

Shhhh! Dream Makers At Work

Behind the scenes at **style's** shoot of the Moët & Chandon Couture Collection

By Sarah-Jane Buitendach

The brief sounded ambitious: Acclaimed floral designers Franz Gräbe and Coenie Hattingh were to create 17 couture creations from flowers and plants for the Moët & Chandon Couture Collection, to be shown for the first time at the opening night of SA Fashion Week. Fifteen of the creations were inspired by the three varieties of Moët & Chandon — Brut Impérial Rosé, Brut Impérial and Vintage, along with an exclusive dress designed for **style** and a ball gown for Moët & Chandon. Ten of the outfits were to be created within one day for the **style** fashion shoot.

Amid hundreds of roses, sweet peas, chrysanthemums, fern fronds and oak twigs, and with the help of a dedicated team, Franz and Coenie carefully create one outfit at a time. "I worry if people will like the pieces. When they're finished I'll be incredibly relieved and afterwards I'll think, damn those were really great. It's like giving birth. When it's over, you forget all the pain!" Franz says.

The 30 bottles of specially imported plant glue were disappearing within minutes and gorgeous creations began to emerge before our eyes.

As the model slips into a delicate dress of cordyline leaves and pink chrysanthemums, the television crew from *Magic Moments* are putting together a behind-the-scenes package to be aired



Top: Fern motif called dress. Above: Model wearing oak crochet dress. Left: Coenie Hattingh hard at work. Below left: **style** Editor Naomi Larkin. Below right: hairdresser Yoland Maasberg prepares the model for the shoot.