

IT'S AN age-old story; put two women with very strong personalities together and there is bound to be fireworks, but give them a little time to adjust and they can turn out to be best friends.

That is what happened with top fashion gurus Trinny and Susannah. The pair might look like the best of friends, but when they first met each other it wasn't love at first sight.

Now a fashion force to be reckoned with, the top stylists are bringing their criticism and advice to the Irish public in this year's *Style in the City* event in Merrion square, Dublin.

Finishing each others sentences and constantly groping one another, these fashionistas look like they have been best friends forever. But when they first met they didn't even want to spend a moment with each other, never mind work together.

"I remember meeting Trinny at my then-boyfriend's house. She was invited by someone he knew and I thought 'who is this person, what is she doing here?'" says Susannah.

"It was as if she owned the apartment as she lay on the sofa with her long hair. My earliest memory wasn't a fond one and I didn't think we were going to be friends at all."

Trinny chips in: "I have exactly the same memory, but from a different perspective. I was with a girlfriend and we went in and saw this girl being all highty-toighty. We were like dogs sniffing around each other."

They later hit it off, however, and teamed up in 1994 to write *Ready to Wear*, a popular style guide for the *Daily Telegraph*, and so the Trinny & Susannah brand was born.



GURUS: Trinny and Susannah at the launch of *Style in the City* in Dublin



"Thankfully we gave each other a second chance," adds Susannah. "We're like ying and yang, it works."

The public didn't like the hard-talking fashion duo at the start either, branding them as bullies picking on vulnerable women – but with their recent softer approach, they have since gained the public's approval.

"We don't go out to make women cry. We love women, we are very passionate about what we do," says Trinny. "Ask any of the women we've worked with. Some of them will say that it's a very tough journey, but I don't think

Lock up your fashion crimes - Trinny and Susannah are coming to town. But, they tell NIAMH BYRNE, they have softened with age



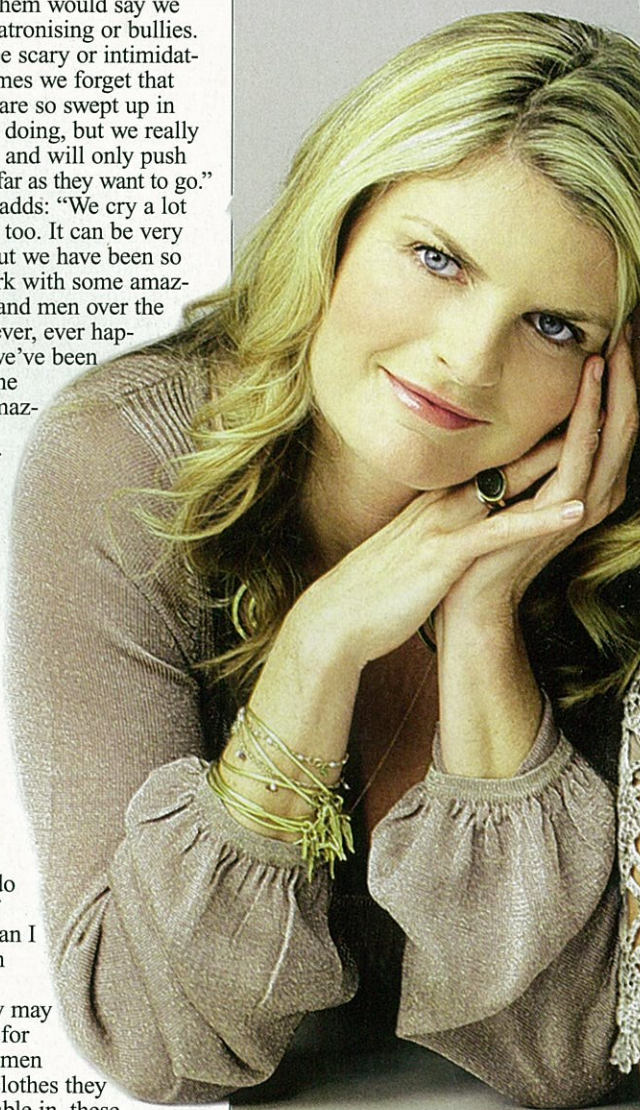
that any of them would say we have been patronising or bullies.

"We can be scary or intimidating. Sometimes we forget that because we are so swept up in what we are doing, but we really love women and will only push someone as far as they want to go."

Susannah adds: "We cry a lot on the show too. It can be very emotional but we have been so lucky to work with some amazing women and men over the years. It's never, ever happened that we've been heckled in the street, it's amazing that we haven't. Our audience gets us, though."

Trinny says: "People do come up to us on the street, usually to ask our advice, especially if we are in a changing room. Men always say 'Hey, what do you think of my outfit. Can I pull a bird in this?'"

While they may be ridiculed for stripping women bare of the clothes they are comfortable in, these



MEN STOP US IN THE STREET ASKING IF THEIR OUTFIT WILL PULL THE