

PROM 101 FOR BOYS: SOME TIPS FOR A MAGICAL NIGHT

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Prom night jitters aren't only for girls and it's easy to get them when you're unprepared. Being spur of the moment is not an option for prom when your date is adorned in sparkles, hairspray and lush fabric.

The first thing guys need to know is: Planning is key, so do not leave stuff to the last minute.

This is likely the first big night of your life, so let's cover the important stuff:

ATTIRE — You might want to go hunting for a suit with your comrades, but this is serious stuff; it's the first and last time you will spend a night like this with all your beloved friends. Leave them be and ask your mom to help you instead. "Guys are getting bolder with colour," said Walter Dimini, merchandise manager at Tip Top

Tailors. "The general trend is a black two-buttoned suit jacket, flat-front pants and modern, slim cut."

For most grads, prom takes place in June, when evening temperatures hover in the high teens. You're not going to be sporting your suit jacket all night without breaking into a sweat.

"You get really hot. You should wear a vest so you can take off your suit jacket," said Robert Clennett, assistant manager at Stroked Ego, a men's store on Bank Street.

"I chose not to wear one when I had my prom, but going back, I would."

When getting fitted for a suit, keep in mind that the height of your everyday shoes might not be the same height as the shoes you will wear dur-

ing prom.

"A lot of guys show up for their fitting in shorts,

flip flops and a T-shirt, and that makes it hard for sales associates. Bring in shoes that you're wearing (at your prom), or shoes with the same height. Try on the shoes and dress shirt at the same time. Bring or buy a belt," said Dimini.

YOUR DATE — If you're hoping to impress a special someone with your dashing garments, take care to ask them early to go with you to the prom.

Make sure your behaviour and attitude match your charming looks that night.

The most important thing is to keep your attention focused on your date and not on your alluring cellphone.

"I talk to high school students all the time. Girls aren't impressed if guys check their phones on a regular date, so how would they feel if it happened at prom?"

said Cecilia Pita, founder and director of etiquette consulting firm Savoir-Faire.

"If you need to keep it on, ask your date if she's OK with it. Keep it on silent and don't check it incessantly." Make sure

you apply all the gentlemanly moves you've seen in movies

on this night. If you need to watch a James Bond film to be reminded of how to act, do it.

"Chivalry is not dead. Hold the door open, give her your jacket if she's cold," said Pita.

"And compliment her. She's put a lot of effort into the way she looks."

TRANSPORTATION — "Figure out if you're going as a group or just arriving with your date. Should you book a limo? Or are you taking your own car?" said Pita.

If you're taking your own car, make sure it's gassed-up and clean. Your date doesn't need to be standing on the side of the road in her beautiful dress covered in dog hair waving down another car for assistance.

HAPPY ENDING — "Anticipate her needs," said Pita.

"That's an easy way to be kind and courteous. But make sure to focus on one another. It shouldn't just be about the guy making the girl feel special. Girls should be gracious and welcoming and thankful to their dates as well. These guys are never going to act that way again."

