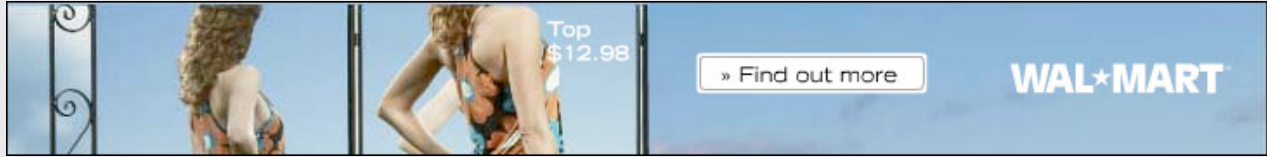


From: Flare.com <flare@email.flare.com>
Subject: **What's new in the West Coast?**
Date: March 11, 2008 11:11:27 AM PDT (CA)
To: shanda@gumdrops.ca

If you can't view this newsletter, go to http://www.flare.com/enewsletters/wca/wca_march08.html



FLARE West Coast Alert

march 2008

WHO

Looking to make a Kate Hudson kind of statement this month? Take note of Vancouver-based accessories designer **Ashley Watson**, whose eponymous spring collection is adorable and eco all at once. Watson's one-of-a-kind leather products are fashioned from exclusively recycled material, totally rebuilt and dyed in the coolest of colours (Watson also designs day-timers, obi belts and Euro wallets). But don't mistake these totes for your grandmother's charity shop castoffs. Watson (a fashion design grad and former Libertine intern) crafts sexy, bohemian silhouettes that can float freely between cocktails at West and a rock concert at the Commodore.



WHAT

South Granville is about to get really, really lucky—thanks to **Blo**. The all-new 650 square-foot, 8-chair blow dry bar opens April 1st (no joke). Prepare to be greeted with Barcelona chairs, Bond-girl window projections, sexy pink lucite and all (so you get the picture, Blo's Yaletown flagship is hotter than the Katie bob). Think of it as a no-cut, no-colour styling buffet (\$30 in about 30 minutes) where you can stock up on house-branded hair merch post-Blo and your wing-man can even tag along for a Bro Job—that's Blo-speak for a scalp-massage-wash-and-style for dudes, girlfriend. 1529 West 14th Avenue, (604) 734-7599.



Photography by John Black

WEAR

Just because you're poolside in Wailea doesn't mean the wet stuff won't be waiting to greet you at YVR. And the only thing worse than non-stop spring showers? Resisting the glamour gear that will see you through. Enter **Gumdrops**, Kitsilano's new head-to-toe wet weather boutique. We're talking brollies, laptop cases, dog coats, bucket hats, jackets, rubber boots and all. Browse the Western Chief selection aimed at pint-sized puddle jumpers, cheeky styles from Kamik (they'll tone nicely with your new patent rain slicker in eggplant), or test



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drive a wilderness-inspired pair by the homegrown Hatley line—in shades of purple, chocolate brown and pool blue. (604) 733-1037, 2029 West 4th Avenue.

WHEN

Think you've heard all the beauty scoop, globetrotter? Uh, think again. **A Fresh Pair** is a cheeky-and-cheerful time saver aimed at gals-on-the-go who would rather skip the cue at the Parisian laundromat. It's a teensy, pretty packet of individual soap leaves infused with undertones of fresh pear designed for you to scrub-a-dub-dub your sexy delicates while in the most obscure locations. All you need is water (or Pellegrino, perhaps?) and a couple of clothes pegs for these quick-dissolving, easy-rinse wonders to work their magic. Twenty soap leaves in a leaflet are \$7.50 and use about the same amount of space as a Visa. Go to iloveembrace.com



WINE

Looking for an oyster-adorned, high-glamour date night? We recommend the private wine attic at **C Restaurant**. This rock-star VIP room is housed in our fave fish house and seats up to 16 (but still feels cozy for two), not to mention you'll be channeling the likes of Will and Jada—The Fresh Prince reserved the attic just last month for a romantic dinner a deux. And with menu items such as maple-glazed seared scallops and cured salmon avec Granville Island Sake dressing, what's not to love? Don't forget to snap up a chic tin of C-branded Fleur de Sel (aka the champagne of sea salts), which makes for a fab hostess gift. (604) 681-1164, 2 - 1600 Howe Street.



Susie Wall

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