

# In the closet with Janine Duvitski

The *Benidorm* star has abandoned black for colour – to show off her svelte new figure Words and styling by Tricia Welch

Janine, 58, rose to fame playing Angela in *Abigail's Party* 35 years ago. Since then, she's starred in many TV series, including *One Foot in the Grave*, and is currently playing Jacqueline Stewart in *Benidorm*. She lives with her actor husband Paul Bentall and their daughters Ruby, 22, and Edith, 17, in north London.

**How do you describe your style?**

It varies from walking-the-dog scruffy to old-fashioned Parisienne chic.

**What colours, shapes and styles suit you best?** It's changed radically in the last year since I lost four stone. I used to wear a lot of black, slouchy clothes, but I'm now embracing fitted styles in brighter colours. I like to wear simple tunics, shift dresses, tighter jeans and fitted tops.

**Who is your style icon?** I admire how French film stars like Juliette Binoche and Audrey Tautou dress, with an understated elegance.

**Do you have a beauty secret?** Invest in a good haircut.

**How do you dress on "fat" days?** When I was "obese" as the doctor put it, I'd wear stretchy trousers and baggy tops, but now I've given all my "fat clothes" away to charity.

**Is there anything about your body that you dislike?** I'd love to have longer legs.

**What is your current favourite outfit?** A red Audrey Hepburn-style shift dress that my daughter Ruby bought me for Christmas.

**Is there an "old favourite" that you turn to in a wardrobe crisis?**

An asymmetric-style top which I wear

with a pair of wide-legged trousers or a wrap-around skirt by Annette Görtz. I bought variations in all white and all black in a Fenwick sale.

**What is the oldest item in your wardrobe?** A long white, devoré velvet coat which I bought for my wedding to Paul eight years ago.

**What is the one item of clothing you couldn't live without?** My Annette Görtz outfits.

**What is the most crushing remark anyone has made about your clothes?** When I was at my fattest someone said, "You're not having another baby are you?"

**What is your most successful party outfit?** A simple shift dress.

**Do you own more day wear than evening wear?** Yes, a lot more.

**How much of your wardrobe is black?** Not as much as it used to be. Black is a great colour to hide behind because it's slimming and non-showy. You have to be more confident to wear colour.

**Do you have a favourite LBD?** A shift dress from Zara which I wear with a little cardigan.

**Do you own anything vintage?** Apart from shoes and my wedding outfit, I have several tea dresses from the 30s and 40s.

"My style varies from walking-the-dog scruffy to old-fashioned Parisienne chic"



From top: Janine favours simple shift dresses which flatter her slimmed-down figure. This red shift is from Whistles, while the pearls were a gift from her husband Paul

Despite being just over 5ft tall, Janine finds heels "far too uncomfortable" to wear. These brown and cream courts are authentic vintage, the yellow flapper shoes are from Primark and the brogues are by Jigsaw



**Clockwise, from far left:** Janine models her favourite daytime outfit – a double-breasted red jacket and brown trousers from Zara, with a silk blouse from Cos. The brown leather boots are from Monsoon

**The hats –** a brown felt cloche by Raffaello Bettini and black bowler from Accessorize – are shared by Janine and her actress daughter Ruby, who stars as Minnie in *Lark Rise to Candleford*

**Janine's sparkly evening bags** are a mix of vintage and high-street store

**"Since I've lost weight I'm embracing brighter colours,"** says Janine. This waist-nipping, orange jacket has a vibrant floral lining. She bought it from Cabbages & Roses, her fashion address book secret

**Jacqueline Stewart, Janine's character in *Benidorm*,** totes around this basket. It's shown here with Janine's Ray-Ban sunglasses and a straw trilby

**Below:** for her wedding to long-time partner Paul Bentall eight years ago, Janine bought her exquisite cream devoré coat from Virginia, a vintage boutique in London's Holland Park. She wore it over a cream silk dress and teamed it with vintage-style Chanel shoes from Selfridges. "I feel very sentimental about the outfit," she says



**What is your favourite designer and high street shop?** Mishiko Koshino and Annette Görtz for designer and Zara on the high street.  
**What is the most expensive item in your wardrobe?** My devoré velvet wedding coat and Chanel shoes.  
**What is your best fashion bargain?** An oversized yellow leather bag which I bought from TK Maxx. It is capacious enough for scripts, novels and everything I need.  
**Is your underwear frilly or sporty, matching or mismatched?** Mainly comfy M&S, although I do have pretty, frilly underwear, too.  
**How many handbags do you own?** Ten including some sparkly ones.  
**Do you wear silver or gold jewellery?** Paul bought me a lovely

string of delicate pearls when we got married, but for every day, I wear my mother's gold wedding ring.  
**Do you wear diamonds?** Just a diamond ring which used to belong to my Auntie Ruby.  
**What make of sunglasses do you wear?** Ray-Bans.  
**What is your fashion must-have for this season?** A pencil skirt.  
**Do you have a fashion address book secret?** Cabbages & Roses.  
**What article of clothing would you save from a burning house?** My wedding coat, Chanel shoes and pearls. I feel very sentimental about them. 📖

*Benidorm* is on ITV1 on Saturday at 9.45pm.