

SUNDAY OBSERVER Fashion Designer of 2010

A wave of creativity and talent

BY THULASI MUTTULINGAM



The long awaited Sunday Observer Fashion Designer of the Year 2010 is now over. All the contestants dazzled the audience with their colourful outfits, creativity and talents but only three could win a place on the show.

Graham Anderson: 19 year Graham has just finished school at St. Joseph's college, Maradana. Though young and relatively inexperienced compared to some of the other contestants, he made up for it with grit and determination. As a result, he is the Sunday Observer Fashion Designer of the Year 2010. He also won three of the four category awards; Best Office Wear, Best Evening Wear as well as Best Sports Wear. According to the judges, he had combined elegance and practicality in a very professional and creative manner and they couldn't believe he is just a schoolboy. His sari was also a favourite among the judges but ultimately came second in its category.

For his collection, he worked with a colour theme of purple, pink, grey and black and nearly all his outfits had a butterfly motif on them; the sari had it in the headpiece, the office kit, on the

handbag and the sports wear, on the skirt. The evening wear though had a petals motif. Asked about his time designing the outfits, he said that he kept changing the office wear outfit to get the professional / practical look just right. He also put a lot of thought into his sportswear which was a tennis outfit. He minimised the black part of the colour theme here as he felt the outfit should be comfortable to the wearer as well as chic but should not absorb heat.



The evening wear design was a particular favourite of his; he had had it for some time and decided to use it as one of his best, for the competition. The Sari design he says, just suddenly formed, off the top of his head and he carried it through.

Graham Anderson's creations in Sports Wear, Office Wear, Evening Wear, Sari



How to become a fashion designer

- You know you're destined to be a fashion designer if you:
- spent most of your childhood making clothes for your Barbie dolls instead of playing with your friends;
 - read fashion magazines instead of your school books;
 - ran a boutique out of your basement at age 10.
- In other words: if you want to be the next Yves Saint Laurent, it helps to be completely and utterly obsessed with fashion. However, there are many aspects of the profession. Working as a fashion designer can be just as well mean supervising a design team at a sportswear company as producing a label under your own

name. Although the former career may not seem as glamorous as the latter, it certainly will make your life less stressful. To create your own label takes a lot of time, dedication and hard work. Not to mention living just above the poverty line for several years. There are as many different ways to embark upon a fashion career as there are styles of design. Ralph Lauren's Polo empire was founded on a small tie collection that he sold to Bloomingdale's. Helmut Lang decided to open his own clothing store when he couldn't find a t-shirt that he liked. Michael Kors built up a network of customers by selling clothes in a trendy NYC boutique.



Kishan's creations in Sports Wear, Office Wear, Evening Wear, Sari



Krishan: 26 year Krishan is a designer at Casual Edge, Galle. He has a lot of experience working with drama troupes and movie units on costume design as well as make up and stage design. He's basically a self made, self taught and street smart designer although he plans to study fashion designing professionally as well to polish up his skills. He placed as First Runner-up in the competition. His collection for the show was inspired by the four seasons. His sari depicted spring so it had butterflies, flowers and birds attached to it or designed on it. The

sports wear depicted summer with its bright yellow and orange colours. It is apparently a chak gulu outfit. The office wear in shades of brown, depicted autumn. "Brown colours suit most people so I used it for the office wear," says Krishan. "The entire outfit, with overcoat, matching shoes and a bag were all in shades of brown." And finally the evening wear outfit, depicting winter was almost entirely in white with little bits of blue to signify snow and melting ice. Each season he says, has a beauty of its own, which he tried to draw inspiration from and incorporate into his outfits.

Raffaella Fernando: 19 year Raffaella has come far within her relatively young age. She is a professional designer who has already completed a Higher National Diploma (HND) in Fashion Designing as well as a diploma in Jewellery designing. She is the Second Runner-up of the Sunday Observer Fashion Designer of the Year as well as the Category Winner for Saris.

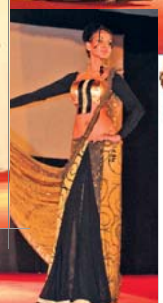
Her collection for the show was inspired by the Bamboo; in fact she calls the model she sketched for all the outfits Bambina. Being a nature lover, she draws much of her inspiration from nature and its colours, and the

bamboo particularly has always been a favourite source of inspiration for her. She says she designed all the outfits according to current trends in the fashion scene.

She also hand painted the fabrics herself as well as designing the outfits, jewellery and accessories, without any outside help or input, as her family are all unartistic and uninterested in fashion designing. She had only her own expertise and studies in fashion designing and jewellery designing to depend on, but they served her well.



Raffaella Fernando's creations in Sports Wear, Office Wear, Evening Wear, Sari



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