

Milan trip the chance of a lifetime for lingerie designer

Continued from page 21

"Ever since I was little my grandmother has been making me lingerie and bathing suits," she said. "She always wanted to study fashion, but she couldn't, so she told me I should because I was smart enough and had the talent."

Tucker didn't think she could do it, so she studied computers at college and worked in the IT sector for 10 years. She eventually realized she needed a change, so she enrolled in the fashion techniques and design program at George Brown College.

"When I decided to study computers and told my grandmother, she cried because studying fashion was her dream for me," Tucker said. "Then two years ago, I called her to tell her I was going to fashion school and she cried again."

Tucker was in her last term at George Brown College when Triumph Canada approached the school's fashion students to enter the national competition. The company, which has its head office in Oakville, decided to base its first national competition exclusively on George Brown fashion student entries.

Tucker almost didn't enter the competition due to a lack of self-confidence and a busy schedule.

"I thought it was going to be amazing and a great opportunity, but then I didn't think I could come up with something clever enough," she said.

Staff at the college who knew of her potential pushed Tucker to enter, so despite classes, assignments, as well as completing her five-outfit collection for the graduating fashion show, she decided to give it a try.

This year's theme for the Triumph Inspiration Award was Icon. This meant students had to choose an icon, as well as a concept.

Tucker chose Erte, an art deco designer of the 1920s, as her icon, and the concept of

believable beauty.

"One of my teachers said this was where I could go wild, but I told her I wasn't wild," Tucker said.

"She said I was and that I could do this. I looked through an Erte book for a few days, and at first I didn't think I could do it, but then I started coming up with ideas and I picked all the elements from the pictures I liked, like lots of buttons, fluffy things, flaps with buttons, tassels and pleats. I figured out how to transfer that to lingerie and I became very excited."

Once that was decided, sketches, trips to fabric stores and prototypes ensued. Tucker didn't have any experience sewing underwire bras or elaborate lingerie at that time, so there was a steep learning curve. Triumph offered sewing workshops to help prepare the students for the challenge.

Then there was the detail work, like hand sewing the buttons on the back of stockings.

Tucker said the 40 buttons sewn along the back seam of each stocking took her more than 20 hours. She also struggled with properly attaching six feather boas to the kimono that went over the bra and panty set.

Tucker's final submission included an

underwire bra, panties, stockings, kimono and feather headpiece. She said it took her three weeks, working day and night to create, with about three hours of sleep each night.

She drew strength during this stressful time from her husband, David, as well as her grandmother.

The national competition was held in Toronto at the end of April, the same day as the George Brown graduating fashion show.

Six judges from various industries, such as fashion, photography and media, marked the 30 entries using the Triumph Inspiration Award criteria, including innovation and creativity, individuality, concept, presentation and show effect, aesthetics and quality.

Tucker said she was shaking when the winners were announced.

"I was a wreck when they announced the third and second place winners, and I thought maybe I had won, and then they announced

first place and my model and I screamed," she said.

"It was so surreal after that. I was so overwhelmed and honoured. All of my work had been validated."

Tucker's lingerie design is already in Milan, along with the more than 30 other entries from around the globe. The model

selection and fittings will already be done when she arrives, but she still expects the three-day trip to be incredibly hectic.

Tucker has never been to Europe, so she said the trip and the experience will likely be an epoch.

Triumph Canada staff are confident that Tucker's design could take home the international prize.

"I think Andrea has definitely displayed creativity and innovation, and in researching her icon, she's been able to really take the inspiration from 'believable beauty' and apply it to her concept," said McMillan.

"I think any one of us could wear that concept and fit in as a believable beauty. I truly believe she has a great chance at winning."

The competition has given Tucker hope that her custom bra-making and lingerie business she recently started with friend and fellow George Brown fashion student Victoria Wilson will succeed.

The women have named the business Andrea Victoria Design (andreavictoriadesign.com) and are currently based out of a studio in the Toronto fashion district, where they are already working at five days a week preparing concepts and designs, as well as a business plan.

Tucker said it is difficult to express how much it means to be pursuing her true passion.

"I feel like Cinderella, it is so surreal," she said. "It was a dream for me to go to fashion school, it was a dream for me to graduate, it was a dream for me to make this (lingerie design) and then to win. I can do anything now, this is just the beginning."

Members of the public can take part in the selection process by going online between Aug. 31 and Sept. 13 to www.triumph-inspiration-award.com and casting their vote on the internationally-submitted entries. One of the lucky voters will win a trip to Milan to sit with the jury at the international finals.



Andrea Tucker (right) and her design.

Wearing sun protection can save your life

(NC)—With the number of skin cancer cases in Canada increasing by two-thirds since 1990, sun protection has never been more important. There are a lot of sunscreens on the market today that offer varying degrees of protection.

The Neutrogena brand, for example, recently introduced a new Ultra Sheer Dry Touch sunscreen with a maximum SPF of 85 that incorporates its exclusive Helioplex technology. According to the makers of Neutrogena, sunscreens containing Helioplex are specifically engineered to deliver photostable, broad spectrum protection against both burning UVB rays and aging UVA rays. Without photostabilization, UV

rays can break down sunscreen. Helioplex technology helps to maintain the effectiveness of sunscreen filters over approximately a 5-6 hour timeframe.

Dermatologists have long recognized that exposure to UVA and UVB rays can promote the risk of skin cancer. According to the Canadian Cancer Society, skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in Canada and one of the most preventable. Most adults do not follow sunscreen application instructions, achieving only 10-25% of the expected SPF. For optimal protection, it is important to apply sunscreen generously, using approximately 2 full tablespoons to cover the entire body.

**Buy 6 Months for \$99.00
Get 6 Months FREE**

**This Weekend
All Lotions \$39.99**

**Buy 100 Mins.
Get 100 Mins for FREE!**

TAND IN THE CITY
TANNING STUDIOS
2387 TRAFALGAR RD #4
905.257.0200
In the Winners and Home Sense Shopping Plaza

Hair Chateau.com
171 SPEERS RD. #19, OAKVILLE
www.hairchateau.com
(check website for new client discount)
905 338-1237
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

**50% OFF
FOIL
FOR NEW CLIENTS**

Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 9:30-9:00pm, Wed. 9:30-6:00pm, Sat. 9:00-5:00, Sun. 12:00-5:00pm

**Keratin Complex
smoothing therapy
by COPOLA**

\$20 OFF
This NEW revolutionary
smoothing system.
Valid until 8/31/09

Great Lengths
Financing Available O.A.C.
Colour Correction,
Hair Extensions &
Japanese Hair Straightening

COLOUR ADDICTION INC.
518 POSTRIDGE DRIVE 905.257.7427 www.colouraddiction.com