

# Chata shares her sense of style

**ELIZABETH FERREIRA**

**MANY** of the city's wardrobe cupboards are probably looking a whole lot emptier after last weekend's visit by style and image guru Chata Romano.

Tickets to the event were in aid of the MTR Smit Children's Home, were sold out so fast that Chata has agreed to present another workshop on Saturday, October 14.

For this workshop Chata has once again waived her normal charge of R20 000, as she did with the first workshop, to enable the children's home to raise as much as possible towards the R2,7 million budget that they have to raise themselves every year.

The diminutive Chata, dressed in a black kneelength skirt and silver and black animal print jacket, had the 300 guests nailed to their seats with her opening words that what you wear can – in an instant – make you look younger and slimmer without losing weight or going to the plastic surgeon.

"It's not the body, but rather the clothes you put on your body that can make all the difference," she said and proceeded to prove her point with examples of her make-overs.

To make the right colour and tone choices Chata divides women into four categories according to their skin tone – namely soft (e.g. Nicole Kidman), medium (golden skin tones such as Jennifer Aniston and Charlize Theron), deep (e.g. Halle Berry and Sophia Loren) and rich (e.g. Oprah Winfrey and Naomi Campbell).

Chata has developed a colour chart with recommended colour choices for clothes, hair and make-up for each of these categories. According to Chata, one can wear any colour in clothes or any amount of make-up, as long as it is the right tone and shade for your skin type.

Some of the tips she shared at the workshop include:

- Choosing the right jacket length: to create a balanced look one should measure your length from the tip of your shoulder to the floor while barefoot.

This length must be divided in two to find the ideal length for your jackets.

- When choosing accessories – Handbag tips: Looking at one's body from a sideways angle, one's handbag should never be wider than one's body. That doesn't mean giving up handbag space. The

handbag should rather be longer horizontally than vertically.

Shoe tips: Shoes should never be lighter than the colour of your hemline.

- Wardrobe tips: 1. Don't duplicate – one should wear 80% of one's wardrobe regularly

- 2. More tops, fewer bottoms

- 3. More plains than prints

- 4. Wardrobe must suit your lifestyle

- 5. The 3-times principle – everything you buy should work with 3 items in your wardrobe. There are exceptions, however, for items that you absolutely have to have, even if you can only wear them with one other item – but these should be the exception and not the rule.

To book for Chata's next workshop in aid of the MTR Smit Haven, contact Elmarie at ☎ 041 367 1103



**Samantha Gie (left) was one of the lucky Port Elizabeth Express readers who won a ticket to Chata Romano's workshop. She was also fortunate enough to meet the internationally renowned style consultant in person.**