



chapter  
5



# Party Planning

You've locked in your guest list, the helium tank is on standby and your social circle is buzzing with anticipation.

*It's official - you're throwing a party.*

Whether you're setting up for an intimate pamper sesh with the girls or an all-out extravaganza to rival a Gatsby soiree, there are certain holiday hoops to jump through. Do you opt for a fancy dress party or a tasteful cocktail hour? A bass heavy Rn'B playlist or an acoustic set from a bearded troupe of folk rockers?

Luckily for you, we're all about making this party planning business a delightful affair. No more night-before freak outs or last minute calls to the party planner. This season, we're adding a little festive sparkle with our DIY tips and fuss-free party favours.

- ◆ Throw a foolproof party
- ◆ Create the ultimate party playlist
- ◆ Dazzling conversation starters
- ◆ DIY party décor
- ◆ Plan your party with our timeline

**MAKE IT A NIGHT TO REMEMBER!**





to theme or  
not to theme?



host a party with a tipi ... it's super easy!!



*When it comes to choosing between a wild costume party or a classy cocktail affair, we've got all the answers for hosting a fun and fancy free holiday celebration.*

#### DIY OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

A foreign film, MNB approved popcorn & raw treats to munch on. Take a peek at Pinterest for inspiration on setting up your own DIY projector.

#### BIKE CRAWL

Round up the troops and head on a bike crawl. Pack some snacks, and pinpoint your pit stops along the way. Fun & active at the same time - winner!

#### BEACH PARTY

Throw a beach bash with all of your besties. Set up a volleyball net, or have the wickets ready for a game of cricket. Fresh fruit & coconuts are a must for this kinda party.

#### MOCKTAIL PARTY

Remember all those fun n fruity recipes back in chapter 3? Why not whizz up all 4 & host a mocktail party. Fun frocks & sweet mocktails. What more could a girl want?

#### SOME MORE IDEAS

- Mexican Fiesta
- Raw cooking class
- Board game night
- MNB sleepover
- Add a theme to your regular party for a bit of fun!

## PARTY PLAYISTS



### the "party" party

Disclosure - *Latch*

Flume - *Holdin' On*

Beyonce - *All The Single Ladies*

Katy Perry - *Roar*

Run D.M.C - *It's Tricky*

Rufus - *Take Me*

Whitney Houston - *Dance With Somebody*

Fergie - *A Little Party Never Killed Nobody*



### the dinner party

Fleetwood Mac - *Gold Dust Woman*

Bon Iver - *Skinny Love*

Kite String Tangle - *Given The Chance*

Middle East - *Blood*

Carla Bruni - *Quelqu'un M'a Dit*

Emma Louise - *Mirrors*

Fever Ray - *When I Grow Up*

James Blake - *Limit To Your Love*



### the backyard bbq



Little Dragon - *Ritual Union*

Alt-J - *Dissolve Me*

Mumford & Sons - *Little Lion Man*

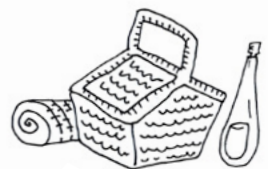
Lorde - *Royals*

Avicii - *Wake Me Up*

The XX - *Shelter*

Klingande - *Jubel*

Friends - *I'm His Girl*







ummm .... hi!

## THE ART OF CONVERSATION

If you've attended a party or two in your time, you'll know that meet and greets can be a mixed bag. One moment you're making fast friends over the fruity fondue pot, the next you're dealing with a seriously sarcastic couple.

But here's the thing, you don't need to be a pop culture whiz with a razor sharp wit to make a great guest. You just need to get a little savvy on mingling MNB style.

Cue our crash course in party conversation. Step away from sleazy party pickups and get set to socialise with our super dose of party tricks and etiquette techniques.

**BY BIANCA BLADES**



## keep it light

The dance floor isn't the place to recite lecture notes from your elective in political science. Instead, keep it cool and casual by asking lots of open questions and avoiding "yes" or "no" answers. Light conversation doesn't have to be superficial - why not chat about travel, sport, music, art, films and TV shows, food and wine and your favourite hobbies? When you eventually find a shared interest, you've hit a conversational jackpot!

## read my body language

Two things: First impressions count (on the party scene and at a job interview) and a genuine smile is always the best icebreaker. Get started by uncrossing your arms, standing with a straight spine and relaxing your shoulders. If you're seated at a table, avoid closing yourself off to new conversations. Don't hunch - sit back comfortably on your chair and smile as you scan the room.

Finally, eye contact is always a winner!



## be yourself

It's all in the delivery. Even the most clichéd conversation starters can be hilarious when you introduce yourself in the right way. Remember, your best asset is your personality.

“  
*so...come here  
often?...*  
*\*cough..cough\**  
”



TRY OUR FAILSAFE HINTS FOR THE HOLDING **THE PERFECT CONVERSATION.**  
FROM TRIED AND TESTED STARTERS TO ATTENTION GRABBING ONE-LINERS,  
CHOOSE A FRIENDLY PARTY REMARK THAT SUITS YOU TO A TEE.



*Cool & Casual  
Sister*

What's your ultimate holiday destination?

I can't stop eating this sushi. Have you tried it yet?

So, what have you been working on lately?

What made you decide to study your degree?

If you could have one superpower, what would it be?

If you won the lottery tomorrow, what would you do?

You've got one song to play on repeat for the rest of your life. What is it?

If you were to change your name - what would it be and why?

*Fun & Fearless  
Socialite*



*Little Miss Play it Safe*

So, how do you know the host?

What are your plans this weekend?

What kind of drink is that?

I love this venue. Have you been here before?





# do's

Always ask questions. Don't make the conversation about yourself.

Offer a genuine compliment when you mean it! Don't be shy.

If you're chatting in a group, bring the shy guests into the conversation – it will make their confidence skyrocket!

When you first meet someone, repeat his or her name to help boost your memory.

# don't's

Resist temptation to reach for your phone during a lull in socialising.

Don't try to fill the silence; it's not your job to give a running commentary of the night.

Quizzing your new friend on their line of work can be exhausting... avoid questions that belong in a performance review.

Don't pretend to be an expert. If you need an explanation, go ahead and ask (they'll love you for it).







No matter how charming your new friend is, sometimes we need a parachute button. Forget the brick walls you hit during the conversation; finish up your chat politely without any rude remarks. Thank them using their first name and leave by making a reference to some personal tidbits they might have shared.

“ Have you met Andy? He’s a big fan of musical theatre too. I’ve just got to say hello to a few people, but I’ll see you both later on.

Oh look, the queue has disappeared. I’m going to grab dinner while I still can! It was fantastic meeting you, good luck with your presentation next week. ”

*exit strategy*



**DIY PARTY DECOR**



\* \*  
\*  
Mason jars just got  
a whole lot  
jazzier!!





## FLOWER BOMB BUNTING

A fun & effective way to give your party decor a festive twist!



### WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Your choice of fake flowers
- Wire cutting scissors
- Styrofoam balls (various sizes)
- String



### MAKE IT HAPPEN:

Cut the stem off your fake flowers (wire cutting scissors are recommended for this DIY).

Using the stem of the flower, puncture a hole into the ball to secure the flower in place.

Continue adding flowers to the ball until the surface is filled with colour.

Loop string from the base of the ball to the top and secure with a knot.

Hang your flower bomb bunting on your patio for a fully festive look!



## DIY GLITTER MASON JARS



### WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Mason jars (preferably with smooth sides)
- Masking tape
- Gold or silver glitter
- Foam brush
- Craft glue
- Shellac sealer spray
- Old newspaper

### TIP:

Cover your workspace with old newspaper to minimise mess.

Then you can fold the paper like a funnel and sift the excess glitter back into the jar when you're done.



### MAKE IT HAPPEN:

With your tape, mark off the area that you want covered in glitter. Using a foam brush, cover the area below the tape with craft glue.

Now it's glitter time! Choose your glitter colour and coat the outside of the vase.

Allow to dry before coating with shellac to seal the glitter.

Put together a flower arrangement to place in the jar.

Now you've got an eye-catching party centrepiece!



## FRUIT/FLOWER ICE CUBES

Party decor is all about delightful surprises. Impress your party guests with this unique ice cube creation!



### WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

An ice tray

Water

Colourful berries (blueberries, raspberries & strawberries work a treat)

Citrusy fruit (limes, lemons & oranges - oh my!)

Fresh herbs

Edible blooms

Tweezers (optional)



### MAKE IT HAPPEN:

Fill the ice tray squares with water up to halfway.

Slice up your fruit or select your edible blooms and herbs.

Carefully drop your edible decorations into the water (we used tweezers to be super precise).

Top up the ice tray with water so your fruit, flower or herbs are floating in water.

Place in the freezer to set.

Once frozen, serve straight away at your party!

# mnb party planning timeline



## PICK YOUR PARTY

Think dates, time, theme...

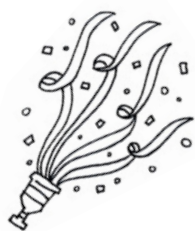
## LOCK IN A DATE & SEND OUT YOUR INVITATIONS

Choose your date and time before getting started on your guest list. Sending out your invites? Decide whether you're going with ecards, a group SMS or an old school letterbox drop.



## GET THE LOOK

Now it's time to find the perfect party outfit from head to toe. Check out chapter 6 to help you get in shape.



## Shop the menu & get prepared

Make a list and hit the stores to stock up on some fresh produce. Prepare as much as you can the night before to reduce your stress levels.

## BE THE HOSTESS WITH THE MOSTESS

Greet your guests, mingle and have fun. This is your time to shine!



## PLAN YOUR CELEBRATION STYLE

Have a brainstorm session and decide what kind of party you want to create. Pinterest is a great source of inspiration for all things theme, decor and food!

## details, details, details

Party success comes down to the finer deets. Plan the food menu (see chapter 3 for great canapes and mocktails), make a rocking playlist and get crafty with your party decor.



## FINALISE YOUR GUEST LIST

Send out friendly reminders to your guest list and finalise numbers.



## DECORATE! IT'S THE BIG DAY!

Decorate and pretty up your space. Light the candles, hang up the bunting and arrange your table setting.





NEXT UP...

chapter  
**SIX**

PRE-PARTY  
PREP

