



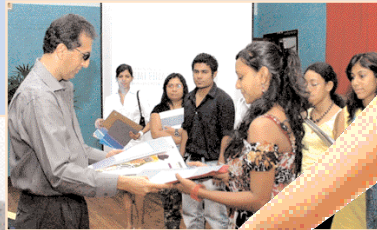
The fifteen finalists

Fifteen finalists vie for the award on Nov. 1

SUNDAY OBSERVER
Fashion Designer
of the Year Contest
2008
Presented by
Chula Nanayakkara Ariyaratne



Mr. Kiran Attapattu (Chairperson) congratulating one of the finalists.



The panel of judges with the Chairperson announcing the fifteen finalists.

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"Sometimes the eye gets so accustomed that if you don't have a change, you're bored. It's the same with fashion, you know. And that, I suppose, is what style is about," says Chula Nanayakkara Ariyaratne, the presenter of the Sunday Observer Fashion Designer of the Year Contest 2008. Having been associated with the newspaper and the contest for the fourth consecutive year, she believes that "Fashion anticipates, and elegance is a state of mind... a mirror of the time in which we live, a translation of the future, and should never be static. Clothes are never a frivolity. They always mean something and style is an expression of individualism mixed with charisma. Fashion is something that comes after style."

And on that note of encouragement, all those with a niche for designing were encouraged to participate in this prestigious competition, girls and boys alike. October 13 saw around 125 participants make their way to the BMICH, 8.30 a.m. onwards and this year saw many participate from the outstations as well. Some too young to travel by themselves were accompanied by a parent.

And the cynosure of all eyes was of course seven-year-old Seya Uralagama of Sacred Heart Convent Galle who amazed everyone with her free hand sketches. Being asked to sketch them once again before the panel of judges, she put her hand to the task and completed

it promptly and effortlessly. Incredible talent for a seven-year-old who apparently said she had sat at a sewing machine when she was just three-years-old and held lace on material.

Her innate talent and inspiration of course would have emanated from her proud mother, a bridal designer herself. Seya was given the opportunity to present one of her designs at the finals as a special feature of recognition of talent and encouragement. Her older sister, twelve-year-old Sanju Uralagama also of the Sacred Heart Convent, Galle participated. Her sketches too were of a high standard but Sanju intimated that unlike her sister she was more talented in hair dressing and make up. The confident duo spurred many a contestant, that age could never be a barrier for achievement.

Meanwhile, the zeal to be among the finalist was apparent as the contestants presented their work establishing that 'great designs are not accomplished without enthusiasm of sort'. The standard of work exhibited was very high and enterprising the eminent panel of judges expressed in so much that four had secured the identical mark for the twelfth place that the panel of judges together with the organizer consequently decided to have fifteen finalists. The eminent panel of judges comprised Ms Kiran Attapattu (Chairperson), Dulakshi Jayasekera, Shanthi Outchoorn, Ankan Brahmanari, Ranga Chandrarathne, Indunil Dissanayake and Ureni Noshka. The fifteen lucky finalist who will vie for the title of Sun-

day Observer Fashion Designer of the Year Contest 2008, a spectacular show and a show of all shows on November 1 at the BMICH are Chamara Liyodipitiya, Kanchana Dimuthu Ariyaratne, Kesara de Silva, Ruwanthi Dulmini, Ashok Duminda, Chandima Sakunthala, Stephen Ramesh, Avi Medonna, Layani Perera, Charith Saminda, Pragathi Marius Jayatilake, Ruwani Lokuge, Diloki Makkalanda, Sachini Nimesha and Niranjaya Ratnayake. Tickets for the grand finale are now available. Buy your tickets early and avoid disappointment. Many prizes and surprises await the winners while the winner will get a return air ticket and opportunities to work with leading designer wear companies here and abroad. Moreover, this contest is a platform for all aspiring designers to tie up with big names in the industry and make the best of their potential and become prolific designers of all time. Look forward to distinguished personality of beauty, hair and fashion designing Ramzi Rahaman to add glamour to the event along with an entertainment with an aesthetic touch from the Channa Wijewardana dance troupe and much more choreography which will add versatility to the glamorous event.

Dialog GSM have come forward as the Gold Sponsor. M/S Aitken Spence together with many other sponsors have pledged to make this a memorable night for all you finalist. And as you get ready with your creations we wish you good luck. Keep in mind that Adornment is never anything except a reflection of the heart.

Contestants presenting their work before the panel of judges



Presenter of the contest Ms. Chula Nanayakkara Ariyaratne commending the youngest contestants Seya and Sanju.



Some of the designer wear sketches presented at the semi finals.



Around 125 participants take their seats at the BMICH for the semi finals

Pix by Sudath Nishantha