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Theme Wedding Dresses: An interview with designer Jannelle Olmstead & Something Else Studio by Grace Sydney Are you considering Renaissance touches to your wedding? Designer Jannelle Olmstead of Something Else Studio helps brides bring their dreams to life with wedding dresses which reflect a bride's own interests and personality, whether that means Renaissance, New Age, or something in between. Read our interview with Jannelle and then check out our two [photo galleries](#) to view some of her wedding dress designs.

Wedding Dress Designer: Jannelle Olmstead & Something Else Studio Interview by Grace Sydney

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Theme weddings are becoming increasingly popular. Why do you feel that so many of today's brides are turning to the past for inspiration?

I believe brides are looking for a more meaningful and personal experience in their weddings. The traditional wedding still holds the elements brides come to expect, like the white wedding gowns and lots of sparkle. But, along with the cookie cutter wedding formulas come a backlash for a more unique experience. Maybe the interest in New Age insights blended with old world traditions has sparked the imaginations of many young people. Historical re-enactment groups and renaissance festivals provide a natural starting point for couples looking for inspiration.



What advice would you give to brides searching for a medieval gown that is both flattering to her particular body shape and will capture her own unique spirit?

The best advice I can give a bride is to be as comfortable in her gown as she can be. Not all historical styles need to have steel re-enforced boning, as breathing is not optional. With the long flowing vertical lines of my medieval gowns, brides in all sizes can feel as beautiful as they look! I have selected historical styles that a modern bride can be comfortable wearing and not sacrifice the sparkle of modern bridal fabrics.

I find the traditional sleeveless wedding gown with a huge puffy full skirt not to be an attractive look on all brides. What seems to suit are the long vertical lines that can bring the eye from a bride's lovely smile all the way down to her flowing train. Another complement is color, as white tends to make you very pale, the addition of rich color accents from gold's to deep blues puts the glow back into a brides face!

How can a Renaissance theme be carried over to the other members of the bridal party, from the bridesmaids to the ring bearer and flower girl?

One of the strangest traditions has been to wrap up your bridesmaids in matching outfits. As one style doesn't suit all body shapes, it almost never matches your friend's personality either. In days of old, people would wear their best outfits (something they planned to wear again) and the odds of all of them showing up in the same outfit was very small! I think your maids are unique individuals and should be tied together with a color theme and flowers only! This is also true for groomsmen. But most men don't voluntarily wear flowers, so they can add the theme colors to their clothing, caps or cloak choices. Another fun idea is to have a personal tapestry banner made with your official colors, then have the ring pillow and flower girl's basket lined in the matching fabrics. Follow this up with a matching runner for the wedding table.



Although many brides would like their guests to don period attire, some are met with reluctance. What advice can you give those

hoping to persuade attendees to help create the proper atmosphere by wearing medieval garments?

Thinking they may have to wear a suit of armor may overwhelm some people! Often it's the little touches that go a long way. Men can wear a cap and cloak over their suit. Or drop the suit coat and stay with the shirt and vest look. Woman can always wear long dresses and festive hats or garlands to dress them up. I've seen young ladies show up in homemade tower hats with tulle veils and they were very cute! If you like, you can always rent the full tilt outfit from a costume shop. The idea is to really enjoy the day and feel a part of the festivities.

Are many brides finding inspiration from popular movie looks, such as *The Lord of The Rings* and *Ever After*?

Absolutely! I have always been a Renaissance festivalgoer and enjoyed playing Dungeon and Dragons, but as popular movies touch the imagination of millions, it has given fresh motivations to new generations. It can really spark the imagination and lend some fantasy to a world that is entrenched in current affair dramas. Movies have a real impact on people, and as our world gets more complicated, we can look back to an age when hero's and values carried the day.

What is the most requested gown in your collection? What do you feel is the appeal of this garment?

The most requested style as been my Isodels Dream Gown. It has the long flowing sleeves and fitted bodice that will give an elegant and graceful medieval silhouette. I have lots of optional possibilities with this gown such as detailing with lace, diagonal ribbons and pearls to the front panels. It can be worn with a trailing mantel cloak or a long fur-trimmed surcoat for a regal layered 14th century garment.

Is there anything else you would like to tell our readers about Something Else Studio?

The first thing I'd like to share with your readers is the Custom point of view! I create made-to-measure clothing, so it is made to fit your unique shape and will not require costly alterations. This is the true "have it your way" garment. All the colors and fabrics will be just what you want and every style can be re-designed if you have another vision. I'm proud to offer my customers a completely customizable service that will even include the Grooms outfit!

Not to be overlooked is my array of beautiful accessories on my Shoppe Pages. I offer the craftsmanship of several designers from across the United States and the UK. From wedding bands to bridal goblets we offer a complete service. Don't be ordinary on your special day. Transform yourself into Something Else!



photos courtesy [Something Else Studios](#)