

In the closet with

Lyndsey Marshal

The actress adores vintage frocks – and she can't keep away from charity shops
Words and styling by Tricia Welch

Lyndsey, 31, has starred in television shows such as *Rome* and *Poirot*, the film *The Hours* and the West End production of *Three Days of Rain* with James McAvoy. She can be seen in the legal drama *Garrow's Law* which starts next Sunday on BBC1 at 9pm.

How do you describe your style?

Eclectic. I mix vintage with second hand and contemporary pieces.

What colours, shapes and styles suit you best? Blues and purples.

I prefer styles that emphasise my waist. I've got an hour-glass shape and suit that full-skirted Dior New Look style from the 40s and 50s.

Who is your style icon? Alexa Chung and Thandie Newton.

Do you have a beauty secret? I've always used rose and almond oils on my face.

How do you dress on "fat" days?

A loose dress with leggings or tights.

How long does it take you to get ready in the morning? Anything from 15 minutes to an hour.

Do you have a stylist? My friend Sukeena is a personal shopper at Liberty and she has a great eye.

What is your current favourite outfit?

A silk tulle skirt by Bi La Li which I wear with a silk blouse, and a pair of shoes from Beyond Retro.

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

A black and white polka dot dress I bought in a charity shop in Tooting about seven years ago. It's a pretty shape and very comfortable to wear.

What is the oldest item in your wardrobe?

A long leather coat from the 70s that originally belonged to my

mother. She nearly threw it away.

What is the one item of clothing you couldn't live without?

A loose-fitting grey V-neck cashmere jumper I bought from a charity shop. I've been going to charity shops for as long as I can remember –

I've inherited the bug from my mum.

What is your most successful party outfit?

A 70s-style silk dress with batwing sleeves from a vintage shop – it's quirky and fun.

How much of your wardrobe is black? About 25 per cent.

Do you have a favourite LBD?

A Vanessa Bruno dress that I wore to the press night for *Three Days of Rain*.

Have you ever had to made to measure? Yes, for stage roles.

One of my favourites was a dress for playing *Sylvia* in *The Pride at The Royal Court Theatre*, which I kept.

What are your favourite designer and high-street shops? Bi La Li for designer, which you can buy on Net-a-Porter, and Topshop.

What is the most expensive item in your wardrobe? A wool coat from Bi La Li which cost £700. I love coats. One of my favourites is a vintage style with a furry collar from New York.

"I have terrible under-wear. A friend gave me a Rigby & Peller voucher and said, 'Go there for God's sake!'"



Clockwise, from top: Lyndsey wears a blue and white cotton dress from Worn Out West, one of her address book secrets

Lyndsey owns several fascinators and headbands in satin and velvet. These are her favourites

She likes to emphasise her figure in full skirts and nipped-in waists. "I've got an hour-glass shape and suit that full-skirted Dior New Look style from the 40s and 50s," she says. She loves these vintage frocks in jewel-bright tones of gold and jade green



What is your best fashion bargain?

A cream silk scarf splashed with peacock blues and gem-stone colours. I always get compliments when I wear it, but it was from a charity shop and it only cost 50p. **Is your underwear frilly or sporty, matching or mismatched?** I have terrible underwear. A friend recently gave me a Rigby & Peller voucher and said, 'Go there for God's sake!'

How many handbags do you own?

I have a few vintage styles I keep for evening and two everyday bags, neither of which are "it" bags – I find the idea of spending vast sums on a bag disgusting.

Do you have more shoes than clothes?

No, but I do have some vintage favourites. Some I can't wear

because they're so fragile.

Do you wear diamonds? Yes, a ring my boyfriend, Sid, bought for me. He went back to the shop four times before deciding it was right.

What is your fashion must-have for this season? I have a dress from Vivienne Westwood on hold, plus I've got a wishlist of jewellery by Pippa Small – she does designs in gold with semi precious stones.

Do you have a fashion address book secret?

They're all vintage haunts in London: Worn Out West, Blackout, Radio Days, plus the vintage section at Topshop.

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

A 70s Rolex Sid bought me for my birthday. It's old and much loved.



Clockwise, from left: Lyndsey loves wearing dresses with a 50s-style silhouette. This brown-and-red cabbage rose design is a recent buy from Worn Out West, a London-based vintage store. It's seen here with a delicate necklace by Sophie Harley

This gorgeous blue silk hooped dress by Elizabeth Emanuel was originally owned by Madonna. Lyndsey was delighted when she successfully bid for it at an auction

"I always head to vintage shops first if I'm looking for something special," says Lyndsey, who has quite a collection of pretty secondhand bags. This 30s coin purse is a vintage buy, as are the antique brooches. "I've shopped in charity shops for as long as I can remember – I've inherited the bug from my mum," she says

Lyndsey doesn't own a lot of shoes and tends to use low-heeled Topshop boots for everyday wear. However, she has some pretty vintage shoes which she wears with her 50s dresses in the evening – "Some shoes I can't wear because they are so fragile, but they're great to look at," she says

Lyndsey loves coats: this black one is by her favourite designer Bi La Li and, at £700, is the most expensive item in her wardrobe. The patterned fur-collar coat is a vintage style purchased in New York

Photographed at the recently renovated The Marriott Hotel Grosvenor Square, London, home to Gordon Ramsay's Maze restaurant. Call 020 7493 1232 or visit www.marriott.co.uk/londt