

CAPRICE

turns up
the style

MODEL BEHAVIOUR

Stunning Caprice and (below inset) a model sports a swimsuit from the star's collection



Blonde babe fronts new Irish fashion challenge series, writes *Jenny Gorovan*

Sleek blonde beauty Caprice has been a glamorous regular on Irish shores in recent times — appearing on *The Late Late Show*, guest DJing at a hot new Dublin nightspot and co-hosting *Miss Universe* with Alan Hughes.

Now she is back on the box as a judge in new TV3/3e fashion challenge series *Style Wars*.

The gorgeous former model-turned-businesswoman is certainly no ditz walkover.

"What they say on the show is that I'm like the female Simon Cowell," laughs Caprice.

"I'm very frank and honest," she adds.

Alongside top Irish designer Peter O'Brien and Ian Galvin, chairman of the Aurora fashion powerhouse (brands include Oasis, Warehouse and Karen Millen), Caprice is on the hunt for fashion's next 'big thing' as 10 Irish contestants vie it out to win a job at Aurora and co-create a new By Caprice line.

"They've got to have it all — creativity, commerciality and personality — to work with me, so I've been very tough on these contestants. I can't afford to have a bad collection," she explains.

Indeed, the engaging 38-year-old — born Caprice Valerie Bourret — says that the recession rocked her fashion empire, which she fully finances.

"I took a massive hit," shares Caprice. "All I can



say is thank God for my modelling days or I would have lost my business, because I had a lot of extra cash, I didn't need to go to the banks.

"They weren't budging at the time anyway and to find another partner during the middle of a recession, forget about it."

Withstanding the financial maelstrom, she recently inked a lucrative deal with Topshop boss Philip Green to stock her By Caprice lingerie range in his Bhs stores.

"This has been a very good year for me, thank God!" she confirms. "Let me tell you, I see light at the end of the tunnel; I see people spending again, I see my business growing again — it's so exciting."

The California girl is currently single — so her career receives her undivided attention. In the past, Caprice has been linked to Britain's Prince Andrew, lothario Calum Best and rocker Rod Stewart.

More recently she had a brief romance with an American named Lance. "I went on a few dates and thought 'This could be interesting', but after a few more dates I thought 'Oh no, this isn't for me'," she reveals.

"It's just about your personalities meshing. I'm very active — I love sports — and I'm very sociable."

Revisiting her WAG roots — she once dated former English football captain Tony Adams — is "definitely not" on the cards.

"I did that 10 years ago and we're going to leave it at that," Caprice laughs.

One Irishman may, however, strike it lucky with the stunner.

"I did a PA in this nightclub and saw a very cute boy there and I think I'm inviting him to the launch party. You'll have to figure it out," she teases.

Any potential suitor won't have to worry about Caprice being after his cash — she hates the notion of being a kept woman.

"I couldn't imagine relying on anyone, ever. Having my own freedom and independence has developed my personality and made me who I am today."

While other famous beauties often play the 'I don't exercise' card, Caprice is upfront about her struggle to maintain her fabulous figure.

In fact, she even volunteers her trouble zones.

"There's a few," she laughs. "My love handles on the side — they're a bitch — and the hips and tushy."

"I live for working out," she continues, "I have to work out and diet harder than I ever have before just to stay

DESIGNS ON TALENT

Style Wars judges (from left) Peter O'Brien, Caprice, Ian Galvin and Angela Woods will turn up the heat and (right) former model Caprice glams up the red carpet

in shape.

"I see my personal trainer twice a week and we do high-impact sessions for 40 minutes. I also play tennis twice a week."

As her time in Ireland is due to come to end soon, the likeable London-based entrepreneur reveals she'll be departing with a heavy heart.

"I'm going to be upset — I've made so many important friendships here."

Caprice promises that Style Wars will make for great TV.

"There's a lot of drama — ups and downs, yelling, tantrums, crying and fighting — and that's just the judges," she laughs.

Style Wars, Tuesday, TV3 at 8pm and also 3e every Wednesday.



BEAUTY EXPERT

Caprice and Miss Universe Ireland 2008 co-host Alan Hughes with foxy winner Lynn Kelly