



**DESPERATE
HOUSEWIVES
DRESS
FREE!**

"I saw that dress, and I fell in love with it," Saunders says. "It was positively gorgeous."

Melissa Saunders, Philadelphia

Saunders isn't a desperate housewife—she's single and only 18—but at her prom she did her best to look like one. While watching the debut episode of her now-favorite show last fall, Saunders, captain of her cheerleading team at Philadelphia's St. Hubert Catholic High School for Girls, was amused when *Housewives* star Eva Longoria mowed her lawn on Wisteria Lane dressed in a beaded, salmon-colored evening gown by designer Eduardo Lucero. Saunders wanted something similar for her April 29 prom and immediately wrote a letter to the show's producers. "I told them

how much I love the show, and I asked for pictures of the dress so I could buy something like it," she says. Touched by their first piece of fan mail, the show's costumers decided "maybe we can do something special for her," says Roemeil Hawkins, a wardrobe assistant. Two weeks before prom day, they sent the actual dress by FedEx. Saunders wears the same size as Longoria, so the fit was near-perfect (although she did add a liner to make the dress less revealing). Arriving at her prom on the arm of friend Keith Sevick "felt like a dream," she says. "Then I

Eva Longoria in the lawn-mowing scene from *Desperate Housewives* that inspired Saunders.



was dancing, and it hit me—'Oh my God, I'm really wearing this dress!'"

By Nancy Jeffrey, Shermakaye Bass in Austin, **Darla Atlas** in Fort Worth, **Howard Breuer** in Los Angeles, **Carolyn Campbell** in Salt Lake City, **Sean Scully** in Philadelphia, **Amy Green** in Nashville and **Caroline Howard, Susanna Schrobsdorff** and **Michelle Tan** in New York