

# ers Bureau

it all started and where videos were shot.

**All-time favourite moment?** Anything Gareth Pugh.

**Who are you championing?** I'm watching Marios Schwab, Louise Goldin and Christopher Kane. I'm already buying Gareth Pugh, House of Holland, Jean Pierre Braganza, Nicholas Kirkwood, Cassette Playa, Peter Pilotto, David David, Ground-Zero, Katharine Hamnett, KTZ, Passarella Death Squad, Preen and the tee collection of Stunners International.

**Fave things about London?** Brits are very nice and polite for the most part. Preen took me to dinner at Bistrottheque and it was excellent. I don't eat out much as I prefer room service – The InterContinental has excellent spaghetti bolognese! My favourite shops are b store, twose and Dover Street Market.

**All-time fave London designers?** Hussein Chalayan, he is always pushing the envelope. And Preen is super sensual; if I were a woman, I'd live in Preen!

**LFW's USP?** The energy level is so inspiring. I think that designers need to get their prices down

and/or make the garments a bit more market-friendly. The pound is very expensive to us Americans, and so it's hard to import and sell British goods. Some, like KTZ, are smart and do their production in Indonesia to bring the prices down. The quality is still there and the pieces become much more affordable to Americans.

**(KW)** **NATALIE VAN ROOYEN**  
*Buyer for Villa Moda,  
Kuwait City*

**First LFW?** Last February, which was also my first visit to London. I was awestruck by the people. The scene is so different in terms of creativity.

**All-time favourite moment?** The return of the Ossie Clark label. Christopher Kane was pretty special. I also loved Erdem and Jonathan Saunders. Shoe designers Charlotte Olympia, Nicholas Kirkwood and Jonathan Kelsey – beautiful shoes are my weakness.

**Who are you watching?** The collection by Lily Parker and Ben Grimes called LPBG. London-

based designer Ronald Abdala.  
**Who are you championing?** Christopher Kane, Erdem and Ossie Clark capture the exclusivity our market requires.

**All-time fave London designers?** I am a big fan of Vivienne Westwood, I feel so alive in her pieces. Personally, I wear Aquascutum – I have my eye on the fuchsia coat from the a/w '08 collection.

**(IT)** **CARLA SOZZANI**  
*Buyer and owner of  
10 Corso Como, Italy*

**First LFW?** The early Eighties, it was a wonderful time in fashion. John Galiano was showing his peg-leg first collections, and I remember going to Ozbek's apartment and being shown a beautiful, African-style dress made from Fortuny fabric. Everything had such a special energy.

**Who are you watching?** Christopher Kane, his design integrity should be encouraged.

**LFW's USP?** London is always moving and changing. I first lived here in the Seventies and thought everything was so incredible; Biba was my first inspiration for 10 Corso Como. Every time I return, it reminds me of that time in my life.

Continues tomorrow

# It's My Party

Report by Jessica Hannan

Room 315 at the Connaught Hotel was buzzing with buyers yesterday morning. The reason? They were checking out model-about-town Ben Grimes and ex-Richard-Nicoll-pattern-cutter-pal Lily Parker's debut collection LPBG.

The lightweight silk party dresses, cobalt-blue shorts suits and gold-lamé jackets are just the kind of thing you might find the

party-loving design duo sporting themselves on a girls' night out.

"We wanted to make clothes like the very first dresses, tops and skirts we drooled over in Topshop when we were 12," Ben Grimes explained. Each item has been directly inspired by one of the duo's bessie mates, such as the Phoebe, a cobalt-blue peg-leg jumpsuit named after "popette" Phoebe Arnold, who also styled the lookbook for the label. Cute.



Photography by Alistair Guy

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