

exploreLI

A changed man

MORE GROOMS
OPTING FOR
A SECOND
LOOK AT THE
RECEPTION

B4

LINDA ROSIER

Matt Hull sees his bride, Molly, just before they take their vows at the Montauk Lake Club & Marina wearing an Indochino midnight blue tuxedo.

Second looks

Grooms regroom for the reception

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It's not uncommon these days for a bride to change from her ceremony gown into another look for the reception, so that's what wedding planner Rebecca Lynn thought would be a given when conceptualizing the "epic" event she had in mind for the marriage of Molly and Matt Hull.

"I would have expected the bride to have a dress change, but it wasn't until a day before the wedding that I found out that wouldn't be the case," Lynn, of East Moriches, says. "The bride stayed in her dress the whole night, and it was the groom who changed. He had on a blue tuxedo for the ceremony and the cocktail hour, then he disappeared and





ON THE COVER AND ABOVE Bobby Berdon, 23, of Merrick tries on alternate looks at Esquire Tuxedos in Merrick including a "Hendrix" dinner jacket by Mark of Distinction, cover, a Dawson jacket by Ike Behar, left, and a paisley one by Soul of London.

entered the reception with a white jacket on."

SETTING THE VIBE

Matt Hull, 30, whose wedding was Sept. 14 at the Montauk Lake Club & Marina, is among a growing number of grooms saying "I do" to second looks, Long Island wedding experts say.

These grooms are commonly wearing a tuxedo during their vows and then changing into a different formal look for the festivities that follow — much like some brides do when they swap the wedding gown they wore to the altar for a different style, such as a shorter cocktail dress that's more comfortable and conducive to dancing.

"I borrowed the idea from some of my friends who chose to do it at a few of their weddings earlier in the year," explains Hull, who lives in Manhattan and grew up in St. James. For the ceremony, he wore a midnight blue tuxedo with peak black lapels by Indochino, and for the reception, he donned a "Hampton Ivory" Indochino jacket with black peak lapels that he paired with black tuxedo pants.

"I changed right before the introduction and first dance at the ceremony to enhance the effect for the

guests. . . . We wanted the vibe to be high energy, fun and upbeat, and I think we succeeded in that."

Michael Russo, the Babylon-based owner of Michael Russo Events, says that grooms choosing to go for a second look is a growing nationwide trend that, as many fashion trends do, started with Hollywood celebrities. Russo planned the July 31, 2016, Beverly Hills wedding of "Shark Tank's" Robert Herjavec and "Dancing With the Stars" champ Kym Johnson, during which Herjavec wore a black tuxedo for the wedding ceremony and afterward changed into a white dinner jacket.

GETTING COMFORTABLE

"It's been making more of an impact lately — in the last three or four years," says Russo. "Usually, guys are changing their jackets from a traditional [black] look to a white jacket for the reception." He adds, "Some of the guys also change their shoes to something more comfortable but fancy, like a velvet slipper look."

Russo says the trend is all about the grooms following the bride's lead, noting the trend of brides changing their outfits started about 10 years ago. "The grooms are catching up," Russo says. "The groom also changed his outfit in a wedding I did last summer at a private home in East Hampton. He wore a navy tuxedo and then changed into a white dinner jacket."

And owners of

Long Island tuxedo stores say that grooms having two outfits is something that's happening locally more and more. Chris Tricarico, owner of Black Tie Tuxedo by Sarno, and other tuxedo shop owners say they feature packages that can be used for second looks.

Tricarico, whose stores are in Smithtown, Farmingdale and Selden, says some of his second-look clients will get something as simple as a different tie, while others will go all out. "The most impressive we've had is a fella who wore a top hat and tails for the ceremony and then had a James Bond dinner jacket for the wedding reception," he adds.

Michelle Schioppa, owner of RSVP Tuxedos in Bay Shore, says, "One groom went with the cutaway [tuxedo] for the ceremony with Hickory Stripe pipe pants, then changed into a full Michael Kors [tuxedo] to match the groomsmen."

TRADITION WITH A TWIST

Mike Zisman, owner of Esquire Tuxedos in Merrick, says the trend appeals to the guy who wants to go along with tradition but then give it a twist. Paisley and floral jackets are popular with grooms, says Andrew Nigosian, owner of Bonaventure Tuxedo in Mineola, adding that those who want a second wedding outfit are usually in their late 20s or 30s.

"It's a groom who wants to express his individual style, but he'll put on something more traditional for the wedding so he'll look a certain way in pictures in the years to come, but he may put on something more daring for the reception," Zisman says. "He can add a different jacket and it can change his entire look."



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Some grooms make the changeup as simple as switching out their tie; these ties are from Esquire Tuxedos.



A fuchsia tapestry by Cardi International at Esquire Tuxedos in Merrick.



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DESIGNER SHOE WAREHOUSE

This Stacy Adams black and gold metallic Swank loafer is also available in navy and burgundy, \$59.99, dsw.com.