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FASHION SHOW: three designers make the final of Egyptian-themed contest

Students light up the catwalk

BY SARAH DAVE

THREE catwalk queens from Thames Valley University in Reading have proved they can cut a dash after winning places in the Fashion Awareness Direct competition.

The BA fashion and textile students beat hundreds of hopefuls from 13 different colleges and universities to become three of the 20 finalists.

Natalie Abrahams, 24, from Nottinghamshire, Zöe Gorringe, 20, from Northampton, and Anna-Maria Hesse, 23, from Germany, presented their collections, as part of the Urban Nomad Objects Trouvés contest, on a catwalk at Shoreditch Town Hall and judges included Hilary Alexander of the Daily Telegraph and Professor Alaa Elgindy, director of the Egyptian Cultural Institute.

Of the three students, Zöe Gorringe was honoured with a highly commended in fourth place.

She said: "It was great to have the opportunity to work from the concept through to producing two finished outfits."

"Hearing my name called out, saying I had won an award for highly commended, was amazing, especially when I had seen the



TOP TRIO - Thames Valley University students Natalie Abrahams, 24, Zöe Gorringe, 20, and Anna-Maria Hesse, 23, beat hundreds of hopefuls to become finalists in the fashion competition; right, one of the designs

competition I was up against.

"Seeing our garments on the fantastic pyramid-shaped catwalk, lit up, with professional models and photographers snapping away, was perfect."

The brief the students were given invited them to uncover the mysteries of Egypt through a journey from the pyramids of Giza

to the hustle and bustle of Cairo.

Participants had to reflect this in two outfits - 'charm', consisting of fabrics lashed together and concealing 'objects trouvés' such as personal trinkets, and 'geometric', clothing which imitates the drapes of the wrapped buildings of the sculptors Christo and Jeanne-Claude.

