

LBD **Little Black Dress – On the Red Carpet** will

be opening at the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art on the campus of Kansas State University on Friday evening at 7:00 p.m., February 27th 2009. The Friday event will be the official beginning of an exhibition of clothing from the permanent collection of the Kansas State University Historic Costume and Textile Museum located in the Department of Apparel, Textiles and Interior Design in the College of Human Ecology. A special evening of events is planned with musical entertainment provided by the Kansas State Jazz Combo and featuring Wayne Goins. A special pairing of wines provided by **Little Black Dress Wines** and hors d' oeuvres catered by the Clarion Hotel will be served during the evening.

The **Little Black Dress**, an icon of fashion since its inception by Coco Chanel in the 1920's is considered "the" wardrobe essential. It is the one item every woman's closet should never be without. Meant to transcend short-lived trends and to be worn for years, it relies on quality in cut, fit and fabric. Chanel's LBD was labeled by *Vogue Magazine* as "Chanel's Ford". A national competition was organized by Dr. Joycelyn Falsken from the Apparel, Textiles and Interior Design Department at Kansas State and over twenty dresses have been submitted. The original dress designs will be judged by a panel of industry professionals: Charles Kleibacker (Master of the Bias Cut), Jeigh Singleton, Washington University, St. Louis and Linda Lee, owner of the Sewing Workshop. The winning designs will be announced and displayed at the opening on February 27th.

A silent auction will also take place during the opening and will feature many items donated *especially* for the evening's festivities. In addition, there will be celebrity dresses lent by **Little Black Dress Wines** on display, which have been worn on the "real" Red Carpet. Dresses by Felicity Huffman of *Desperate Housewives*, Edie Falco of the *Soprano's* and America Ferrera of *Ugly Betty* will be showcased. All of the evening's festivities – the dress design competition, silent auction, and the Little Black Dress Wine and food pairing - serves to promote the Friends organization for the Costume and

Textile Museum in its mission to provide support through solicitation and gifts of artifacts that benefit current and future students at Kansas State University to acquire, preserve and conserve the important collection which is the largest in the Midwest.

The Ohio State University Historic Costume & Textile Collection has lent dresses designed by Halston, Trigere, Montana, Ungaro and Versace; and The Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum has lent dresses designed by Greer, Jasper Conran and Norman Norell.

The exhibition will also feature dresses lent by Governor Kathleen Sebelius; Sharon Snyder, Ruth Ann Wefald, Marianna Kistler Beach; and a special loan from the Eisenhower Museum – a dress worn by Mamie Eisenhower. The exhibition **Little Black Dress – on the Red Carpet** will be on view through the 29th of March in the Vanier Gallery at the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art on the campus of Kansas State University.

A **Little Black Dress** has been included in nearly every designer's collection and the most famous image of course, is Audrey Hepburn in *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. She was wearing a Herbert Givenchy dress! So ladies, look in your closet and find your favorite **Little Black Dress** to wear to this fabulous event – this is sure to be a special evening that you will remember for a long time. Tickets for the opening are \$30.00 per person. Sponsorships are also available from \$250. and up.

For tickets to the **Little Black Dress – On the Red Carpet** event on Friday, February 27, or for more information: Please call the Department of ATID at 785-532-6993, or Diane Landoll at 785-532-7343 or 800-432-1578.

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