Gay Clothes Boost Sally's Morale

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Gay Clothes

Boost Sally’s Morale

Virginia Brainard describes the gay colors and soft lines featured in Sally’s practical spring wardrobe

SALLY’S looking her most romantic in the soft blue silk taffeta formal pictured at left. She slips from her practical working clothes into this more frivolous gown to give color and variety to her evening. The small sleeve adds a note of modesty that is seen in many of the season’s new creations.

There will be feminine lines for contrast to the severity of army uniforms and tailored lines to help women look their best on and off duty. Bright, vibrant colors and soft pastels will symbolize courage.

“Suit spring” is the byword for the 1942 season. There is trim tailoring, military pockets, epaulets, gilt buttons with various insignia and leather belts.

Color is another important fashion item on the spring calendar. South American influence is seen in adaptations from the United States’ “good neighbors.” The bold colors of strong cerise, mustard gold, royal or bright prints are important. And there are striking and unusual color combinations such as found in a three-color suit combining a purple skirt, light purple-blue jacket and a bodice in American Beauty rose.

A flood of brilliant colors will begin the white season and brown and navy blue will follow later. A new shade called “chamois” offers a newer choice than beige, which will keep its top rating. Grays and blues—especially soft, light shades—are headed for fame.

Red with a pimento cast will be a favorite. However, Kelly green is slated to steal business from last year’s firehouse red. Deep turquoise for spring suits, in woolens and flannels, is up for honors. “Coffee colors” include white, pale mocha, brown and “coffee-berry red.”

“Flag colors” carry names which emphasize the meaning of the flag: “victory red,” “hope white” and “invincible blue.”

Other vivid “good neighbor” hues include American Beauty, rose-cyclamen, magenta, brilliant turquoise, candle-light yellow, pottery gold, sun-baked tan and “yachting,” a vivid green. Yellow and green and yellow-pimento red form brilliant color combinations.

Color is used as a distinguishing characteristic in the two eye-catching suit styles: severe tailoring and soft femininity. Tailored suits use double chalk-strips on gray slate, or gray wool with corn yellow stitching on the jacket, or deep blue or brown. Soft dressmaker suits may be found in pastel shades of blue, gold, beige and rose.

A street suit that is tailored simply will be indispensable for class rooms, and will fit into the new role you will be playing in war work. It can be of twill, cheviot, covert or flannel with a slender, stitched-gored skirt and gilt buttons. A simple blouse, gilet or dickey gives it a business-like air.

For the gay and energetic, there are wool checks. They may be simply tailored and yet have an air of casual elegance. A classic jacket tops a skirt featuring six side pleats in the front of the skirt. Wear it in gray, green, navy or beige wool.

While on the subject, checks are tops for double-duty. Smart black-and-white or brown-and-white shepherd checks look fresh and crisp. Use dramatic touches of shark-white waffle pique. Take off the pique, wear a white, yellow or red spring blouse and there is your best spring suit. Three-quarter length sleeves dramatize spring gloves.

Sports suits will emphasize case and freedom in clothes. Wear them with a sweater, a jersey skirt, gilet or dickey. The skirt should have inverted pleats in front and back. Coffee-bean brown and pistachio green wool is one color scheme that will be used.

For femininity in a world of severe khaki uniforms, the styles will be carefully softened. A soft front and tailored back is the slogan for some feminine suits, most of which are made with a gored back and a softly gathered front.

A soft suit of wool crepe has a collarless V-neckline. A metal link belt at the natural waistline holds in gathers above the waist. A full, draped skirt with four unpressed pleats over each hip is gathered under the jacket.

A jacket may have a flirtatious peplum over a slightly flaring skirt. Softness is achieved in these suits by drapery from the shoulders that shapes neatly at the waist and gives a slick and slim look to the hips. Three classic types are a one-button jacket with notched lapels, two and three-button jackets with notched revers. Jackets extend just below the hip line and skirts are slim and easy.

Because women will keep an eye on their budgets more than ever this spring, they will know how to vary accessories to give originality and freshness to one good suit. A red and white striped wool sweater or blouse or a wool shirt or sweater will create a sports suit. Wear it with a beanie or riding hat and red moccasins.

Organdie blouses will go with semi-dress suits. White pique makes a detachable butterfly bow for the neck and also forms stripes down the front and back and edges the sleeves.

For the feminine, there is an imported lace jabot which can be worn with a high neckline or a low V. Organdie ruching finishes the jabot and short sleeves.