

U<sup>®</sup>  
342  
LUST-WORTHY  
BUYS

SOME LIKE  
IT HAUTE  
**ABED MAHFOUZ**  
ON EXCLUSIVITY  
INDIVIDUALITY  
& GLAMOUR

**THINK  
GOLD!**  
GILDED  
BEAUTY  
TAKES  
CENTER  
STAGE

DRESS MY  
FINGER  
CUSTOMIZED  
WEDDING  
RINGS WITH  
**NADA GHAZAL**

EXCLUSIVE  
**VICTOIRE DE  
CASTELLANI**  
THE CREATIVE  
DIRECTOR BEHIND  
**DIOR HAUT  
JOAILLERIE**

# POWER DRESSING

COLOR BLOCKS, BAROQUE PRINT  
& THE TWO-PIECE OUTFIT WITH  
CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF

**NEW GIRL**  
FASHION WEEK'S  
HOTTEST FACES

PLUS  
**THE SHOES  
BAGS &  
ACCESSORIES  
TO BOOST  
YOUR SUMMER  
WARDROBE**



# DRESS MY FINGER

*Nada G offers brides a unique opportunity to customize their solitaire, capturing a wedding memory for eternity... U Lebanon sat down with designer Nada Ghazal for an exclusive one-on-one as she discussed her inspiration behind this one-of-a-kind service and took us through the tale of the day she herself said 'I do'.*

Every woman dreams of having a perfect wedding. Just think of how much time and effort is spent on harmonizing all elements of the big day: from the gown, to the matching veil, to bridesmaids dresses and table arrangements... all are chosen to tell a story that materializes the dreams of a girl growing up. However, soon after the day has passed, its quintessence becomes a mere memory, a distant image on which to reminisce. Lebanese jeweler Nada Ghazal, the designer and Managing Partner behind Nada G jewelry label, has always wondered why such a special day could only be enshrined in photographs or kept in a wardrobe fading away. There must be a way to capture precious wedding moments in a more permanent way, she thought. And she has done just that with the *Dress My Finger* concept. The service Nada G offers is truly bespoke. The future bride can share her wedding gown or even a veil or head accessory (either before or after her wedding day) and the Nada G team will present a few personalized sketches inspired from those pieces. The bride can then pick her favorite sketch and Nada G will turn it into a reality. The idea can move beyond a dress too. The ring can be customized to represent an experience, a memory or any other souvenir to be shared from one generation to another, passed down from bride-to-be to bride-to-be.

**U:** What made you think of customizing solitaire rings for brides-to-be?

**NG:** It hit me how much time and effort is spent on preparing the party and the wedding gown before the wedding day... and somehow it's all a shame that the only memory you have left is an image in your head or a picture in the living room. I thought, why not create an everlasting memory through wedding rings inspired by the dress? That's where the idea came from, and that's when we decided to create the *Dress My Finger* concept.

**U:** How has your personal experience as a bride affected your perception of traditional solitaire rings?

**NG:** Four years ago when I got married, I had no interest in owning a solitaire ring, especially since most of the ones I see are mundane. It's just a diamond mounted on a typical base. My mother then offered me her solitaire ring: a classic from the sixties, with plenty of character! It somehow represented not only love and unity but also carried the soul and told the story of her wedding day.



**U:** What type of elements or moments could be captured in the ring?

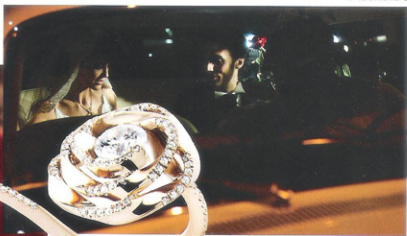
**NG:** We can capture anything from the design of the dress, the texture of the fabric or veil, the shape of the bouquet or decoration, to a color, a mood or even a moment. In the solitaire I designed for my wedding, I captured the most important moment for me of that day: the moment we joined each other. My bouquet was two stand-alone roses, and when I met my husband-to-be in church, I handed one over to him. That act represented the first instance of sharing as a bride and groom, as well as the start of an eternal bond. My solitaire therefore starts with a rose and ends with an eternity ring – which is exactly what that moment represented to both of us.

**U:** Are diamonds the only type of stones you will use in the *Dress My Finger* rings?

**NG:** Hopefully not; but it always depends on the bride. If she accepts, then the brief will be more open to different materials and colors.



The ring Nada later designed for herself was inspired by the red rose she and her husband carried on their wedding day.



"A SOLITAIRE SHOULD BE NO ORDINARY RING. IT MUST CAPTURE ALL ASPECTS OF A WEDDING AND PRESERVE THEM IN A PERMANENT ADORNMENT THAT AN EXCEPTIONAL WOMAN WEARS FOR LIFE AS A CONSTANT REMINDER OF THAT PERFECT DAY. IN ORDER TO DO SO, HER SOLITAIRE MUST BE UNIQUE, ORIGINAL, PERSONAL AND TAILORED."

**U:** How long does it take to make a customized ring  
**NG:** First we sit with the bride to get a brief and understand what she wants more. Within one week, we will have a few sketches for her to decide from. Production will then require one to two weeks.

**U:** Will you cater to different types of budgets?

**NG:** For sure.

**U:** Is it ever too late to order your customized solitaire?

**NG:** It's never late! You can decide to have your customized solitaire either before or after the wedding. Some brides don't get a solitaire when they first get married, and wait for the right moment in the future. You can even renew your original one at any point during your marriage.

**U:** Could this service be extended to men's wedding bands?

**NG:** We have recently launched a wedding band collection for couples; but, we can always produce customized pieces for those who would like something special to them.

Visit the Nada G boutique and main workshop in Gemmayzeh or the flagship boutique in Beirut Souks. 

Sample sketches of solitaire rings inspired by wedding gowns

