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Out & about

Teen wins over world of fashion

BY SHALINA HUSSAIN

A TALENTED teenage designer took the catwalk by storm during London Fashion Week by scooping a prestigious award.

Aysha Simpson, a pupil at Raine's Foundation School in Bethnal Green, was announced as the joint winner of the Fashion Awareness Direct (FAD) Junior Awards along with Kusheda Mensah on Wednesday September 17.

The 17-year-old drew her inspiration from Chinese culture and urban fashion capital Shanghai and showcased her eye-catching designs to a packed audience of industry professionals at Vauxhall Fashion Scout in South Kensington.

Aysha combined masculine jodhpurs with a feminine fanned hood, to create her striking all-in-one, securing herself

a placement with British designer, Elspeth Gibson.

"It was overwhelming and emotional to see all my hard work and the support from FAD over the last nine months, finally come alive on the catwalk. I was so proud for my parents and brother to be there to see my garment and me winning joint first, they have been such a great support throughout the programme," she said.

"I now hope to continue with my studies at Raine's, and go on to do an art and design foundation at one of the colleges of the arts in London."

The awards marked the end of an eventful few months for the finalists, who were selected from 100 students to attend an intensive summer school at Central Saint Martin's. Working with teachers, they had just five days to bring their catwalk creations to life.



Aysha (right) beams with pride as her design is brought to life by a model.