



Lace dress, \$750, from Daji Yu Vintage.

Ring, \$8.99, from Baggage.

How to take care...

They are beautifully made, but remember that vintage outfits are mostly second-hand garments. Use these handy tips to keep your precious buys in a great condition.

- It's best to handwash or dry-clean vintage pieces, advises Granny's Dry Out's Hsiao Ying. If it is machine-washable, place the garment in a laundry bag. Use a delicate detergent such as Essence which is specially formulated with Polymer-A that stops dirt from re-depositing on fabric, and a UV protection function that prevents fibre disintegration and fading. At \$9.50.
- Keep evening pieces in garment bags to avoid the fabrics from getting snagged. Also, be sure to let your clothes "breathe". Squashing them together may cause them to deteriorate and lose shape.
- Keep clothing, shoes and bags away from direct sunlight. A good way to keep humidity away from your jewellery is to store them in Ziploc bags.

SHOP TO SAVE

Here's your chance to own designer items for a song. Join these women at the Buy To Save designer sale

If you love designer fashion (and a bargain) note down Dec 12 and 13 in your diary – it's the Buy To Save charity designer fashion sale. Organised by the United Nations Development Fund For Women (UNIFEM), the sale will feature hundreds of gently-used designer items – mostly clothes and accessories. All the items have been donated to raise funds to support UNIFEM's efforts to end violence against women.

The pieces on sale will be in good condition and professionally cleaned. So you may be able to pick up a chic designer jacket that's been worn only once, or a nearly-new designer vintage bag! Plus, the money goes to charity.

This project started when UNIFEM Singapore ran a jumble sale in 2005. UNIFEM ex-co member and Buy To Save Chairperson Trina Liang-Lin says, "The idea was so strong that this year, we came up with a 'total concept' to bring women together in a unique, fun and interesting way."

As well as snapping up pre-loved branded fashion, this year, you can also enjoy a special skincare and make-up workshop held by Lancôme. In addition, Club 21, which imports top labels, will be donating designer pieces for auction.

UNIFEM and Club 21 will also be conducting special training in the field of merchandising for women from local family service centres Mendaki Senae and Beautiful People. These women will serve as sales assistants at this fun charity designer sale.



Buy To Save chairperson Trina Liang-Lin (left) with Beautiful People founder Melissa Kwok (right) and her "Little Sister" Jennifer Rani.

Trina explains, "By equipping these women with skills in the retail industry, we hope to empower them to support themselves and their families."

Beautiful People founder Melissa Kwok adds, "Beautiful People is a community of women or 'Big Sisters' who mentor teenage girls or 'Little Sisters' from vulnerable circumstances. We help them connect to potential jobs and opportunities they would not get the chance to explore otherwise."

"Little Sister" Jennifer Rani, 19, is attending the two upcoming UNIFEM workshops. She enthuses, "I know these workshops are going to be very useful. They'll set us up for a better life." ☺

SHOPPING TIP

There won't be changing rooms at the sale. Trina suggests wearing a swimsuit under a sarong, which will make it easier to try things on.

Sneak preview just for you!

The Buy To Save charity event will be held on Dec 12 and 13, from 10 am to 5 pm, at the Malacca Rooms and Bugis Vault at the InterContinental Singapore. Readers of The Weekly can enjoy an exclusive preview from 9 to 10 am – so you can grab bargains ahead of the crowd! Just show page 160 to gain entry. For more information, visit www.unifem-buytosave.com.