

# lucire

MAY 2004

Looking  
abroad  
Kiwi designers  
think globally

The circuit  
Autumn-  
winter '04-5  
from Dunedin,  
New York,  
Barcelona,  
Montréal, Lisboa

On the  
inside  
Claws out! It's  
New York  
Fashion Week

Brent  
Lawler  
The hairstylist on  
top of the World

How suite  
it is  
California pampering

Jennifer  
Siebel  
Helping the  
world in  
Hollywood

# Being global

NZ\$9.45 incl GST  
www.lucire.com  
ISSN 1175-7515



L' O R

**Step 1 Fortifies**

Conditioning micro-fibre primer  
with Ceramide-R  
lengthens and fortifies lashes.



NATALIE IMBRUGLIA IS WEARING DOUBLE EXTENSION MASCARA IN BLACK.

[www.lorealparis.com](http://www.lorealparis.com)

É

A

L

PARIS

Step **2** Extends

Takes lash length further  
as it coats with rich colour that  
won't clump or smudge.

This is no ordinary mascara!  
**Fortifies lashes, lengthens +60%**

NEW

**DOUBLE EXTENSION**  
LASH FORTIFIER & EXTENDER

BECAUSE YOU'RE WORTH IT.

**L'ORÉAL**  
PARIS

L'ORÉAL PARIS **2 DOUBLE EXTENSION**

2 patented brushes.  
Proven spectacular results.

# Life/Style

living the *lucire* way

## Wait a minute: are those Swarovski crystals on that J. Edgar?

IT'S NOT TECHNICALLY (or legally) a Hoover, but an Electrolux. This Swedish firm has a good environmental and socially responsible policy, which we learned about when we visited the Stockholm headquarters not long ago. And for those who think that Swedish appliances have to be dull and modernist, think again. This is the era of the sexy Volvo.

These three vacuum cleaners were auctioned on eBay during March in association with *Vanity Fair*, with proceeds going to charity.

New York designers Peter Som, Palmer Jones, and Nanette Lepore added their signature styles.

Peter Som's **Electrolux Aptitude** has been inspired by 1930s' glamour. 'California-born fashion designer Peter Som compares his custom-designed sleek black Electrolux Aptitude vacuum adorned with hundreds of Swarovski crystals to a bias-cut charmeuse and diamond Jean Harlow dress,' said the company. If they didn't say that, then we could have summarized that there's a touch of Darth Vader meets *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*.

Twins Kathryn and Lindy Jones, working as Palmer Jones, created a light-hearted, playful modification on the **Electrolux Oxygen**. Again using Swarovski crystals, but paired with their signature turquoise and purple colours, the Joneses built on their spring collection.

Nanette Lepore, familiar to *Lucire* readers, has taken her cue from the Rococo-era painter Francois Boucher. Her trademark soft colours and images of femininity are represented with her **Electrolux Harmony**'s boudoir blue finish, delicate hand-painted flowers and four oversized, pink lingerie bows, all to give the vacuum cleaner the lavish look of a painting.

Proceeds went to the Hetrick-Martin Institute, the Southern Poverty Law Center and the God's Love We Deliver Foundation (chosen by Palmer Jones). See Electrolux at [www.electrolux.com](http://www.electrolux.com).



## Electronic newsprint

IT'S THE IDEAL GADGET on which to read ebook editions of *Lucire*. Sony launches its **LIBRIé ebook reader** in Japan this month, with a display developed by Philips of the Netherlands and E Ink Corp. The technology is called E Ink, which is meant to ape a conventional piece of paper on an electronic display. It's visible from most angles, too. For the techies, it displays at 170 ppi, which is roughly the same as a newspaper, and you can read 10,000 pp. before needing to change the four AAA alkaline batteries. Size-wise, LIBRIé is about the same as a paperback book—and it can store 500 downloaded books from the internet (and, we hope, issues of *Lucire*). Visit [www.sony.com](http://www.sony.com).



## Pop goes the Volvo

THERE'S A NOTICEABLE TREND this winter with pop art-inspired movements on the catwalks all over the world, but we didn't expect it to get to Volvo.

To coincide with the US launch of the **Volvo V50 combi**, Volvo Cars of North America commissioned this makeover from world-renowned artist Romero Britto.

Britto's style is neo-pop cubism, an intricate weave of pop art and neoteric cubist interpretation. His art has a unique combination of rich and bright colours, daring patterns and heavy outline. Volvo says that Romero Britto's art is a representation of life, tying in to its tagline, 'For life'.

If you still remember boxy and boring wagons driven by Swedes and twenty-something Connecticut intellectuals, think again. This year, wagons are sexy.

This V50 will be auctioned off later in 2004, with proceeds going to Best Buddies, a non-profit organization enhancing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities by providing opportunities for one-to-one friendships and integrated employment.



## In-finn-ite possibilities

FROM YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS is a new book on Finnish design house **Marimekko**, coinciding with a renaissance in interest in the brand. Known for its bold yet simple graphics as we spied when last in Finland (*right and below right*), Marimekko—perhaps with the exception of Nokia cellphones and Finlandia Vodka—is the country's best known export, with fabrics, fashion, interiors and home furnishings. This historical look, edited by Marianne Aav, who curated an exhibition about the company in New York in 1998, examines the impact founders Armi and Viljo Ratia had on Finnish design. Designers Maija Isola and Vuokko Eskolin-Nurmesniemi are also discussed. **Marimekko: Fabrics, Fashion, Architecture** retails at US\$60, but US\$42 at Amazon.com.



## Designer barbie

ONE OF THE BIGGEST design companies in the world, **Pentagram**, has regularly gone outside its logo work and created products. One is the **Fuego barbecue**, which has been the topic of the new Discovery Channel series *The Launch*, which follows the development process of a product through to its public unveiling.

'Our goal was to look beyond the expected function of a barbecue, and instead explore the emotional aspects of the cooking experience,' said Robert Brunner, Pentagram partner and former head of industrial design at Apple Computer. 'Using an outdoor grill is as much about the social interaction with guests and the personal performance of the cook. We believe we have really embraced the essence of these ideas in the Fuego barbecue design.'

Who says socializing around the barbie is strictly antipodean?

*The Launch* débuts April 29, 2004 on the Discovery Channel.



# A welcome form of Snobbery

The Toyota Prius has become the Hollywood set's darling car. But hybrids have been around for over 20 years. Why is the Prius the "it" car now? Simply style, says **Jack Yan**

**L**UCIRE PREDICTED correctly in late December that this would be one of the cars to be seen in for 2004. During the Oscars, Sting, Charlize Theron, Marcia Gay Harden, Tim Robbins and Susan Sarandon, Robin Williams, Will Ferrell, Jack Black—and, as originally announced by Global Green USA, Keisha Castle-Hughes—would forgo arriving in limousines and turn up in Toyota Priuses, cars that run on both electricity and petrol. Several weeks after the Academy Awards, Tom Hanks told David Letterman on *The Late Show* that he was 'saving America' with his Prius. And that's just the tip of the melting iceberg.

It's admittedly not that new to New Zealanders. Keisha might not have been around when hybrid cars were fairly commonplace in the 1980s, running on natural gas and petrol. But, as usual, it took a Japanese company to make the idea of a hybrid car globally mainstream, especially one that works so well.

Toyota knew its original Prius was on the wimpy side and gave the new one more power and more space, even if you still won't take one to drag-race at the traffic lights. You won't really care about being left behind because you're getting 60 mpg (EPA city estimate). You know that second-hand ones probably won't have been thrashed. And stylistically, Toyota has got it right.

We haven't always been fans of what Toyota has made, but at least it didn't make warplanes like another Japanese automaker. In our 'Car to Be Seen in' feature in December, two Toyotas—the Camry and the Australian-market Avalon Mark III—made the 'Car Not to Be Seen in' list. For many years, Toyota cars lacked style. Its advertising catchword, after all, is 'everyday'.

The problem seemed to be that Toyota had not understood that consumers wanted chic. Never mind how clever the technology, no one was going to buy a Prius apart from a Hollywood set exhibiting a welcome form of oneupmanship: green snobbery. The first Prius never made any *Lucire* style list, mainly because it looked like a cross between a toy car,

a box and a 1975 Corolla, with its little air vents behind the rear doors.

But you've got to hand it to the big company, whose revenues are startlingly close to the entire GDP of New Zealand, for making being green so desirable. It might have finally cracked occidental tastes, too, especially now that it has non-Japanese executives in the top tier.

First was the supermini, called anything from Vitz and Platz to Yaris and Echo, depending on where you live. Designed in Europe—with a good number coming out of a French plant—it was the sign of a renaissance from a manufacturer whose last truly desirable product was the 2000 GT used in the 1967 James Bond movie *You Only Live Twice*.

The Corolla got the extreme makeover next and that's cleaning up globally, so much so that Toyota pipped Ford to become the world's number-two automaker in 2003, before its president, Fujio Cho, kindly excluded its Chinese and Indonesian sales and said it was number three.

Now it's the Prius's turn. It's not Yaris-funky, but we love how there's almost a straight line rising from the front of the car up to a peak at the roof. Then it goes back down toward the hatch. It's a balanced design.

The messages this body conveys aren't just high-tech. If anything, the new Prius's look conveys space. The glasshouse gives the interior an airy, light feeling, including the slit of glass beneath the rear spoiler, increasing visibility when parking. It's the exact opposite to the unfashionable SUV or the 13 mpg Hummer: there, the design is about showing off how big the engine is, with a long bonnet and less of the length of the vehicle devoted to the automotive ingredient that matters most: people.

Inside, the Prius gets funkier, with some ideas borrowed from European minivans such as the Renault Espace and Fiat Multipla, with the central speedometer and a dashboard-mounted gearshift. And, as the marketing has been telling us, the cheeky green 'Start' ignition button, signalling just when you begin to save the environment.

At the time of writing, Toyota's American web site reports a shortage. The factory's churning them out at 3,000 a month, but it's not enough. It's not easy being green, but for once, it is stylish. •

## Sneeze-free zone

The Ford Focus C-MAX, the compact minivan that forms the basis of the next Ford Focus, has been given a seal of approval from TÜV Rheinland in Köln, Germany for being allergy-safe. It's the first time that independent experts have certified that a car interior consists of materials that reduce the risk of allergies to the lowest possible level. Ford abstained from using materials such as latex or nickel, while equipping the Focus C-MAX with a high-performance pollen filter, also certified by the TÜV. Ford's European VP for product development, Derrick Kuzak, says he wants all Fords to meet the TÜV standards. Whether or not it'll mean you can leave the Claratyne at home is open to question, however.



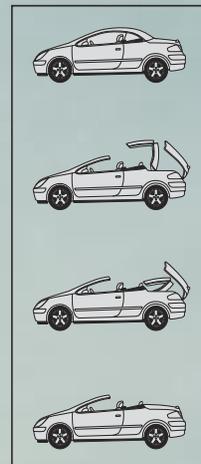
The new Peugeot 307CC gives you the luxury of a stylish 4-seater coupé under a hard steel roof, then 25 seconds later the exhilaration of a sleek convertible. So practical, and all at the touch of a button! From just \$51,990, plus on-road costs. Take a test drive at your nearest Peugeot centre, call 0800 Peugeot or visit [www.peugeot.co.nz](http://www.peugeot.co.nz)

THE DRIVE OF YOUR LIFE

**307 CC**



**PEUGEOT**



**SO PRACTICAL**



## The scene

seen | where to be seen | upcoming events



**ABOVE:** After the Pepe Arellano Pasarela Gaudí autumn–winter 2004–5 show, with Cate Blanchett. **ABOVE RIGHT:** The dancers who opened the Arellano show with the designer. **RIGHT:** Cate Blanchett with Pepe Arellano.



## Pepe Arellano

**Barcelona** THE MODA BARCELONA shows at Pasarela Gaudí had some Hollywood themes: Toypes built its autumn–winter 2004–5 collection around the idea of *Breakfast at Tiffany's* with its own Holly Golightlys and more colour than Givenchy imagined.

But there was a real Hollywood connection. Pepe Arellano's show toward the end of the week was known for the appearance of a seven-month-pregnant **Cate Blanchett**, somewhat overshadowing the urban jungle-inspired designs.

Blanchett—a friend of Arellano and a regular wearer of the Spanish label—came out on the catwalk afterwards from her front-row seat. Word has it that Arellano wished her to model, but being seven months' pregnant, Blanchett declined. Instead, she presented him with a bouquet wearing, of course, one of Arellano's more traditional, well tailored designs.—JACK YAN

## Sundance buzz

**Sundance, Utah** EACH YEAR, more films coming out of Sundance make an impact on both the Oscars and box office receipts. Films that got their start at its Film Festival include *Reservoir Dogs*, *Hoop Dreams*, *Memento*, *The Full Monty*, *Shine*, *In the Bedroom*, *The Good Girl*, *Dogtown and Z-Boyz*, and *American Splendor*.

Highlighted movies this year include **Garden State**, starring **Natalie Portman** and **Zach Braff** of *Scrubs*. Zach also wrote and directed this fun, yet slightly dark, film.

**The Woodsman** comes from producer Lee Daniels of *Monster's Ball*. It stars **Kevin Bacon** and **Kyra Sedgwick** and handles the difficult subject of recovering child molesters. An extremely dangerous role for Bacon to play, but he does a great job with it and could come away with an Oscar nomination next year. First-time director Nicole Kassell puts together a quiet but powerful film.

In **Riding Giants**, **Stacy Peralta**, producer of skate documentary *Dogtown and Zboyz*, provides some great stories about big-wave surfing. The film mixes some hilarious from old-timers as well as thoughts from current big-wave surfers; the waves look beautiful and menacing at the same time.

Awards were handed out to numerous films, including **We Don't Live Here Anymore**, starring **Naomi Watts** and **Mark Ruffalo**, taking home the Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award.—DEVIN COLVIN



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Stacy Peralta, director of *Riding Giants*. Kevin Bacon, producer Lee Daniels, Benjamin Bratt, David Alan Grier of *The Woodsman*. Kyra Sedgwick. André 3000 from Outkast. The Egyptian Theatre and marquee on Main Street, Park City. Naomi Watts and *Lucire's* Devin Colvin. Mark Ruffalo. J. Mackye Gruber, director of *The Butterfly Effect*. Peter Krause from *Six Feet Under*. Kyle McLachlan.



## Five years at New York Fashion Week

**Lucire** took the opportunity to celebrate five years at New York Fashion Week at an event put together by Roderick Nixon of **Nitro, Inc.** at the **Thom Bar** at the **60 Thompson Hotel**.

With **Lucire's** associate publisher Ann Fryer helping our own table and the event hosted by model **Azza Satti** (from the recent L'Oréal hair products' campaign) and **Sincerely Ward** (*2 Fast 2 Furious*),



the Thom Bar event was a highlight for the team during a very hectic New York Fashion Week.

**Star Jones** from *The View* and **Adriana Kaegi** (accessories' designer and founder of the Kid Creole and the Cocomuts band) attended as we announced the possibility of a print edition for launch later this year. We also were pleased to see **Lulu** from ID Models, just in from Paris, and **Jeff** from Wilhemina Models, who came from Detroit.

We thank Nitro for making this possible, and for the connections made by our former associate publisher, Portia Holt.

Our thanks, too, to the **60 Thompson Hotel**, **Stolichnaya Russian Vodka** and **GirlsHangingOut.com**.

### On the web

Moda Barcelona

[www.lucire.com/2003/fall2004/0323feo.shtml](http://www.lucire.com/2003/fall2004/0323feo.shtml)

**Lucire** celebrates five years at New York Fashion Week

[www.lucire.com/2004a/0306llo.shtml](http://www.lucire.com/2004a/0306llo.shtml)

Devin Colvin's full Sundance report

[www.lucire.com/2004a/0329llo.shtml](http://www.lucire.com/2004a/0329llo.shtml)

MAC Viva Glam V campaign launch

[www.lucire.com/2004a/0418llo.shtml](http://www.lucire.com/2004a/0418llo.shtml)

Zang Toi fall-winter 2004-5

[www.lucire.com/2003/fall2004/0320feo.shtml](http://www.lucire.com/2003/fall2004/0320feo.shtml)

## One lipstick can make a difference

**New York** WHAT EXACTLY can buying a US\$14 tube of MAC Viva Glam lipstick do to help fight the 3 million Aids deaths annually? The proceeds from one Viva Glam lipstick make it possible to (a) take care of the food, shelter, basic medical care and schooling needs of one child orphaned by Aids in Africa for a whole month; (b) it pays for the food and containers for seven meals for God's Love We Deliver clients in New York City; (c) it pays for the taxi fare enabling a Casey House Hospice resident to attend a doctor's appointment in Toronto, Canada; (d) it helps to defray the cost of one treatment education session for a newly diagnosed person with HIV-Aids in Los Angeles; or (e) it pays for one week's worth of formulae for a child living with HIV-Aids in Vancouver, Canada. And these examples are just the tip of the iceberg, said **John Dempsey**, President of MAC Cosmetics and Chairman of the MAC Aids Fund at the launch of the Viva Glam V campaign.

**Christina Aguilera**, **Missy Elliott**, **Chloë Sevigny** (*Boys Don't Cry*), **Linda Evangelista** and **Boy George** are the new spokespeople for the new Viva Glam V campaign designed by MAC's in-house creative team and shot by fashion photographer **Michael Thompson**. They all exemplify the MAC motto: 'All Races, All Sexes, All Ages, All MAC.'

Viva Glam V is a sheen-filled neutral pink (lustre) lipstick (US\$14/C\$16) and its sister prod-



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:** MAC's John Dempsey unveils the Viva Glam V campaign's Michael Thompson photographs. Missy Elliott, Linda Evangelista holds up the Viva Glam V lipstick. Chloë Sevigny, Christina Aguilera, Boy George. **FAR ABOVE LEFT:** Azza Satti, Sincerely Ward, Ann Fryer, Lulu from ID Models and Jeff from Wilhemina Models. **INSET:** Star Jones and friend at the Thom Bar party.

uct, a slick glossy mid-tone neutral (frost) lip gloss (US\$13.50/C\$16), which hit all of MAC's 750 free-standing beauty boutiques worldwide in April, as well as Bloomingdale's, Bon Marché, Brown Thomas, Dillard's, Filene's, Henri Bendel, Buena Vista, the Mitsukoshi Group, the Selfridges Group, Parisian, Printemps, Saks Fifth Avenue, El Palacio Group, Harvey Nichols, Ka De Ve, Hertie Department Stores, Sogo, the House of Fraser Group, Macy's East & West, and C. K. Tang, who have waived all administrative costs and profits to be a part of this great endeavour.—PHILLIP D. JOHNSON

## Zang Toi



**ABOVE:** Farrah Fawcett, backstage (left), and front of house (right). **RIGHT:** Patti La Belle and Zang Toi.

**New York** ONE OF NEW YORK'S brightest stars, designer **Zang Toi**, had two VIPs in his audience at his fall 2004 show: actress **Farrar Fawcett** and **Patti La Belle**. Zang Toi earned one of two standing ovations during the week for his catwalk show, as witnessed by **Lucire** features' editor Phillip D. Johnson—the other was for Chado Ralph Rucci.



# Fashion out west



**Los Angeles** WHILE OUR Los Angeles Fashion Week fall-winter report won't appear till the next issue of *Lucire* (for updates, see our web site), but we have rushed in these exclusive photographs from our David Lee.

**Jenni Kayne's** show on the second day saw one of the greats, two-time Oscar winner **Dustin Hoffman**, in the front row, with *Starsky & Hutch's* nice-guy actor **Owen Wilson**. **Jack Osborne** was there in the front row, too, apparently.

Lee and our San Francisco and LAFW correspondent Catherine Rigod also spotted Chinese actress **Bai Ling** (*Face*) at **Lloyd Klein** and at **Tyler**. Klein, as web readers will know, had a car crash in France just prior to his NYFW show and instead made his US fall-winter debut in Los Angeles, boosting the week's events.

Tyler, designed by couturier **Richard Tyler**, was magnet for many celebs, giving LAFW more attention in competing with New York. We spotted **Tia Carrere**, **Dominique Swain**, **Melissa George**, **Brooke Burke**, **Kelly Rowland**, **Lisa Rinna** and **Jaime Pressly** there, too.

**Sharon Stone** and **Kathy Griffin** were spotted by us at **Sheri Bodell**; **Angie Harmon** also attended. To the right of Sharon was her sister **Kelly Stone**, all in the front row.



**TOP LEFT:** Owen Wilson (*Starsky & Hutch*) and Oscar winner Dustin Hoffman (*Runaway Jury*; *Meet the Fockers*). **ABOVE:** Bai Ling (*Face*), one of cinema's fast-rising stars. **LEFT:** Always glamorous: Tia Carrere (*Back in the Day*; *Lilo & Stitch*). **BELOW:** Sharon Stone (*Cold Creek Manor*; *Catwoman*) and comedienne Kathy Griffin (*Average Joe*).

## Making a scene

### 4.04 *Game Face: What Does a Female Athlete Look Like?*

This ground-breaking exhibition was covered by *Lucire* in 2001, and now it's moved to Manhattan. It debuted April 15 at the World Financial Center Courtyard Gallery. The exhibition, part of the World Financial Center Arts & Events' spring 2004 programme, will be on display free to the public through June 6, with the support of MassMutual Financial Group including OppenheimerFunds, Inc. See [www.gamefaceonline.org](http://www.gamefaceonline.org).

### *Dangerous Liaisons: Fashion and Furniture in the Eighteenth Century*

New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art's newest exhibition opens April 29 and continues through August 8 in the Wrightsman Galleries, sponsored by Asprey and Condé Nast Publications. Read more about it at *Lucire*, at [www.lucire.com/2004a/0317llo.shtml](http://www.lucire.com/2004a/0317llo.shtml), where we spied *Vogue's* Anna Wintour (right) at the preview.



**Shifting Times** The classic shift dress has been taken by fashion students from the University of Derby and brought back to life in *Shifting Times*, an exhibition at Pickford's House Museum, Derby, England. It will run until June. Pickford's House Museum is open Monday 11 A.M. to 5 P.M., Tuesday to Saturday 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. and on Sunday 2 to 5 P.M.

### 5.04 *Unbranded* *Lucire's* Briar Shaw's latest photo exhibition at the Corban Estate Arts' Centre, 'Opportunity Shop Project', one half of the Gallery's *Wallpaper* exhibition, uses items recycled from the Red Cross shop in New Lynn. Runs through May 23 at the Corban Estate Arts' Centre, 426 Great North Road, Henderson, Waitakere, New Zealand.

**6.04 *FiFi Awards*** On June 9, the beauty industry will fête its fragrance stars with the 39th annual FiFi Awards in NYC. Consumers can both attend the awards (see [www.fragrance.org](http://www.fragrance.org)) as well as vote for their favourite fragrances. *Cosmopolitan*, *CosmoGirl!* and Nordstrom will participate in the first "consumers' choice" awards.

Fashion icon Oscar de la Renta and *Vogue* publisher Tom Florio head the 2004 FiFi Committee. Jennifer Lopez, Céline Dion, Ralph Lauren, Carolina Herrera, Diane Von Furstenberg, Narciso Rodriguez, Stella McCartney and Kenneth Cole all have signature fragrances nominated for the coveted Fragrance of the Year awards.

**7.04 *Carson's city*** If Carson Kressley's there, then it must be fashionable. The *Queer Eye* cast member will host the North American Hairstyling Awards at 8 P.M. on Saturday, July 17 at the Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino in Las Vegas. The \$75 admission includes the after-party.

For more bulletins, visit [www.lucire.com/news.shtml](http://www.lucire.com/news.shtml).

## After the Oscars



### **Hollywood** WE SPOTTED **Christina Aguilera** and **Rita Wilson**

wearing one of our favourite Brazilian designers' creations: a Carlos Miele black chiffon dress and a Carlos Miele pink chiffon dress with crochet flower respectively, at Nicole Kidman's post-Oscar breast cancer charity event. Naturally, we got a pic that includes Rita's husband, **Tom Hanks**. Miele is a cause-driven designer whose clothing helps the women at Rocinha, a Brazilian shanty-town.

# Think pink

**Susan Kelly** with her astrology column with a difference. This month: why is there so much pink around? And what other cycles are there? The stars reveal the answers

Susan Kelly is Montréal editor of *Lucire* and chairs Astrology Montréal.

**T**HINK PINK! The catch-phrase, usually attributed to Diana Vreeland, iconoclastic and legendary *Vogue* editor of the 1960s, resurfaces in fashion circles with great regularity.

Love it or hate it, the hue is hard to escape now, seen in everything from the latest Ikea gimcrack to pair of divine Manolos to frothy spring couture frock. And if you think this preoccupation is naught but a passing fancy, think again: pink continues its reign as the *couleur du jour* on fall 2004 runways, deepening to a deep rose or rich raspberry.

But why pink? And why now?

Everyone agrees fashion trends go through cycles. Astrology is the study of cycles, as reflected in astronomical points. It's also a tool for looking more deeply into things. Perhaps astrology provides a hint as to why this of all the colours in the spectrum should resonate in the collective consciousness.

In astrology, pink is associated with Venus. And, since they tend to be both romantics and aesthetes, the signs of Taurus and Libra. It's the colour little girls traditionally were dressed in, all sweetness, all light. Colour therapists tell us it's the shade of self-nurturing and acceptance, of unconditional compassion. Shell and rose pink, especially, are thought to kick-start the romantic impulse. And metaphysicians deem pink to symbolize love in its purest, most essential form.

Since early 2003, all denizens of the planet have been dealing with the Taurus–Scorpio polarity through what are known as lunar nodes. Eastern and western astrologers dicker about the exact significance of this astronomical point. But both agree on one thing: they have to do with heavy-duty, karmic issues.

The Scorpio side is the path of least resistance. And it's all around us in extremism in all its many splendour. An impulse to push all limits in the name of love or material gain, even if it means playing dirty pool to gain our heart's desire. The rise and fall and rise again of power-versus-survival issues. Part and parcel is a hyper-sexually charged atmosphere (the Britney–Madonna kiss, JJ's 'Nipplegate', images that border on bondage everywhere). And this polarity is with us until 2005. Yikes!

Could not pink be an unconscious yearning for the Taurus side? We astrologers say the north node in that sign is exactly what brings us balance and growth now. Pink is pure love. 'I felt pure and sweet as a new baby,' Sylvia Plath. Harmony, simplicity—as the Beatles once said, when all is said and done, all you need is love. Love that needs no justification or rationalization. Love that exists for its own sweet sake alone.

In this light, I say go ahead and think pink. Go further and wear it, take a bubble bath in it, deck the halls with it. Looking at the world through rose-coloured glasses, considering the pressure to see only the darker, seamier side, becomes an act of ultimate courage and vision. Qualities Ms Vreeland had in spades. •



**Part and parcel is a hyper-sexually charged atmosphere (the Britney–Madonna kiss, JJ's 'Nipplegate', images that border on bondage everywhere)**



**TOP:** Pink in New Zealand fashion. **FAR LEFT:** Mireia Bisbe in Barcelona. **LEFT:** Nadja Toto in Montréal. **ABOVE RIGHT:** More pink: the Pink Panther celebrates his 40th birthday.

# 'Is that single- or double-breasted, Madam?'

One breast cancer survivor's fashion solution, in her own words  
 BY Annette Holt-Siketa

**F**ROM 9 TO 10, everyone remembers where they were on September 11, 2001. But for many people, that day will live in their memories not only because of the barbaric act of terrorism, but for other things that happened in their lives on that day. For me, I'll remember it because it was the day I was diagnosed with breast cancer.

From that day on, my life and career took a very different course. One which has taught me, from both a professional and personal point, to stop and 'smell the roses'.

Prior to that day, I was a relatively successful dressmaker-designer of evening and bridal gowns. Like many others, I was trying to get myself a small corner of this huge industry we call 'fashion'. I'd won a handful of awards, and catered more for the individual rather than the mass market. Little did I know just how much this ability would come into play later on.

In a macabre way I was lucky: my cancer was not hormonal based, it seems it was just bad luck. No history of it in the family, it seems I just got it, it grew, it had to be cut out.

Like many women who have found themselves in a similar position, my first reaction was, 'Why me?' Naturally, you try to think of just how you got it or how you could have been exposed to it. But there very rarely is an answer to those questions.

You don't stop to think about the peripheral issues that will follow you.

When the doctor pronounces that you have severe (grade 3) cancer and if it's not operated on soon, your life expectancy is very low, everything else pales into insignificance.

I still had some design work to do while all this was going on around me, but to be honest, my heart wasn't in it. All the procedures, follow-up treatment and after-effects had been explained to me. I knew I was in for the fight of my life. Indeed, it was the fight for my life.

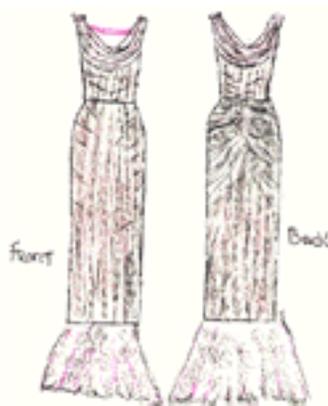
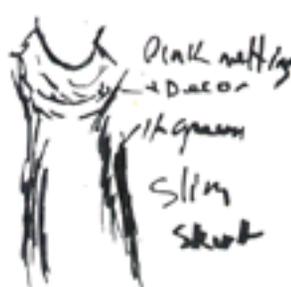
Anyone who has had, or has seen the affects of, chemotherapy will know just how much it knocks you around. The embarrassing hair loss, the constant incipid nausea, the lethargy; some days you just want to crawl into a corner and break down.

Yet the human spirit is quite a remarkable thing. Just when you think you can't put up with any more, a little voice inside your head says, 'Don't let it win,' and from somewhere inside, you find the strength to carry on the fight. I don't think it's will-power so much; rather, it's your own sense of survival that somehow tells your brain not to give in.

The support of your family and friends is very important. But remember, they are victims, too, for it is they who have to watch you suffer. They feel helpless and useless, and they want to take your pain away. Yet their presence and understanding is, I think, a large part of your cure.

I firmly believe that the "emotional and psychological medicine" is just as important as the physical kind. As a good friend said to me, 'Cancer is a word, not a sentence.'

Whilst I was battling all these elements, little did I realize the new path I was carving out for myself. I thoroughly expected to pull through and carry on where I left off.



In the works by the author: the undergown is made from baby pink satin, with overgown black lace. Front bodice neckline is higher than the back, with the lace folds strategically placed to cover the chest area. Skirt is three-quarter length, with pink ruffle heavily embellished with pearls, sequins and diamantes. **TOP LEFT:** Concept and design sketches. **LEFT:** Back "diamond" embellishment. **TOP:** Left shoulder-bodice. above: Detail of ruffle embellishment.

If you have never seen a mastectomy scar, I suggest you visit a reputable anti-cancer or breast cancer web site. But *be warned*: it's not a pretty sight. For those of you who are squeamish, I'll try and describe it.

Generally, most scars begin at the breast bone (either slightly left or right of the chest centre, depending on which breast has been removed), and continue across the chest in a relatively straight line, usually finishing up just under the armpit. I'm a small-framed sized 12 but my scar still measures nearly 6 in (15 cm).

There are a number of prosthetic devices available, including actual

breast implants, and false latex breasts which you simply insert into a bra.

Unfortunately, some women, like me, can't endure either. The reasons for this are varied, but generally it's the scar itself. The position of the scar means that it rubs against the bottom edge of a bra. Hence, you can't wear a bra at all, or can only wear one for a short period of time. This is not true for all women, but it is a common after-effect.

The first inkling I had that my fashion direction was about to change was during the long hot Australian summer, post-surgery. A situation occurred which gave me a large dose of reality.

It quickly became apparent that I could no longer wear many of my clothes, all those figure-hugging tops, summer dresses and the like. I simply did not have the figure for them anymore. And all those magnificent evening gowns I'd designed and made over the years—forget it.

Women simply don't need an excuse to go shopping, but if ever they did, then I had one. My local Salvation Army shop didn't know quiet what to make of all the "fancy" clothes I gave them. I then started to shop around for garments that would accommodate my now lop-sided torso. But my enthusiasm was short-lived when I found very little. In fact, the closest item I found for my slight size 12 frame was a size 18 T-shirt.

Despondent, I was sitting contemplating my situation when it suddenly hit me. Why didn't I put my design skills to work, and make my own? This not only made practical sense, it was also good therapy.

My mission statement to myself was very simple: design garments that covered my disfigurement without compromising femininity. The bodice shape and neckline would be paramount to achieving this.

I began to work with renewed vigour. Pulling out all my old sketches, redesigning garments so they could be worn comfortably. Looking at patterns and assessing if they could be altered or if I'd have to create new ones, re-examining fabrics and how they could best be used. It was like I'd been given a new lease on life. I had a ball!

It seems my own need for clothes to fit a single-breasted woman has now spurned a cottage industry for me, for I now cater for single- and non-breasted women. "Self-esteem" seems to be the most important factor as no matter what garments a mastectomy victim wears, she still knows she has only one breast, and that she has to be satisfied that no-one can see that.

It amazes me that the fashion industry, in general, has ignored women who fall into this category. We may have lost part of our body, but we're still women, still beautiful, and still, perhaps more so, need to feel it.

OK, so I can never wear a strapless dress again, but in many respects, I've got something better. Clothes designed by me, made by me, and worn by me. And that makes me feel darned good!

Only a woman can truly understand the emotional, psychological and physical impact losing a breast can have. I make no apologies for that statement because it is absolutely true. •

Annette Holt-Siketa can be reached at [anns@adam.com.au](mailto:anns@adam.com.au). Her web site is at <http://fire.prohosting.com/mummsy>.



## Where it all began

This May at *Lucire's* Webby Award-nominated web site at [www.lucire.com](http://www.lucire.com), don't miss out on our designer-by-designer reviews from New York Fashion Week by Phillip D. Johnson and photographed by Richard Spiegel and Cheryl Gorski—the most in-depth analyses you'll get for fall 2004 for free on the 'net.

We're continuing to follow Central St Martin's student **Alice Coral** as we support her to her graduation show in London.

There are the full-text versions of some of the articles in this issue, such as **Jack Yan's** three-part **Moda Barcelona** reviews and **Tiago E. Santo's Moda Lisboa** story. Plus you'll see part of **Catherine Rigod's Olympus Los Angeles Fashion Week** coverage.

**Pameladevi Govinda** travels to London and get the hip and happening bars in town.

**Devin Colvin** has his picks on the season's CDs and movies.

There are our web exclusives, such as the full story on **H&M's summer swimwear** and the **Heart Truth's** red dress catwalk show, hosted by **Patti Hansen** and featuring **Beverly Johnson, Vanessa Williams, Ana Beatriz Barros, Natalia Vodianova** and more.

Access selected articles in our archives dating back to 1997, when we first started.

Don't miss our online **competitions**, interact with *Lucire* staff at the **StyleTalk** forum and even suggest future stories, get **relationship advice** from Answerology, go online **shopping**, **subscribe** to online emailouts and the print edition when it's released and, next quarter, **book your travel online**. Check in to [www.lucire.com](http://www.lucire.com) for all of this and more.



yours in the new piccolo

