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Bringing back a bit of 1930s glamour

It would look stylish at any of today's black-tie parties, but this Alex Perry gown worn by David Jones ambassador Megan Gale is based on a dress designed before World War II. Perry created the 1930s-inspired gown for Gale, in honour of the Sunday Telegraph's 70th Anniversary. "Because it's a 70th anniversary, I looked back at the fashion and designers of that time and found a beautiful reference from Madame Gres," he said.

Perry said Gres - a popular 1930s Parisian designer who created gowns for stars such as Marlene Dietrich and Greta Garbo - had designed a range of stunning, Grecian-inspired pieces, one of which formed the basis of his design.

"It was a kind of a Romanesque dress that was done in really soft silk chiffon,"

Perry said. "So we've done quite a modernised version of that, while keeping that same kind of feel with a lot of very fine pleat detail."

Gale graciously agreed to model the dress for Sunday Telegraph's 70th anniversary, which is Alex Perry's modern take on what would have been available at DJs in 1939.

Perry said Gale's womanly figure perfectly complemented the feminine lines of the dress.

"Megan has such an incredible shape to dress.

"She's that Amazonian-type woman: she's got beautiful shoulders, incredible skin and a really tiny waist.

"This is a soft, but lovely, look on her, as well and she gives it that Romanesque stature".

The draped look is just one of the 1930s trends that have returned to the catwalks this year.

Strong-shouldered jackets, which were popular in the years leading up to World War II, have also been revived by fashion houses such as Balmain and Lanvin.

Fashion historian Charlotte Smith said that, during the late 1930s, David Jones would have been the place for Sydney's discerning women to shop.

"I think the styles offered at David Jones in the 1930s were catering to that upmarket shopper, so everything would



and ruffles and a draping effect over the hips".

Smith said wool would have featured heavily in many Australian-made garments of that time, as well as silk pieces brought from Europe.

"There also would have been a lot of glamorous dresses made from Australian wool, as the wool industry was booming", she said.

David Jones opened its first store - the George St headquarters - in 1838.

In fashion, as designer Alex Perry shows, everything old can be new again. Elle Halliwell reports

have been classy and tailored," she said. "You would have found a lot

of dresses that were draped on the bodice and had flounces

Article from Sunday Telegraph

ZAMBETOLOGIES

By public demand, Panayiotis kalandranis and his band OUT OF THE BLUE, will present one more show of their tribute to George Zambetas called "ZAMBETOLOGIES" **Saturday 5th of December** At the Factory Theatre, 105 Victoria Rd, Marrickville



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