

Kumashini Mendis voted Most Popular Designer 2011



BY MAHES PERERA

The day we've all awaited, the Grand Finale of the *Sunday Observer* Singer Asian Fashion Designer

2011, at the Ceylon Continental Hotel came alive last Sunday with the glamorous trimmings associated with a fashion contest, that left you wanting to savour more of the excitement.

The capacity-packed Ballroom of the Ceylon Continental Hotel was transformed into a fantasy

world of colour with the 15 contestants and their models showcasing a riot of colour with their clothes that were fascinating.

The budding young fashion designers had gone to lengths to ensure that their artistic brilliance was something that could not be overlooked. The judges had a tough task in select-

ing the winner. Prof Lakdas Fernando commented that "It was great to be here."

"The contestants have put in a lot of effort. They have a great future." Each category smart casual/ethnic wear, evening glamour, swim wear, office wear, saree and lingerie reflected clever colour selection,

combination and style that was admirable.

Mishka Marzook won the overall winner of the *Sunday Observer* Asian Fashion Designer 2011 award. Thivanka Subasinghe was the first runner-up and Thaara Priyadharshini Selvaraj the second runner-up.

The *Sunday Observer* Most Popular Contestant

was won by Kumashini Mendis who received a total of 6,223 votes.

The pageant commenced with the lighting of the oil lamp by the Chairman of ANCL Bandula Padmakumara, followed by the Editor-in-Chief *Sunday Observer* Dinesh Weerawansa, Kumar Samarasinghe Director Sales - Singer, Berty

Wickramapala Director, Maliban and Director Benares, Disaj Princy Butani.

Attractive dancers from the Sri Jayana Dancing School in colourful red and gold costumes opened the show with a dance sequence in Bollywood style. Then came the catwalk parade of the contestants with their models.

The faces of the contestants varied in expression - some confident that they will be the winner while some others reflected the thought "Will I make it?" Yet their smiles for the camera and the popping flashlights revealed that come what may they, were prepared for the judges' verdict.



The Editor-in-Chief *Sunday Observer* Dinesh Weerawansa presents the Most Popular Designer 2011 award to Kumashini Mendis.



The Chairman ANCL Bandula Padmakumara lights the oil lamp to commence proceedings for the evening. Princy Butani and the Singer Director Sales, Kumar Samarasinghe look on.

Category Winners

Saree

Thaara Priyadharshini Selvaraj - Winner
1st runner-up - Thivanka Subasinghe
2nd runner-up - Dalreen Rozairo

Office Wear

Mishka Marzook - Winner
1st runner-up - Supini Adishika
2nd runner-up - Dinushi Kulatunge

Evening Glamour

Mishka Marzook - winner
1st runner-up - Supuni Adishika
2nd runner-up - Dinushi Kulatunga

Smart Casual/Ethnic

Fathima F. Mohamed - Winner
1st runner-up - Hashini de Silva
2nd runner-up - Mishka Marzook

Swim Wear

Supuni Adishika - Winner
1st runner-up - Thivanka Subasinghe
2nd runner-up - Dinushi Kulatunge

Lingerie

Thivanka Subasinghe - Winner
1st runner-up - Ahinsa Lokudadella
2nd runner-up - Suzette Shockman

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The panel of judges

General Manager Ceylon Continental Kamal Munasinghe
Dr. Nirmali de Silva, University of Moratuwa
Emeritus Professor Lakdas Fernando
Dr. Rohana Kuruppu, CEO Brandix College
Freddie Wright MD Garment Link Ltd. London
Kaushi Piyasiri, MAS Holdings, Head of Intimates Department
Gotabhaya Abeygoonawardena, Director ICT to the President



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