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March 21, 2010

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Sunday

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SCOTLAND'S BIGGEST-SELLING SUNDAY

TOP DESIGNER RAVES



Gown: Amanda shows Kirsty Young stunning wedding dress

EXCLUSIVE By HEATHER GREENAWAY

DESIGN queen Amanda Wakeley has dressed some of the world's most famous women... but her toughest challenge will be helping to judge the 2010 Scottish Fashion Awards.

Amanda, 48, whose stunning designs have graced red carpets all over the world for more than a decade, says she is honoured to be involved in the event, which is celebrating its fifth anniversary.

The glamorous designer, whose label is available in Frasers and Harvey Nichols, said: "Scotland has so much to celebrate when it comes to fashion, from up-and-coming designers to models and textiles.

"Scottish designers excite me and I make a point of watching shows by Christopher Kane and Graeme Black. Scotland is oozing with talent and these awards are a great way to showcase them."

Amanda admits she cannot resist Scottish cashmere and uses it often in her elegant garments.

She said: "I think it has to do with **Shining designs: Hayden Panettierre, top, and Christine Bleakley wear Wakeley and fashion awards queen Tessa Hartman, left**



ABOUT FASHION NORTH OF BORDER

SCOTS ARE SO STYLISH I LOVE HOW WOMEN GET ALL DRESSED UP BEFORE THEY GO TO THE SHOPS

the old-fashioned techniques used to mill and weave the wool and the softness of the water.

"I'm yet to use tartan in my gowns as it is not in keeping with my simple styles. But I'm interested in tracking down the Wakeley tartan of my Scots ancestors."

Amanda, whose spring-summer collection attracted the biggest crowds at London Fashion Week in February, says she finds Glasgow extremely fashionable.

She said: "I come up to Scotland quite a bit to see the stores that stock my label and I was enchanted to watch the women of Glasgow getting all gammed up to go late-night shopping on a Thursday."

The fashion guru, who has dressed Hayden Panettiere, Amanda Seyfried and Dame Helen Mirren, says she loves making clothes for inspiring women.

Amanda, who has won three British Fashion Awards, said: "All the celebs I have designed for are inspiring individuals who celebrate womanhood."

Avatar actress Zoe Saldana has just requested another dress. If I could pick one Scots celeb to design for, it would be Tilda Swinton as she has a great style of her own.

"I met Princess Diana several times before she died. She was the first of the real style icons."

"Hollywood royalty has taken over where she left off for setting trends and inspiring fashion-conscious women."

Amanda made Scots newsreader Kirsty Young's wedding gown

and would love to make one for Kate Middleton if she ever gets hitched to Prince William.

She said: "Kirsty was one of the loveliest brides I have worked with."

"It's every designer's dream to do a high-profile wedding, especially a royal one."

In January, Amanda received an OBE for her services to fashion and charity work with the Fashion Targets Breast Cancer Appeal.

In May she will do a tandem sky dive over Oxfordshire with 19 other women to raise money for Breakthrough Cancer and said: "It's about facing our fears and we hope to raise half a million pounds for the charity's Booby Birds campaign."

Amanda will join nine other high-profile judges on the Scottish Fashion Awards panel, including Brian Duffy, president of Ralph Lauren Europe, Dolly Jones, editor of Vogue.com and Paula Reed, style director at Grazia.

The glittering ceremony at Glasgow Science Centre on June 20 will be hosted

by LA-based fashion presenter Louise Roe.

Event founder and producer Tessa Hartman said: "These awards honour the people who make Scotland a fashion leader on the world stage."

"They recognise the very best of Scottish fashion from designers, photographers, models, stylists, make-up artists, writers and fashion marketers and present a phenomenal opportunity for home-grown talent to showcase their work."

It is the first time the awards have come to Glasgow and Scott Taylor, chief executive of Glasgow City Marketing Bureau, said: "The city's unique flair and cutting-edge credentials make it the perfect fit for the Scottish Fashion Awards."

SECRETS OF AMANDA'S SUMMER COLLECTION

I've gone for bright, hot colours like coppers, saffrons and raspberries. I've been inspired by Indian chic and many of my dresses have lots of draping.

My outlines are accidental and float freely, adding a touch of cool to the designs. I've paired simple lines and fabrics with bold statement necklaces and bracelets. Camilla Skovgaard has made me sexy animal-print stilettos to set off my outfits.



Style: Amanda, left, and awards model, main

FOUR GREAT ROLE MODELS

THE four winners of the Scottish Fashion Awards Model of the Year have secured their place as style icons.

2009



Gillian Cook, 22, of Motherwell, has been a top model for seven years.

She has shot ads in Tokyo and is one of the country's most sought-after catwalk queens, working with Glasgow's Model Team agency since she was 15.

2008



Swede Emily McWilliam, 27, whose dad is from Edinburgh, has appeared in campaigns for L'Oréal, Bourjois, Kenzo and Toni & Guy.

She has also been the face of Garnier and the cover of Vogue.

2007



Bridgid McGraw, 25, of Ellon, Aberdeenshire, walked into a model agency while studying medicine at Edinburgh and was immediately taken on.

Months later, she was on the catwalk and doing shoots for Top Shop.

2006



Kirsty Hume, 33, of Ayr, hit the headlines when a columnist likened her to a Botticelli angel.

She has been on the cover of Vogue and Harper's Bazaar and has modelled for Gucci and Chanel.

