

# COLOUR ME RIGHT!

words: Kim Newth

Colours are making a strong comeback this summer, but do you know what colours work best for you?

It can be all too easy to slip back into 'safe' black and white combinations if you're not sure what colours to wear. Or perhaps you've taken the plunge, bought a vibrant new shirt, but now think it just doesn't look right.

Don't panic! It turns out there are some perfect colour solutions out there to match your particular complexion.

According to Waikuku's Philippa Sharplin – of colour consultancy Colourisma – the first step is to figure out your most flattering 'season' colours.

A standard consultation involves having to remove your existing makeup, cover up your hair and then having



Philippa trial various colour swatches, before applying complementary makeup. Clients also fill in a customer profile card.

**"It's very rewarding to see someone bouncing out the door knowing what they can wear and what they look great in. You see them swatched in their colour with the right make up on and they'll say, 'wow, I didn't know I could look so good!'" she says.**

At the Essence office, Philippa set to work on publisher Dorothy McLennan and soon had her down as a winter. It means that sharp and clear high intensity shades will work better than pastel blues and pinks. Muted, powdery or dull tones are definitely out for Dorothy.

According to Philippa, a true dark-haired winter girl excels in vibrant primary colours, with a bluer undertone.

But paler colours can work too; white with a hint of colour, such as icy blue.

For Dorothy's make-up, Philippa chose products from the Mary Kay range to create a natural look, completed with rose blusher and pink lipstick.

"Whatever season you are, it'll never change," says Philippa. "As your hair lightens, so does your skin. The combinations stay the same. The great thing is if you find out what colours work for you, it's a lifetime investment. And the right makeup makes all the difference too. You'll look healthier and more alive and your self-esteem will improve!"

Essence designer Hayley Vogel turns out to be a summer girl, so pastels and soft neutrals work really well. Colours for her to avoid are dark browns and beiges with too much yellow or grey. "Avoid black!" warns Philippa.

For Hayley's makeup, Philippa

used a light summer blush and a dusky brown-pink lipstick.

Both Dorothy and Hayley also received tips on jewellery and a fashion palette – a bit like a small wallet-sized Colours catalogue for the home – to assist with retail therapy.

As well as colours and make up advice, Philippa can supply information on hair colour, as well as provide a style analysis and wardrobe planning.

Gift vouchers are available from Philippa. "These are a really nice Christmas gift for women – a real treat."

**Colourisma – Be Your Colourful Self. Contact Philippa on (03) 3122128 or (021) 533439 or email philippa@colourisma.co.nz.**

