

# In the closet with Sarah Jayne Dunn

The *Hollyoaks* star has a passion for vintage fashion and sparkling sequins

Words by Tricia Welch Photographs by Tessa Hallmann

Sarah Jayne, 29, plays Mandy Richardson in Channel 4's *Hollyoaks*. She has also appeared in *Drop Dead Gorgeous*, *Doctors* and *The Dark Knight*. She lives in Manchester with her fiancé Darren.

**How do you describe your style?** Vintage casual with a boho vibe.

**What colours, shapes and styles suit you best?** Brights – especially green – and neutrals, flowing or fitted styles that aren't too tight and jeans with T-shirts and a jacket. I like comfortable, uncomplicated clothes.

**Who is your style icon?** Gwyneth Paltrow for her red-carpet look, and Fearne Cotton always looks great.

**Do you have a beauty secret?** I swear by the skin brand Dermalogica.

**How do you dress on "fat" days?** In Campus Crew tracksuit bottoms my mum bought me on a holiday in Canada and a little vest top.

**Is there anything about your body that you dislike?** If I've missed the gym, I avoid fitted dresses and go for styles that flatter my shape and hide any lumps and bumps.

**How long does it take you to get ready in the morning?** About 15 minutes on work days.

**What is your current favourite outfit?** Topshop jeans and a vest top with a little Hennes jacket, teamed with flatties for day or heels for night.

**Is there an "old favourite" that you turn to in a wardrobe crisis?** An LBD from French Connection which is knee-length and fitted.

**What is the oldest item in your wardrobe?** A cowgirl-style tasselled waistcoat in brown suede. I've had it since I was 11 years old.

**What is the one item of clothing you couldn't live without?** Leggings. They're so versatile.

**What is the most crushing remark anyone has made about your clothes?** I was once asked to wear a silly outfit for an underwear promotion – vest, shorts, legwarmers and a visor – but the photo ended up in a magazine with the line 'What was she thinking?' underneath.

**What is your most successful party outfit?** A short, tight multicoloured sequin dress I wore on a catwalk modelling job at 14 and got to keep.

**How much of your wardrobe is black?** Around 20 per cent. I prefer colour and prints.

**Do you have a favourite LBD?** I have a couple – a black sequined off-the-shoulder dress from ASOS and a fitted style from Cello in Liverpool.

**Do you own anything vintage?** Lots. My passion started as a three year old when I'd try on pairs of my mum's 80s boots.

**What is your favourite designer and high-street shop?** BCBG for classics with a twist and Kirsty Doyle for her colourful floaty vintage-style dresses. My high-street favourites are Topshop, H&M, Mango and Zara.

**What is the most expensive item in your wardrobe?** A beautiful

"My style is vintage casual. It started aged three when I'd try on my mum's 80s boots"



From top: Sarah Jayne models one of her favourite little black dresses, an asymmetric sequined frock by Akua from ASOS

These flamboyant coral Christian Louboutin stilettos fit Sarah Jayne's size three feet a treat and are also her best fashion bargain. "They're a work of art – very *Sex and the City*. I bought them for a third of the original price," she says



silver Donna Karan dress I bought years ago to wear to the BAFTAs.

**What is your best fashion bargain?** A pair of coral Louboutin stilettos. They're a work of art – very *Sex and the City*. I bought them for a third of the original price.

**What is your sexiest outfit?** Fitted jeans, a white T-shirt and heels. It's effortless and sexy. It's what my fella always compliments me on.

**Is your underwear frilly or sporty, matching or mismatched?** I have a mixture of everything.

**How many handbags do you own?** About 50, including designer ones like Balenciaga and Christian Dior, as well as cheap and cheerful vintage bags.

**Do you have more shoes than clothes?** About equal.


**Do you wear silver or gold jewellery?** Both, but my favourite items are from my grandmother.

**Do you wear diamonds?** I own some simple diamond stud earrings.

**What make of sunglasses do you wear?** Ray-Bans and Chanel.

**How much have you spent on clothes this month?** One hundred pounds on an ASOS leather jacket.

**Do you have a fashion address book secret?** Cello in Liverpool. It's a boutique owned by Louisa, our wardrobe lady on *Hollyoaks*.

**What article of clothing would you save from a burning house?** My Louboutin shoes and fringed waistcoat. 



**Clockwise, from far left:** This outfit is always a winner with her fiancé Darren. The skinny jeans are from Topshop, the white T-shirt is from H&M, the grey leather jacket is from ASOS, and her beige patent heels are Louboutin



This classic checked coat by Dolce & Gabbana has a black leather trim and is one of Sarah Jayne's best buys

A fan of bright colours, the actress often relies on this striking sequin dress for parties. She first wore it for a modelling job, aged 14. "Now I take it on holiday," she says. "It looks best with a tan and sandals"

This long tiered dress in white lace is by BCBG, one of Sarah Jayne's favourite designers. The fringed sequin bag is from Mango and the black heels are Louboutin



A selection of Sarah Jayne's scarves, both vintage and new. She bought the multicoloured Missoni one during a holiday in Rome

**Below:** Some of Sarah Jayne's most precious jewellery belonged to her grandmother, including the blue stone necklace and cameo pendant

Photographed at the Malmaison hotel, Liverpool. Call 0151 229 5000 or email [liverpool@malmaison.com](mailto:liverpool@malmaison.com)

