

essential



# Fashion police

Lara Zamiatin

## Plot? What about the shoes?

Patricia Field (pictured right), the flame-haired costume designer famous for dressing *Sex And The City's* fab four in some of the most wonderfully outlandish gear ever to grace the small screen, doesn't actually have a fashion philosophy. "I just make people look gorgeous and interesting," says the straight-talking New Yorker.

Fashion police caught up with Field when she was in town promoting her capsule collection for Myer (launching in October). With the *Sex And The City* movie hitting Australian screens next week, the question of just what Carrie Bradshaw and co will be wearing, however, is more pressing.

For many, the oodles of trinkets and acres of designer fabrics that will be sported by the women far outweigh the importance of such fussy things as the movie's plot and themes. Naturally, Field remains tight-lipped on the costume particulars.

She is, however, open to discussing Bradshaw's predicament if, shock horror, our heroine still doesn't end up legally wed to her beloved Mr Big (despite the well-publicised – and possibly fake – white wedding spoiler shots we all have seen on a trillion websites).

"Carrie could have a gigantic sample sale [from her wardrobe]" as a consolation prize, Field says. "Actually, in the movie she's written a book so she's moved up there. Now she doesn't have to beg or borrow designer clothes. She can actually go into a store and buy them herself."



## Bespoke Avakian

Daniel Avakian is a former tow-truck driver with an eponymous label only two seasons old but the Sydney designer nevertheless has grand plans: he has just launched a bespoke service. Catering mainly to women – and the odd male looking for a custom-made trench coat – Avakian promises to adapt clothes from his spring-summer 2008-09 Dystopic Runaway collection or create garments from scratch.

"We're a new label," he says. "Wholesale works in massive volumes and we're only available in a few little boutiques. With a bespoke service, we can familiarise ourselves with our customers." And, he adds, "I shouldn't say this but I love meeting women." For details, phone MLPR on 9319 3000.

## Counterfeit Linney

Having worked for 15 years as an international model, the Australian artist Tanya Linney understands the smoke and mirrors-style deception of airbrushed images in the fashion glossies. Poking fun at society's current fixation with picture-perfect celebrities, Linney's second photographic exhibition, *Counterfeit*, is a tongue-in-cheek display of mannequins dolled up in stockings, make-up, masks and fake hair (pictured left).

Linney explains her take on the state of fashion: "The messages that come across are really quite dark but I photographed everything in a really

beautiful, opaque light. I wanted to emphasise the issues in an ironic way. That way you can laugh at everything at the same time." *Counterfeit* runs from June 4 to 8, Mary Place Gallery, 12 Mary Place, Paddington, 9332 1875.

## Big plans, little details

Allison Berger is a young Sydney designer with grandiose ambitions. The 22-year-old graduate of Raffles College of Design and Commerce is planning a move overseas in September to commence her masters degree in fashion at the London College of Fashion. Two of her final-year creations, meanwhile, have been selected for the coming Student Fashion Display at the Powerhouse Museum.

Inspired by the startling mix'n'match collages of the dada artist, Kurt Schwitters, Berger's designs have a hand-crafted aesthetic (pictured right). Insisting that her hand-embroidered clothes in no way veer towards any out-moded boho territory, Berger explains: "I use a lot of layering and applique. It's the attention to detail that adds depth to the clothes."

The exhibition runs from May 31 to September 14. Powerhouse Museum, 500 Harris Street, Ultimo, 9217 0111.

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