







Factsheet




Dresses on display in Diana, fashion and style exhibition

		Designer	Date Worn
1983		Donald Campbell	This vivid periwinkle silk evening dress was worn several times by the Princess in the mid 1980's. It was made by Donald Campbell, who began designing for her during her engagement to the Prince of Wales. This off the shoulder style was favoured by the princess at this time and can also be seen in the works of Zandra Rhodes, David and Elizabeth Emanuel, Bellville Sassoon and Bruce Oldfield. Already, at this early stage of public life the Princess knew which styles suited her best.
1985		Zandra Rhodes	This pink silk chiffon dinner dress by Zandra Rhodes is truly fit for a princess. It is trimmed with pearls, glass beads and glitter that make this dress sparkle. It was worn to a State Banquet in Kyoto during her official visit to Japan in 1986 as well as to several events in Britain. The Princess usually accessorized the dress with pearl earrings, a pearl choker and bracelet to truly maximise its effect.
1985		Catherine Walker	One of this dress's most dramatic design features is the very low back, which at the time of wearing the Princess drew attention to by wearing a long sting of pearls knotted down her back. Made of crushed velvet this figure-hugging burgundy dress complimented the Princess's tall, lean frame. She wore this dress to the London premiere of <i>Back to the Future</i>




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1985		Victor Edelstein	<p>This midnight blue silk velvet gown by Victor Edelstein was one of the Princess's favourites. Like all her clothes for official occasions, it was chosen for its movement. The low straps are stiffened, so that they stay in place and don't slip down the arm, and the dress has a boned structure and lining which gives it a sleek line. The most famous appearance of this dress was at a dinner in 1985 at the White House in Washington; after dinner, the Princess delighted the other guests by taking to the dance floor with John Travolta.</p>
1986		Elizabeth and David Emanuel	<p>This silk satin and organza dress is a perfect example of Elizabeth and David Emanuel romantic style. Reminiscent of a ballet dress, the Princess worn it on two occasions in 1986, including the premiere of the Bolshoi Ballet's <i>Ivan the Terrible</i> at the Royal Opera House. The white satin and organza are richly embroidered with gilt, pressed paillettes, gold sequins, glass beads, simulated pearls and rhinestone.</p>
1987		Zandra Rhodes	<p>This white silk chiffon evening dress by Zandra Rhodes with its delicate white on white print is highlighted with a scattering of white and silver beads. The bodice is softly draped and trimmed with silver and pearlised sequins and drawn in at the waist with a white satin corded belt. It was worn by the Princess to the Birthright benefit at the London Palladium. Similar to another Zandra Rhodes evening dress in the collection, it is truly fit for a princess.</p>

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1988		Catherine Walker	<p>This bois de rose silk taffeta evening dress dates from 1988. It was made by Catherine Walker and indicates a new style the princess had adopted in the late 80's. The strapless bodice was much more sophisticated and the blue of the chintz fabric matched the princess's eyes. It was used during an official visit to Melbourne, Australia and the Princess was pictured dancing with the Prince of Wales in it, the train of the dress swirling around her.</p>
1989		Catherine Walker	<p>This stunning eggshell blue chiffon and lace dress was originally long sleeved with a higher neckline but as the Princess's style adapted it was made into a strapless bodice which the Princess favoured. Made by Catherine Walker in 1987, this dress was worn on visits to Portugal, Germany and Cameroon. The Princess also saw it as suitable to wear to a Moulin Rouge themed Charity Ball, although figure hugging with a touch of sparkle added by the sequins, it is still elegant and suitable for a princess fulfilling her role as the ambassador of a charity.</p>
1992		Catherine Walker	<p>This classic black and white long dinner dress by Catherine Walker was favoured by the Princess in 1992. She wore this on an official visit to Pakistan and then again to accompany her beloved boys to the film premiere of Hook. This monochrome dress may look simple but the neckline, slanted waistline and cuffs are trimmed with pearls. This allowed for the dress to be worn with very understated jewellery usually just a pair of pearl earrings. However, this dress proved to be a hit as ten years later in 2005, a replica of it was worn by the Princess's waxwork in Madame Tussauds, London.</p>

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1992		Catherine Walker	<p>The Princess wore the designs of Catherine Walker, throughout the eighties and nineties as can be seen by this long sleeved dinner dress of cream pleated silk from 1992. It is embroidered with exquisite flowers and accessorized with a large leather belt. The Princess saw its suitability for a banquet at the Royal Palace in Kathmandu, Nepal in March 1993, as it had long sleeves and a high neckline. Its sensible style meant it could also be worn for a British Red Cross Gala in 1992 and an official reception in the same year.</p>
1994		Catherine Walker	<p>This striking black dress by Catherine Walker was worn to the second Nuit Internationale de l'Enfance at the Palace of Versailles in France 1994. Like in other examples of the Princess's evening dresses beading is used to dramatic effect. Here the edge of the bodice has been outlined in rows of closely stitched black bugle beads. This dress illustrates how the Princess used her public role and personal style to aid many charitable causes.</p>
1995		Gianni Versace	<p>This short black dress with daring neckline was made by Gianni Versace, a designer the Princess turned to after her divorce and wore through the later years of her life. It was worn to the Apollo 13 film premiere in 1995. She also owned the same dress in white which was worn to a charity music concert in Italy in the same year. This again shows how the Princess adapted her style through her life and stayed with looks she felt comfortable with.</p>