

## Clare's Diary

**16 February 2011**

### **Wednesday**

Today I am collecting dresses for an Xpose shoot to be filmed in Newbridge Silverware on Friday. First it's off to Coast in Newbridge to try on a stunning red evening gown before I head to Soho, just across the street where I squeeze into the most gorgeous shimmering, sequined creations. Then to Couture in Naas, where I borrow a beautiful vintage lace dress by local designer Joanna London. A day of glamour before popping all the bits and bobs into Phil in Newbridge who is going to match the clothes' with some of the items from their fabulous new vintage range.

### **Thursday**

I discovered two gems today. Tara's Boutique in Naas is a designer swap shop which opened shortly before Christmas. I spend hours in there (still in dress mode!) trying on everything from vintage shifts to a Cavalli evening gown all at bargain prices! Dress mode abruptly comes to an end when I receive an email inviting me to a PhD interview in 10 days time, it's good news but now I really can't avoid the inevitable study!

### **Friday**

I have a full head of curls by 10am courtesy of Hair Affaire in Athy before I head towards Dublin to have my makeup done. By the early afternoon I am back in Newbridge Silverware where the Xpose team have arrived. I feel uber glamorous surrounded by Hollywood legends (albeit in picture form) in the museum upstairs. I have six wardrobe changes before a short interview with Glenda Gilson about how the year is flying past.

### **Saturday**

Study study study before meeting my cousin Jill in Bradbury's for a gossip and a cup of tea!

### **Sunday**

I am chuffed with myself this morning as I manage to run 10 kilometres. There are a heap of charity runs coming up over the coming months and I am out of practice so it's good to know I still have it in me. Back to the books this afternoon.

### **Monday**

I am bowled over tonight by a performance of Come The Dawn in Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo. Peter Kennedy, a Belfast native himself has written this incredible production about life in the city before the Good Friday Agreement. No exaggeration, this is actually the best musical I have ever seen and gives a fascinating insight into the futility of terrorism and violence. It feels incredibly poignant to be watching such tragic events unfold on stage when at the exact same time in Libya, they are becoming a reality for so many people. Fed and watered by my wonderful escort Donal, who as usual is the host with the most!

## **Tuesday**

Back home to Athy again today where I am helping Mrs. Quin's Charity Shop celebrate their tenth anniversary. It is a sign of how integral a part of our community this establishment has become that so many people attend. I am wearing a gorgeous dress purchased from another branch of Mrs. Quin's and of course as usual I don't leave empty handed having nabbed a couple of bargains! My VSO trip to India was confirmed this morning so now I allow myself to start feeling properly excited about all the international travel that is just around the corner! It's lovely to be at home this evening with Mum, Dad and my brother Madhu and we catch up over dinner.

Don't forget the Rose of Tralee International Festival, is now recruiting Roses for 2011! So log onto [www.roseoftralee.ie](http://www.roseoftralee.ie) to download an application form today and *it could be you* having this experience of a lifetime this time next year!