

## Clare's Diary

**9 February 2011**

### **Wednesday**

I head for home this morning, stopping in Newbridge Silverware to have a look at some of the sales. I unpack my things and then pile more dresses in to the back of my car before heading to the Westbury hotel in Dublin where I am staying tonight. My intention is to get an early night but 11.30pm sees me still painting my toe nails and taking advantage of the swanky coffee machine in my bedroom!

### **Thursday**

I'm up early today as the girls doing my hair and make-up are in my room for 8.30am. I have a big day ahead and by 10am I have been transformed, my hair is in giant curls and my makeup is picture perfect. I could get used to this I'm telling you! We all troop downstairs where I am delighted to spy the Rose crew and Dáithí Ó Sé who I haven't seen since last August. I also finally get to meet his gorgeous girlfriend Rita Talty, although I don't get to spend half enough time chatting as we are already behind time for a photoshoot with Molly Malone, several baskets of roses and a random Scotsman! It's straight back to the bedroom afterwards for another hair and makeup change before a photoshoot with Ronan O'Gara. I am dripping in the fabulous new range from Newbridge Silverware as I pose beside one of Ireland's greatest rugby heroes; the life of a Rose is tough indeed huh! After this photoshoot I grab a quick bite with the lads from the Rose team before heading off to the RTÉ studios where I am a guest on the Daily Show with everyone's favourite Kerryman, Dáithí and the beautiful Claire Byrne, who is just as lovely in real life as on tv!

### **Friday**

This evening I am meeting the wonderful volunteers of the charity, Rainbows. I have come across this organization before and I must say the work they do is fantastic and of huge interest to me professionally. The initiative works with children and adults who have been bereaved through the death of a family member or who have been affected by familial breakdown. Over the past decade or so the charity has managed to integrate into hundreds of schools and communities across the country and I am delighted to be joining them tonight to launch their appeal for mini marathon runners. After photos with all the regional teams and a quick bite I drive back into town and pop my head into Lillie's Bordello where the Hope Foundation are launching a fundraising exhibition of paintings and artwork .

### **Saturday**

I meet Maureen, Kevin and JP from the Hope Foundation at lunchtime in the Aisling Hotel. Together we head towards the Royal Kilmainham Hospital where the launch for the European Year of the Volunteer is taking place. There are numerous charities represented there today and we are honoured to receive an address from the President, Mary McAleese. She is an incredibly impressive public speaker and leaves us with the wonderful quote: " Volunteers are unpaid, not because the work they do is worthless but

rather because it is priceless". I get home just in time to have a catch up glass of wine with my friends, Cathy, Maggie and Stacy.

### **Sunday**

The Carlton in Athy is holding a special wedding fair today in advance of St. Valentine's day. It's good to see how busy the place is and to hear from Richard, the manager, how well their wedding business is doing so far this year. I must say though the place looks fab and we are treated to a wonderful fashion show of wedding and evening dresses. I do a quick interview with KFM about the search for Roses and Escorts and how my year is going so far before posing for a few pictures and visiting the stands, probably spending far too much time hovering beside those giving out free cake samples!

### **Monday**

Ah St. Valentine, I am a lucky girl this morning. I wake up to a hand delivered card outside my bedroom door ...from my Mammy!!! I do however receive three beautiful bunches of roses, one of which I am still confused as to the sender, mysterious!

### **Tuesday**

A day of rest today. I pop down to see my friend Aodha and her new baby Ronan, who is a little treasure. Afterwards I pick up my friend Cathy and we go to the gym in the Carlton and feel very pleased with ourselves afterwards as we chill out in the pool, Jacuzzi and steamroom.