



08.12.07

UMA THURMAN, UNCUT
A PERSONAL PORTRAIT
OF THE ACTRESS
OVER TWO DECADES
BY MIKE FIGGIS

MAGAZINE

PLUS SEDUCTION SCHOOL ★ THE LADY-TUX ★ ECO BAGS ★ GIFTS FOR GARDENER

PERSONAL SERVICES



Tricky as it can be in this season of goodwill to maintain the pretence that you have retained your sense of humour and proportion, I am giving it a go. In this immensely positive spirit, I have come up with a solution for the wasteful excess of the season, one which does not involve buying a portable loo for Africa in your sister-in-law's name or having a gift

amnesty, which is never quite as enjoyable on the day as you think it's going to be.

Not that there's anything wrong with sponsoring a condom or adopting a goat (although last year the miserablists had a go at suggesting it was all counter-productive). But on the grounds that Oxfam has done a thoroughly persuasive job of promoting this particular route, and that this is a column about fashion, I hereby offer a way of buying into luxury and fashion without actually buying any more stuff. We're talking about services and, since we're a service economy, how Zeitgeisty is that? My ideas may even eliminate the fashion horrors cluttering up your loved ones' lives and impeding their happiness. At this time of year, more altruistic than that it probably does not get.

● Jo Poole, aka the Dress Doctor, comes to your house and transforms dated or unflattering buys with her trusty needle. The *Times* fashion department let her loose on a so-so high street dress and several additions later (pockets, collar and contrasting trim) it had

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acquired a whole new identity. Jo can take in trousers, resculpt dresses and generally give a wardrobe the kiss of life. Home visits within the M25 start at £250 including materials for the day, in which time she estimates she can do between 10 and 16 alterations (one garment may require several). Prices outside the M25 on application – a group of friends on the Isle of Wight have clubbed together to get her over for a fortnight (07855 032705; e-mail jo@thedressdoctor.co.uk; www.thedressdoctor.co.uk).

● London-based Annabel Hodin is a brilliant, instinctive personal stylist who prunes and revives the contents of wardrobes and dishes out pearls of style wisdom every time she opens her mouth (020-7431 8761).

● Wardrobe Planning. A home visit helps you see what you have and shows you how to combine your clothes. Three hours costs £300 (www.talkingimage.co.uk; 020-8458 4597).

● Leesa Whisker (a favourite with the *Times* fashion department) or one of her growing team will take you shopping and solve your clothes dilemmas for ever (more or less). From £300 (0870 0434126; leesa@whiskeragency.co.uk).

● The Style Counsellor, based in Brighton, specialises in styling men. Sessions cost from £60 to £170, depending on the length of time required (07702 872769).

● Finally, for the most thoroughly virtuous non-clutter gift of all, Dawn Mellowship offers an ethical styling service: for £5 she can source one ethical outfit which she guarantees will not include Jesus sandals unless specifically requested. For £150 she'll overhaul a wardrobe; £270 gets you the ethical lifestyle package. Why don't religions work like this? Call 020-8367 9158 or 07981 049493; e-mail, info@dawnmellowship.com. ■

▼ Boxy shape glammed up with Swarovski crystals

Kurt Geiger, £230 (0845 2572571)



▲ Cute sequinned marlequin pattern with magnetic clasp

Topshop, £18 (www.topshop.co.uk)

CHOSEN BY JANE TAYLOR-HAYHURST

