

PECKHAM

# Teenager hits London Fashion Week

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**A PECKHAM teenager is about to see an outfit she created showcased on the London Fashion Week catwalk later this month.**

Nina Ehni was selected alongside 23 other students who participated in the Fashion Awareness Direct (FAD) Fashion Futures 2 workshop earlier this year.

Supported by a team of tutors, technicians and student mentors, the seventeen to nineteen-year-olds had just five days in July to develop and construct their designs for the catwalk.

Having been stimulated by traditional tailoring following a trip to the V&A Museum, students were tasked with designing a traditional outfit with their own exciting twist.

Nina was inspired by singer and producer Pharrell Williams and fused classic English tailoring with a hip-hop angle. Her outfit consists of a traditional tailored sleeveless jacket with trousers, and a sporty hooded top imprinted with elaborate detail from textiles at the V&A.

"It's a mix between classic English tailoring with a skater/hip-hop twist," said the eighteen-year-old, who even makes some of her own clothes and accessories. "I designed the outfit for Pharrell Williams; he is so universal."

The FAD project is being supported by the fashion industry, with senior representatives from River Island and John

Lewis taking part. The winner of the FAD Junior Awards will be revealed on the evening of the catwalk final, where Nina and other finalists will be competing for a placement in the industry.

Fran Hunt, Project and Communications Manager at FAD, believes these projects are essential in providing young people with skills for the future: "Fashion is the tool we use to provide them with life skills."

And Nina believes the FAD workshops have played an integral part in helping her achieve her dream of becoming a designer. With FAD helping her with her portfolio, she secured her place at the

London College of Fashion, where she will be studying for a BA in Accessories Design.

And she hopes this is the start of bigger things to come: "My dream one day is to

work for Marc Jacobs or Louis Vuitton in the Accessories department, and maybe go into menswear after my BA."

On being picked out of 130 other students for the FAD Junior Awards, Nina

said it came as a huge surprise: "I feel speechless that I was picked for the final, I really was not expecting it. I'm really looking forward to seeing my design on the catwalk!"



Nina (main) and her work (top)