

STRONG LINE-UP FOR NEWGEN SPONSORSHIP

The British Fashion Council (BFC) is once again awarding 15 of London's brightest emerging fashion design talents its NEWGEN sponsorship, enabling the designers to showcase their collections at next month's London Fashion Week.

The initiative, supported by Topshop, includes catwalk, presentation, installation and exhibition sponsorship. For 2012, Holly Fulton has once again secured catwalk sponsorship, along with David Koma (pictured), Michael van der Ham, JW Anderson, JJS Lee and newcomer Simone Rocha. Christopher Raeburn and Thomas Tait received the presentation sponsorship, and Nazir Mazhar and SISTER by SIBLING are receiving installation sponsorship.

Exhibition sponsorship, meanwhile, goes to Huishan Zhang, James Long, Lucas Nascimento, palmer//harding and Tim Soar.



TOMMY HILFIGER SIGNS NEW LICENSING DEAL

Tommy Hilfiger will wholesale both its men's and women's catwalk collections after signing a distribution deal for autumn/winter 2012.

The Tommy Hilfiger Group has agreed to a deal with manufacturing and licensing firm Ittierre Spa to license runway collections from its autumn 2012 and spring 2013 pre-collections. Ittierre will produce and distribute apparel and the majority of accessories, with distribution concentrated in Europe, North America and Asia. Under this agreement, distribution of the runway collections will extend from Tommy Hilfiger retail stores to include high-end wholesale, online and speciality retailers.

Following the Group's presentations during New York Fashion Week in February, the collections will be sold in six showrooms throughout Europe, North America and Asia. "We are thrilled to enter into this licensing agreement with Ittierre, which will allow us to broaden our upper tier global distribution," says Fred Gehring, CEO of The Tommy Hilfiger Group. "The repositioning and elevation of the brand has led to an increase in the demand for our runway collection. Partnering with Ittierre is a wonderful opportunity to reach new customers and further evolve our most elevated expression of preppy American classics with a twist."

FASHION'S GREAT IN NEW YEAR'S HONOURS

Lulu Kennedy, founder of the Fashion East initiative, has received an MBE for services to the fashion industry in The Queen's New Year's Honours list. She was joined by John and Annoushka Ayton, the brains behind luxury jewellery retailer Links of London, who were also awarded MBEs. Meanwhile, designer Barbara Hulanicki, founder of legendary 60s store Biba, received an OBE for services to fashion, as did shoe designer Emma Hope and Christopher Inman, the BFC's honorary treasurer, who each received an OBE. Donald John MacKay, founder of Luskentyre Harris Tweed, was also awarded an OBE for services to the Harris Tweed industry.

MAKE IT IN GREAT BRITAIN CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

Heads of industry from world-leading UK companies are backing a new government campaign to highlight the best of modern British manufacturing at an exhibition during the Olympic Games. Business secretary Vince Cable and business minister Mark Prisk launched the Make it in Great Britain campaign last month, which aims to promote UK manufacturing and dispel the myth that Britain "doesn't make anything anymore." The exhibition will take place at the Science Museum and will run from 24 July to 9 September.

OWEN BARRY IS DISTINCTLY BRITISH

Accessories brand Owen Barry, which has been producing sheepskin and leather products from its traditional workshop in Street, Somerset, since 1948, is promoting its commitment to British craftsmanship with the launch of a new brand identity and website. To coincide with the launch, the label is offering over 20 of its bestselling styles in popular on-trend skins as a ready-to-order stock programme. Retailers are able to view all of the 2012 collections together with the full colour palette at www.owenbarry.com.