

Mini wins student her catwalk debut

AN aspiring teenage fashion designer will have a mini dress which she created in just five days showcased at a prestigious London Fashion Week catwalk.

The dress by Kaltrina Sopa, 17, of Hazel Drive, Slade Green, was chosen from pieces by more than 130 teenagers from London and Manchester who participated in a fashion workshop earlier this year.

In July, 24 finalists spent a week creating their pieces for the catwalk as part of a workshop run by a charity which supports young people entering the fashion industry.

The charity, Fashion Awareness Direct, gives young people the opportunity to gain experience of the industry through industrial days and practical workshops.

Miss Sopa, an Erith School A-level student, said: "It was really fun. It's really exciting to think someone is going to be wearing my dress and lots of people are going to be looking at it."

As part of the Fashion Awareness Direct junior awards, Miss Sopa's creation will be displayed on September

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20 at Vauxhall Fashion Scout, a fashion week event where the work of talented designers is shown before an international audience of media and buyers.

Miss Sopa gained inspiration for her blue and white creation from a visit to the Victoria and Albert Museum's medieval and renaissance galleries.

She developed her own take on the themes of luxury and craftsmanship by creating a mini dress with circular beaded details.

She said: "We went to the Victoria and Albert and looked around for inspiration. I liked a renaissance balcony which had circles within circles and I used that concept on my dress."

Miss Sopa, who is studying art, textiles and computer science in her final A-level year, said: "I want to do a foundation course in art and then study fashion at university."

The junior award winner, who will be selected by professionals in the industry, will have the opportunity to participate in a placement, working with a designer.



'EXCITING': Kaltrina Sopa and her design.