

## Bridesmaid's Best Friend

KATRIESA RAINES

OLIVE

"It's becoming more fashionable to be a bridesmaid. When you're not wearing a uniform, the walk down the aisle becomes a mini runway show."



Pity the bridesmaid. Showing up to any event in the same dress as another woman is downright demoralizing. Katriesa Raines had this same sartorial revelation while planning her own wedding last year (she ended up eloping). Upon her return, the 32-year-old designer introduced a line of bridesmaid dresses that offered the same classic styles as her clothing line, Olive, but in fabrics formal enough to walk down the aisle, such as dupioni silk and taffeta. The silhouettes are four perfectly tailored lines from the 1950s and 1960s, all with a ladylike, mid-knee hemline. "This length looks great with flats or heels, and because it's not dusting the floor it truly is more than a one-occasion dress," she says. True, her concept of letting the bridesmaid choose the style that best works for her body—whether an A-line dress with a fitted top or a cross-front V-neck with a straight skirt—challenges conventional bridesmaid fashion. "But when the girls respond in disbelief with, 'We get to wear these dresses?' I feel confident that the timing was just right."

(404) 274-5432

[www.olivestyle.com](http://www.olivestyle.com).