

# BEAUTY AND THE BEAT



## She Got Game

They're the romantic comedies of the gaming world: a genre of video games that are almost cartoonishly girly. The aim is not to save the heroine from mortal danger, but rather to rescue her hair from disastrous frizz, then send her out on a date. We tested five new games for their potential to become our latest guilty pleasure. **By Sarah Z. Wexler**

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: DIGITAL VISION; COURTESY OF CITY INTERACTIVE; COURTESY OF ATARI; NINTENDO OF AMERICA; BUSY BIZZY, LITTLE ORBIT, AND REDKEN 5TH AVENUE NYC; WARNER BROS. INTERACTIVE ENTERTAINMENT



### THE BACHELOR (Wii)

**MISSION:** Earn the most "heart points" on

dates with former Bachelors such as Jason Mesnick, Jake Pavelka, Andy Baldwin, Matt Grant, and Brad Womack.

**SECRET WEAPON:** Cleavage. Challenges test your memory and reflexes, but the pixelated double-Ds have to play a role.

**OBSTACLE:** That bitch in the purple strapless dress who's racking up heart points on the Rollerblading date.

**SIDEKICK:** Chris Harrison, the show's affable host (though, to be honest, he's kind of a digital third wheel).

**VERDICT:** Competing for a 2-D hunk is a surprisingly addictive pastime (and one that, ironically, might keep you single forever).



### BUSY SCISSORS (Wii)

**MISSION:** Cut, color, and style your way

from junior assistant right up to salon manager.

**SECRET WEAPON:** The power to seamlessly add extensions. (We'd have killed for this after a particularly bad cut last year.)

**OBSTACLE:** Awkward chair chatter. When clients make small talk, you choose one of three responses—and you score points for picking the least snarky option.

**SIDEKICK:** Bizzy, the edgy redheaded salon owner with the world's perkier boobs.

**VERDICT:** This game will suck you in, especially if you've ever fantasized about cutting hair—or sabotaging the impossible-to-please client sitting next to you.



### STYLE SAVVY (Nintendo DS)

**MISSION:** As the store manager at a high-end boutique, you have to dress your clients on a budget.

**SECRET WEAPON:** A closet with over 10,000 options (and the ability to talk someone into buying a \$780 vest).

**OBSTACLE:** Renée, your slacker coworker who sticks you with the difficult customers.

**SIDEKICK:** A trusty pair of Ugg boots (in the game world, these are still in and can be paired with anything, including designer formal shorts and an ombré evening gown).

**VERDICT:** How could fashion be this boring? The clients are too easy to please, even when you suggest a bedazzled denim miniskirt.



### PROJECT RUNWAY (Wii)

**MISSION:** Work with another designer—

each a past contestant on the show—to create an outfit.

**SECRET WEAPON:** Your sense of rhythm. You use the Wii-mote to keep the beat so your model walks the runway in perfect time.

**OBSTACLE:** Overcoming the mental hurdle of realizing that a gold dollar-sign necklace will actually help you win the Hip Hop Couture Challenge.

**SIDEKICK:** Tim Gunn, with his usual "Make it work!"

**VERDICT:** Our favorite by far. Even when a design falls flat and Nina Garcia gives you a withering look, it's worth it to hear Michael Kors say, "It looks like a disco soccer ball."



### I LOVE BEAUTY: HOLLYWOOD MAKEOVER (Nintendo DS)

**MISSION:** Cater to the hair-and-makeup demands of "Hollywood celebrities." You earn points for giving them exactly the cookie-cutter blonde-bombshell style they request.

**SECRET WEAPON:** The ability to adhere false eyelashes in under five seconds.

**OBSTACLE:** Picky clients who get bitchy if you don't apply their makeup perfectly within the lines—and then make you start over from scratch.

**SIDEKICK:** Nancy, the salon owner, who lets you style her clients despite your appalling inexperience.

**VERDICT:** The transformations aren't jaw-dropping, and the electronic nail polish takes as long to dry as the real stuff.