

Medium Hot

Forget round-toe pumps. In the fashion world, a great psychic is the ultimate accessory.

Photograph by RICHARD PIERCE

Bring up the subject of psychics with almost anyone in the fashion industry and, the next thing you know, she'll be rooting around in her Fendi Spy bag, searching for the number of her favorite clairvoyant. Uggings to call the vaunted oracle will be accompanied by wild-eyed tales of predictions come true: "He told me I'd be married within the year!" "She said I'd have three kids, all girls, all blond and two years apart!" "Mine said that all the dead spirits in my vintage clothes were scaring off men. I stopped wearing them and guys flocked to me!"

With stories like that going around, is it any wonder that a certain big-name fashion retailer, while vacationing in the Caribbean recently, is rumored to have sent her GS to pick up her favorite fortune-teller?

Psychics seem to provide their clients with a mixture of hope, clarity and therapy, and that feeling can be addictive. Fashion folk, in particular, are often called on to make high-stakes professional decisions based on little more than gut feelings. Whereas a hedge-fund manager can consult any number of facts and figures before deciding whether to invest in a company, a designer has no such tools at his disposal when gambling on whether a plum palette or a pale-blue color scheme will be a big seller for spring. As a result, some fashion A-listers can't make a move—in their personal or professional lives—without consulting their soothsayers.

Isaac Mizrahi, for one, proudly reels off a laundry list of astrologers and intuitives with whom he regularly consults. "Tony LeRoy is like a Gypsy at a carnival," he says. "Will McGreal is like a trip to Jerusalem. Yolana is the great one with the white hair who shrieks through the whole thing and is like \$500 for 15 minutes."

Other seers in his rotation have included psychic astrologer Karen Thorne, with whom he speaks by phone; Vedic astrologer Chakrapani Ullal; a psychic from South Central Los Angeles who goes by "Reverend Tools"; and fashion-world favorite Maria Napoli, whom he first visited at age 18.

"Tony has no compunction about making a prediction," says Mizrahi of LeRoy. "He'll say, 'Guess what, darling, you can look forward to this,' and he's usually right. He predicted that I would actually have a relationship with this one fellow, and I think it's going to happen. If it does, then Tony is going to be, like, my idol. I'm naming my first child after him."

McGreal, who was formerly an orchestra conductor, takes a more measured approach. He begins with a conversation, giving his readings the feeling of a shrink session. "I've had more than one person tell me that it's like two years of therapy in one reading," says McGreal.

"[My psychic] predicted that I would have a relationship with this one fellow, and I think it's going to happen," says Isaac Mizrahi. "If it does...I'm naming my first child after him."

