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**LEARNING FOR LIFE**


# Annie puts a new slant on the classic little black dress

Woodford Green schoolgirl's design is overall winner of ASDA competition against 14 other designers

IT has a place in every woman's wardrobe and can cost anything from £5 to £50,000.

It has been re-invented more times than the humble sandwich and almost in exactly the same way - when you don't think there's anything different to be done and then somebody comes along with new type of Italian rye bread and you've got a new trend.

And one Trinity High School girl has done just that with the little black dress, or 'lbd' as serious fashionistas will call it.

After winning through to the final 15 of a dress-designing competition run in conjunction with ASDA, the supermarket with its own clothes label,

George, Annie Skipper had a triumphant night last Thursday.

At a fashion show, showcasing all 15 interpretations of the little black dress, held at the Zandra Rhodes Museum of Textiles and Design, the 18-year-old was told she was the overall winner.

"I was very surprised to have won," she said. "There were so many fantastic ideas. The brief was to design a little black dress for a range of age groups and different sizes from eight to 16."

But capturing the current love of fuller skirts, which are apparently the NBT (next big thing), Annie went on to win.

"I made the dress from black

satin. It was fitted across the bust, drawn in at the waist with a full skirt and the hem line is 10 cm of silver satin and it has silver satin straps as well.

"I came up with the idea of a full skirt by looking at buildings like St Paul's."

And after winning this design competition, Annie hopes a career in fashion and design is calling and is currently thinking about what art colleges she's going to apply to.

But before that the 18-year-old has to go work.

Part of her prize for winning is to see her design on sale in the ASDA stores and a two-week placement in their design studios.

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LEARNING FOR

# A new take on the little black dress

FIVE schoolgirls from Redbridge are re-inventing the staple of every woman's wardrobe - the little black dress - after winning through to the final 15 of a dress designing competition. And tonight the five teenagers will see their designs walking down the

catwalk at the Zandra Rhodes Museum of Textile and Design and they have the chance of seeing their creation going from the catwalk to the shopfloor of ASDA.

The competition is run by Fashion Awareness Direct - known rather appropriately as FAD - in association with the supermarket chain, and the top prize is the production of the winning dress design and seeing it sold in shops across east London.

After having to come up with an idea based on a piece of London architecture to win through to the second round, the four 17-year-olds and one 18-year-old found themselves in a design studio in central London for one week in July, with swathes of black fabric, a tailor's dummy and their own imagination.



**IT'S A WRAP: Alexandra Achille's little black dress design being modelled**

Yvonne Archibald, 17, from Trinity High School, Woodford Green, who is in the final 15 along with two other girls from the school, said: "I'm really excited about seeing my work. I feel really lucky to have got through to this stage. If I don't get picked I feel glad I've got this far."

And proving the fashion world isn't all fierce competition and back-biting, the girls in the week-long dress-making workshop all became good friends. As Yvonne explained: "We became friends with people from other schools as well, we all had a really great week."

Also relishing the whole experience was Yvonne's schoolmate, Grace Cotton, 17, who said: "It was really amazing, we've never done anything like this at school. The design week was really good and was professional. I can't believe it's all really happening."

Also in the running for the top prize, which includes a two-week placement at the ASDA design studios, are Annie Skipper, 17, from Trinity High School, Alexandra Achille, 17, from Valentines High School in Ilford and Nicola Hitchens from Wanstead High School.

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**DESIGNS FOR LIFE:** Young designers Annie Skipper, Yvonne Archibald and Grace Cotton from Trinity High School (KSR264)



**IT ASDA BE ME:** Nicola Hitchens from Wanstead High School and her little black dress, inspired by the Pucci design house and the Next catalogue (c)