Heaven" was our prom song. But it was 1976; you can just imagine the fashions...I wore a tux with tails. The tux was beige with chocolate brown velvet lapels and cuffs. The shirt was cream with ruffles and the ruffles had brown piping, the bow tie was chocolate brown velvet and my shoes were brown patent leather. I looked good! My date wore a cream halter long dress with chocolate brown accents. I gave her a yellow orchid corsage for her wrist. During the prom I needed to use the restroom. I had forgotten about the tails. Need less to say the tails went into the toilet... and you can imagine the rest. I ended up cutting the tails off the tux. Went back to my date and we continued to dance the night away. How did I return the tux? Well, the next day my grandma stitched the tails back on the tux and when I return it I was able to fool them. They did not notice. If I could "rewind," what would I do differently? Being that it was 1976 I would wear the same tux minus the tails!"



**Phillip Bloch**  
Celebrity Stylist

"As everyone knows, your tuxedo must match your limo! When I went with an off-white tux and found out my mom had booked a black limo, I wasn't having it! I got into a huge fight with her and as I always say in these kinds of situations, God interceded. Which in this case meant I didn't realize how close I was to the glass door and smashed my arm right through it. I ended up getting stitches, but still made it to the prom in my off-white tux and of course, matching white limo! To make matters worse, my gorgeous date in her Linda Blair-inspired light blue dress with white lace trim had the worst hair-do ever. It looked like two big donut puffs and barely fit in the limo! She kept asking 'Does my hair look really bad?' and of course we all reassured her it 'looked great' while we secretly tried to tame it without her realizing. It might work with a Galliano but definitely not at a prom! My advice is to be careful what movie theme you go for and make sure it's not one that you will regret 20 years from now. You don't want to look 58 when you're only 18!"



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