



Photograph // Justine Walpole

UPCLOSE

Juli Grbac
28 // fashion designer

After five years of building a solid foundation locally in fashion, designer Juli Grbac is about to realise a well-deserved dream. She will open her eponymous boutique this month.

"It's perfect timing for me. I knew with fashion I never wanted to push myself early," she says.

Juli is among the talented names to receive a free retail space in Fortitude Valley's new development, the TCB Building, formerly known as TC Beirne.

After landing her first job with Easton Pearson in the late '90s, Juli moved to London where she worked for Voyage, a theatrical fashion label to the stars, sewing diamantes on Posh Spice's pants for £5.50 an hour. "It wasn't glamorous, but I could watch and learn," she says.

Her fashion education also extended to UK department store Harvey Nichols, where she worked behind the make-up counter and hyperventilated over Chloe bags during lunch breaks.

After arriving home, Juli found a following with her first line of silk camisoles – today her elegant collection is available at boutiques such as Kisses in James Street, and Natalie Denning in Elizabeth Arcade. Juli's own boutique will be dedicated to her ready-to-wear label, but will also house her made-to-order wedding collection, Grbac Love, and christening gown range, Angel by Grbac.

It's a time of new beginnings for Juli – she's also moving into a new apartment in the Valley and has just become engaged to her English boyfriend Paul. As for the wedding dress: "I'm having at least three dresses – one for the morning, one for the ceremony and one for the reception."

Lizzie Corser

This week don't miss...

French on film

Catch some of the best films to come out of France at the Alliance Francaise French Film Festival. With more than 21 movies making their Queensland debut, opening night will feature Gerard Depardieu in *The Singer*. Mar 22-28, from \$13.50, Palace Centro Cinema, Fortitude Valley, ph: 3852 4488, www.frenchfilmfestival.com.au

Russian to tea

Back by popular demand, the Tea and Symphony daytime series opens with renowned Russian pianists collaborating with The Queensland Orchestra to the tunes of Russian composers. Thu, Mar 22, 11am, from \$30, City Hall, ph: 136 246, www.thequeenslandorchestra.com.au



Blue tones

The 15th Annual Brisbane Blues Festival features some of the city's best blues acts, including Natural Ball, BlankCZECH, Dillion James Band, Johnny Hucker, and Big Kitty and the Scaredy Cats. Sat, Mar 24, 2.30pm, \$20, Waterloo Hotel, Fortitude Valley, ph: 3852 1101, www.brisbanebluesfestival.com

Local talent

An impressive collection of recent works by Brisbane-based artist Matthew Cheyne features classical mythical figures that take on a modern perspective. Mar 23-Apr 13, Libby Edwards Galleries, 482 Brunswick St, Fortitude Valley, ph: 3358 3944, www.libbyedwardsgalleries.com

Elvis is back

To commemorate the 30th anniversary of The King's death, two extremely rare, signed Elvis Presley album covers in mint condition have arrived at Noosa Longboards. *Loving You* and *Harum Scarum* are two of the new additions to the collection on sale at Noosa Longboards, Emporium, 1000 Ann St, Fortitude Valley, ph: 3252 2326, www.noosalongboards.com

Letters

Brisbane News just gets better and better. I thought your *Exposed* cover (Mar 14-20) was fabulous – a work of art. It was great to learn in the accompanying article, *Making Waves*, about the history of the swimsuit. I liked reading that the fashion right now is a mixed bag, and that the retrospective style might be in vogue. Bring back the neck-to-knee costume, I say, and then every woman would feel at home on the beach.

Sara Johnston // New Farm

My wife and I enjoyed your article on eating well in Paris (*Vive la Difference*, *Table Talk*, Mar 14-20). We had a belated

honeymoon in Paris last August and, like you, were surprised to find so many great places to eat at reasonable prices. We let our hair down one night and treated ourselves to dinner at Atelier, but the remainder of the time we stumbled across cheap and cheerful restaurants and cafes, even in busy tourist areas such as St Germain.

James Baker // Teneriffe

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Fortitude Valley // 12.35pm // Justine Walpole

more people, scene P8 >>