

Newport Student's Futuristic Designs Win Catwalk Showcase at London Fashion Week

5/2/2009

Carolina Soler-Avila, a fashion student at the University of Wales, Newport, has been named as a finalist in the prestigious 2009 FAD Competition, and will have her designs showcased in a unique catwalk show at London Fashion Week on Tuesday 24th February.

One of 14 finalists, Carolina beat hopefuls from 24 UK universities and colleges to win a coveted place in the competition, which sees the most promising undergraduates compete for a £2,000 first prize and a highly desirable placement in the fashion industry.



LEFT: Carolina Soler-Avila (centre) with her two futuristic designs which will be showcased in a unique catwalk show at London Fashion Week on Tuesday 24th February. They are modelled by second year Fashion Design students Holly Dimes and Claire Tremlett.

"I am really excited to have made it through to the final of this high profile competition, knowing my designs will be on the catwalk at London Fashion Week," said 28-year-old Carolina who is on the third year of the Fashion Design degree course at Newport School of Art, Media and Design.

Carolina's designs, which were inspired by the planets of the solar system, were based on the topic 'Urban Holographic'. The brief was to explore the concept of retro-futurism and space tourism by looking back at the curved designs of the 1960s and films such as 2001: A Space Odyssey' to create fashionable 'uniforms' for galactic hostesses. Her two

designs will be judged by a jury which includes Dolly Jones, Editor of Vogue.com and Martyn Roberts, Director of Vauxhall Fashion Scout.

Last year, Carolina was described as a designer to watch out for by David Emanuel who is best known for designing the Princess of Wales' wedding dress, when she won a competition to create a contemporary Welsh costume organised by the National Library of Wales.

For details of Fashion Design and all courses at the University of Wales, Newport contact the University Information Centre on 01633 432432 or visit www.newport.ac.uk.

Notes to Editors:

FAD (Fashion Awareness Direct) is a creative charity supporting young people to bridge the gap between industry and education. Now in its eighth year, the FAD Competition is dedicated to highlighting and supporting undergraduate talent. Past FAD finalists now work for companies such as Coast, All Saints and Harrods, as well as high profile designers Vivienne Westwood and Jean Paul Gaultier.