

PORTSMOUTH

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The Style Issue

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Photography:
Alyssa Duncan
Photography

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SUSTAINABLY STYLISH



Nina Little styled by Esta Resale

ARTICLE BY ANN KATHRYN KELLY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALYSSA DUNCAN PHOTOGRAPHY

FOUR PORTSMOUTH BUSINESSES CHAMPION THE
BEAUTY OF RECYCLED, ONE-OF-A-KIND FASHION FINDS



Charlotte Phillips styled by Esta Resale



Shoes courtesy of Evie Boutique

Isabelle Holland styled by Wear House



When was the last time you bought clothing with a story woven into its seams, something you would not see on your neighbor or, for that matter, several people in town? Unlike mass-produced fashion with rows of identical offerings, consignment boutiques offer a refreshing alternative: often one-of-a-kind, timeless treasures that support sustainable—and stylish—living.

One of the first things Rebecca Earle noticed when she moved to the Seacoast from Washington 11 years ago was fewer secondhand shops. “I’ve always been a thrift shopper,” she says. “The West Coast seemed to embrace it earlier, and it’s something I missed when I moved here.”

In 2016, Earle opened Cotillion Bureau to offer pristine vintage and designer vestments and upcycled and hand-dyed clothing for women and men. What makes Earle’s shop unique is that they use their own sizing metric. “We hand measure every item and include it on the tag, because the key to

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knowing what will fit someone properly is to know their measurements,” Earle explains. Vintage clothing made with 100% cotton or linen does not stretch like today’s polyester or blends, which often causes disparity in a culture accustomed to vanity sizing. “Someone may be a mall size 6, but a size 8 or 10 in my shop,” she continues. “I tell them, forget the number. When it truly fits, it truly flatters.”

Esta Resale owner Vicki Turner offers upscale contemporary clothing and accessories at fashionably affordable prices. Esta Resale is known for quality handbags and a wide selection of dresses: maxi, casual, business attire, cocktail, and designer formal wear.

Turner says her boutique has become a destination. “The quality in my shop draws repeat clients,” she says. Turner often dresses from her own inventory, something her customers notice and compliment. Her best advice? “Dress the body you have.”

Angela Theos opened Wear House in 2011, and offers casual and classic apparel, shoes, accessories, and some vintage. Theos describes her inventory as “unique but wearable.”

Like Earle, Theos thrifted for years. “I thrifted as a child with my mom and grandmother. I can’t remember a time when I didn’t love fashion and the adventure of what I’d find.” She enjoys people watching, studying them head to toe, almost by instinct. When they come into her shop, she has a strong sense of what will look good on someone—color, style, cut—and guides them, when needed. “I’m not a yes person,” she says. “An item shouldn’t be forced to work on someone. It should just work.”

The latest entrant to the Seacoast’s second-hand scene is Chic Boutique Consignments. With luxury brands for women and men, from petites to plus, Chic Boutique also provides an extensive online shopping experience.

Whether looking for a designer dress, vintage scarf, statement jewelry, or pair of jeans worn just enough to be perfectly broken in, it’s worth stopping by one—or all four!—of these downtown Portsmouth businesses to treat yourself to a one-of-a-kind shopping experience.

Charlotte Phillips styled by Cotillion Bureau





Isabelle Holland styled by Esta Resale



Jocelyn styled by Chic Boutique Consignments.

The Alyssa Duncan Photography Senior Model program is a community partnership with local businesses and rising high school senior models across the Seacoast.

Alyssa Duncan Senior Model Program

This program teaches models poise, responsibility, professionalism, and what it means to be part of a creative team. Through this collaboration, businesses expand their reach, and young models see themselves in a different and often unexpected light, building self-confidence and empowering them as they venture into the world post-high school.

The Class of 2025 Senior Models

Jocelyn Bancroft, Rye, Portsmouth High School
 Isabelle "Izzy" Holland, Hampton, The Academy at Penguin Hall
 Nina Little, Portsmouth, Portsmouth High School
 Charlotte Phillips, Rye, Portsmouth High School

The Creative Team

Photography by Alyssa Duncan Photography | alyssaduncan.com
 Makeup by Madeline Jude Beauty | madelinejudebeauty.com
 Hair by Jessica Bellanti Salon | jessicabellanti.com | 603.713.6982

The Boutiques

Cotillion Bureau | 65 Bow Street | cotillionbureau.com
 Esta Resale | 67 Bow Street | estaresale.com
 Wear House | 101 Market Street | wearhouseportsmouth.com
 Chic Boutique Consignments | 108 Penhallow Street | chicboutiqueconsignments.com



Jocelyn Bancroft styled by Wear House