

In the closet with Kylie Babington

The *EastEnders* actress has her own sense of style, mixing vintage and modern Words and styling by Tricia Welch

Kylie, 22, who plays Jodie Gold in BBC1's *EastEnders*, trained as an actress at Italia Conti, Britain's oldest stage school. She is single and lives in north London.

How do you describe your style?

Creative. I like dressing up in retro and modern, and thinking about what "character" I'll play that day. My *EastEnders* character Jodie dresses like a Barbie doll. She's not a bit like me – I don't possess one pink item in my wardrobe – but she's fun to play.

What colours, shapes and styles suit you best?

Neutrals – camel, beige and browns – punctuated with bold splashes of orange, red and purple. Shape-wise, it could be a very feminine nipped-in waist and heels one day, and a mannish jacket and flats the next.

Who is your style icon?

Sophia Loren in her younger days – she was so charismatic and dressed with such femininity and grace.

How do you dress on "fat" days?

I wear something comfortable and loose and make more effort with my make-up to boost my confidence.

How long does it take you to get ready in the morning?

Minutes. If needs be, I'll go without make-up and tie back my hair. But I like to spend an hour, choosing clothes and applying my face.

Do you have a stylist?

No, and I wouldn't want one – I really like putting a look together.

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

My vintage denim shorts – I wear them dressed

down for daytime and glammed up for the evening.

What is your current favourite outfit?

My red sweater from Rokit in Camden worn over a beige cotton shirt, which cost just £1 from a charity shop. I team it with my denim shorts, black over-the-knee socks and gold lace-up brogues from Primark.

What is the oldest item in your wardrobe?

I have a sequined boob tube my sister gave me, which she got second hand – it must be 30 years old.

Do you clear out your wardrobe each season?

I have regular sort outs, but the trick is to mix and match – reinvent your outfits to keep your wardrobe fresh.

Have you ever made a fashion faux pas?

Yes, inevitably, because I like to experiment. I once went through a phase of wearing clashing colours and patterns and, looking back, it was a step too far.

What is the most crushing remark anyone's made about your clothes?

A journalist once wrote that my choice of outfit to an awards do was "dreadful". I thought, "You can't please everyone."

Is there anything about your body you dislike?

My feet. In summer I'll slap



“Jodie dresses like a Barbie doll. She's not a bit like me – I don't possess one pink item”

From top: Kylie's current favourite outfit is a red Rokit sweater worn over a beige shirt, her best charity bargain at £1. She pairs them with over-the-knee socks

and her "old favourite" denim shorts – "I wear them dressed down for day and glammed up for evening." Her gold lace-up brogues are from Primark

Kylie's belts – all from high-street shops – accentuate her tiny waist

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Clockwise, from left: Kylie's glamorous blue shift dress with gold embroidery was a Primark bargain

This lace LBD is a favourite from Spitalfields Market. "It's sophisticated and sexy in a subtle way. I don't do obvious," she says. The yellow cotton dress is by American Apparel

"Boots are a saviour," says Kylie. The brown cowboy ones belonged to her mum, the black suede boots with sheepskin lining are vintage and her sister Faye passed on the cream suede pair

The actress isn't a fan of designer accessories – the purple bag was a gift from her mum and the faux snakeskin clutch is from Asos. The beige trilby is a vintage find

Kylie's favourite buys this season include this preppy jacket from H&M and a tweed coat from London's Rokit, her favourite vintage shop

Kylie loves costume jewellery, all found in charity and high-street shops – "It's all part of the dressing up process; accessories are the finishing touch," she says

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on nail polish but I avoid anything strappy and revealing – boots are a saviour.

Do you have a fashion address book secret? Rokit in Camden – it's great for vintage clothes.

What is your favourite designer and high-street shop? I'm not into designer clothes, but I think Topshop is fantastic.

How much did you spend on clothes last month? About £200, which is average for me.

What is your sexiest outfit? A black lace dress with a low back from Spitalfields Market. It's sophisticated and sexy in a subtle way. I don't do obvious.

What do you wear in bed? Cosy pyjamas but I often peel them

off once I've warmed up.

Is your underwear frilly or sporty, matching or mismatched?

Mainly frilly and matching.

Do you wear gold or silver jewellery? Both, but I like costume jewellery more. It's all part of the dressing-up process; accessories are the finishing touch.

Do you wear diamonds? Not at the moment, but I wouldn't turn them down if I was offered some.

What article of clothing would you save from a burning house?

I have a much-loved suitcase from Camden Market that's covered with vintage magazine covers. It's stuffed with a selection of my wardrobe favourites – I'd just grab that. ☺