

DEBSIRELAND
PRESENTS



Ireland's
BEST DRESSED
Debutante

2023

MEET FIONA LONG



How did you feel when you received the call informing you that you made it to the final of Ireland's Best Dressed Debutante 2023?

I was incredibly happy! The whole process from August to November felt quite lengthy, like waiting for time to fast forward. I really did like the response the dress got.

What was your favourite part of the Best Dressed Final day?

I'd say the photo session was my favourite. I've never felt as good as I did then; everyone made me feel very special and confident. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Who do you plan on bringing with you to New York?

I'm thinking of bringing my mom! It's going to be a lot of fun. I've trained her to take the best pictures, so it'll be a week of modelling in New York.

What three essential items do you plan to pack in your suitcase?

I'd definitely bring a good wardrobe because you know, it's New York. Skincare is a must due to the pollution there. And sunglasses.

How do you feel about being signed up with Assets Model Agency in Dublin?

It's incredibly surreal to me. I genuinely can't wait for it.

“Everyone made me feel very special and confident”



“Keep an open mind when shopping for a debs outfit”

How did you know it was the dress?

We went to try on this dress, initially with the straps on the shoulders. I wasn't keen on that but the shop assistant suggested pulling down the straps. That small adjustment transformed it into the perfect dress for me.

What advice would you give to people shopping for their dress or suit for next year?

I would definitely suggest two things: Firstly, don't fixate on the price. Often people assume the higher the cost the better the dress or suit. I found something both beautiful and affordable. Secondly, keep an open mind. I never thought I'd like sequins, but ended up with a dress full of them.

How was your deb?

My deb was fantastic. I truly enjoyed it. Even just being tapped on the shoulder and brought out never expecting it – that was a highlight. And now, being here as the winner feels surreal. I still can't quite believe it. As a kid, you dream about your deb and now I can say I've won Ireland's Best Dressed Debutante 2023; that's unbelievable to me. Little me would be bursting right now.

If you were giving advice to someone who hasn't attended their deb yet, what would it be? What advice would you give your younger self a year ago?

I'd say, use the deb as a reward. That's what I did, especially during the Leaving Cert. Having something like the deb to look forward to makes it worthwhile. You find your dress or suit, make plans and get excited. When you finally have that special night with your school friends it makes all the hard work feel worth it – probably the last time you'll all be together in the same room.



Fiona has won a trip to New York and a year signed to Assets Model Agency



ROSIE'S CLOSET

