How to Throw Your Own Black-and-White Party

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Truman Capote's legendary Black-and-White Ball, held in the Grand Ballroom of the Plaza Hotel in November, 1966, has been called "the Last Great American Party." There have been many memorable parties since, but black-and-white is still the very hallmark of chic.

It's no wonder. When it comes to an event, nothing is more sophisticated nor easy to work with than a monochromatic theme--no matter what you are celebrating.

It all starts with the invitation. Your guests will realize right from the beginning that everything will be in this classic color scheme, even their attire.

Use the colors to customize everything, from the table setup to the cocktails, linens, and flowers. Details like these will surely add up to a good time.

You can transform a space in an instant with low ambient lighting. Use candles and votives to set the mood.

Incorporate a range of textures from pale to dark to create a dramatic look. You'll be amazed at how seamlessly they all fit together.

The gleam of gold, silver, copper, or bronze makes any event sparkle. Use one, or mix metals.

There's no need for an expensive party planner or florist to enhance the design. Look around your home for inspiration and use objects you already have. Anything can add to décor, from pillows and throws to vases, books, and photographs.

Fashion icons Kimberly Newport Mimran, President, Pink Tartan, and Joe Mimran, Creative Director, Joe Fresh, offer simple tips on how to throw a stylish black and white backyard soiree.
Take a look:

Creative Entertaining - Black and White Party from Chrilleks Productions Inc. on Vimeo.

For more design tips, view the gallery:
Backyard Bliss

Host your own black and white party with these simple tips.
Select a Theme

This French black and white little bulldog, set the theme for the evening.
Encourage guests to don attire in the theme of the event.
White hydrangeas were used as centerpieces and accents.
Details

Small details can add up to a big look.
Add Drama

Layer textures and fabrics to enhance the theme.
Have Fun!

If the hosts aren't having fun, guess what? No one is!
Get Creative

Look for objects you already have on hand to add to the decor.
Table Setup

Keep centerpieces low so guests can converse easily.
No Formality Please!

A bocce ball court was setup in the backyard to encourage guests to have fun.
Don't be afraid to mix and match, textures and patterns.
Find Your Inspiration

You can draw inspiration from anywhere; an exotic place, a design, object, color, and even your pet! Just take a look around.
Please be Seated

Use place cards not only to encourage guests to mingle with new people but also as stylish accents.
Monochromatic Theme

A black and white party theme is a fabulous idea for any party.
Get Cozy

Have throws, pashminas, stoles, and wraps on hand when the sun sets.
Flow

Placement of the bar is key for flow and to avoid potential pileups.
Fashion Forward

A black and white theme is always stylish.
Set the Mood

Candles, votives and low ambient lighting create a relaxed and sophisticated atmosphere.
Music

Set a play list of ambient music, soft enough for conversation to flow but energetic enough to create a vibe.
Set the Mood

Place candles on the ground and tiki torches around the perimeter to create some drama.