

Fashion

Put some pop in your closet



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/ *The Salt Lake*

Wardrobe consultants help clients make the most of clothes they already have on hand

By JENNIFER BARRETT
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If your plans for the New Year include a new you, Roberta Hughes and Alicia Richmond have a few suggestions.

None of them include a treadmill, cleansing diet or bathroom scale.

Hughes and Richmond, both Salt Lake City image consultants and wardrobe stylists, recommend a closet makeover.

"I believe that when you get up in the morning and open your closet, you should feel excited about what you get to wear that day, so that you see all the possibilities you have," said Richmond, owner of Chic on a Shoestring (www.chiconashoestring.com), a company that provides fashion advice for "real people."

While many women open the closet each morning and repeat the sad mantra that they have nothing to



STEVE GRIFFIN/ *The Salt Lake Tribune*

Alicia Richmond goes through Debbi Evans' closet, pointing out combinations Evans might not have considered.

wear, the consultants say most of us have cute outfits just waiting to be discovered that will make the wearer feel confident and attractive.

"It's not just what you wear, it's how you wear it," said Hughes, owner of Avidere (www.aviderestyle.com) and a consultant to members of the media, corporations and the spa industry as well as individuals.

Richmond and Hughes offer a range of services (with a range of price tags, from \$150 in Richmond's case up to \$750 for Hughes), but both approach the closet in the same way.

First, they do the big sift. Anything that hasn't been worn in a year, is in poor condition or doesn't fit goes to charity. Then they organize, grouping things in the closet so that pants hang with pants, skirts with skirts, etc.

They also do a figure analysis, talking with a client about her body shape and what items will accentuate her assets while downplaying her perceived faults.

Once they've pared down and cleaned up, they will begin to create outfits, complete with shoes, belts and jewelry.

Richmond and Hughes will have women try on the newfound fashions

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