

STAR CENTRAL

THE
FASHION
ISSUE

VOOGII
FLOWER
TAKING THE FASHION
INDUSTRY BY STORM

MEET
VALERIA
SIZOVA

Photo Credit: Ray Bartholomeusz Photography



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Mobile: 0413080713 | Email: raybartholomeuszphotography@gmail.com

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Cover

Valeria Sizova

Find out more about this entrepreneur, dance instructor and Instagram superstar!



OPENING REMARKS



August marks the 13th-year anniversary of StarCentral magazine and we've certainly come a long way since 2006. Throughout the years we've met and spoken to so many up and coming and fascinating individuals, we've explored various mediums of expression and we've covered hundreds of amazing events thanks to our amazing contributors, supporters and team. As we put this issue to bed, I would like to thank God for giving us the strength and guidance throughout the years and I would also like to thank you all for your continued support, enthusiasm, dedication and passion towards our publication. Our business is only as good as the people who make it happen for our readers every day, and I know we have a tremendous team who gives me every confidence that we'll be able to maintain a strong performance throughout 2019 and beyond. God bless.

Mike Ilagan
Managing Director



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OOGII Flower
Get to know the entrepreneur who's taking the fashion world by storm!



EDITORIAL

Editor-in-chief
Jennifer Aluning

Managing Director
Mike Ilagan

Photographic & Art

Archie K, FIN Photography, Ash Narayan, Brendon Angelicall, Brooke B, Raymond Bartholomeusz, Gary Abella, John Mungcal, David Moore, Lisa Chan, Raf Flores, Thang

Marketing

Alex Abella, Krissy Anderson, Eileen Maynigo, Barnes Luz, Jason Harris, Stephanie Macabenta, Charles Chan, Albie P, Joanna Cubelo, Annabel Gottfried, John Esquerro, Michelle Palmer, Cam, Angelica Whitelaw, Joanne Azzi, Chevvy, Tricia Argeseanu, Zenaida G, Gerry Samaniego

Writers & Contributors

Anjelica Whitelaw, Shiwani Gurpah, Renae Smith, Holly Phillips, Jenny Hu, Charles Chan, Jill Antonio, Scott Murray, Vanessa Jensen, Leanne Harrison, Patricia Higgins, Judy Flynn, Angie, Katrina R, Joerisa, Rommel P, Christian Q, Christine Claire dela Pena, Dasein Catedrilla

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EDITOR'S NOTES

To say that it has been an honour being editor-in-chief for most of StarCentral's 13-years is an understatement. Meeting these artists and entrepreneurs has been an eye-opening and humbling experience. Seeing their drive, tenacity, and love for their craft is truly inspiring. Their chosen careers are not easy ones – it is often a rollercoaster ride. But they hold on to their dreams, put in the hard work and soon enough, they celebrate their successes. We at StarCentral are so grateful that you have chosen to take us on your journey with you. That you've let us take a peek into this world where creativity and dedication go hand-in-hand. Stay blessed on your journey forward.

Jenny Aluning
editor in chief

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GERMANI JEWELLERY

Germani has been established as an Italian Brand in Australia since 1985; Germani became a house hold name for Fine Jewellery since the exclusive sponsorship of a national TV show Sale of the Century for 13 years from 1988 to 2001.

Germani's extensive experience in creating distinctive, cosmopolitan, unique and exquisite jewellery is evident as he was awarded the prestigious Diamond De Beers Awards, designed and manufactured fine jewellery for the Saudi Royal Family, Queen Noor of Jordan, the Duke & Duchess Of Wellington, Elizabeth Taylor, Princess Diana and other well known international dignitaries around the world; thus gaining him international recognition.

Germani houses a huge range of quality coloured Gemstones and Loose Diamonds which are bought from Belgium, Switzerland and Far East. Customers can enjoy the luxury of purchasing directly from the wholesaler and having the jewellery made in-house. Each design is iteratively reworked until it fits the customer perfectly.

Prices are extremely competitive due to the magnitude of Germani's operation.

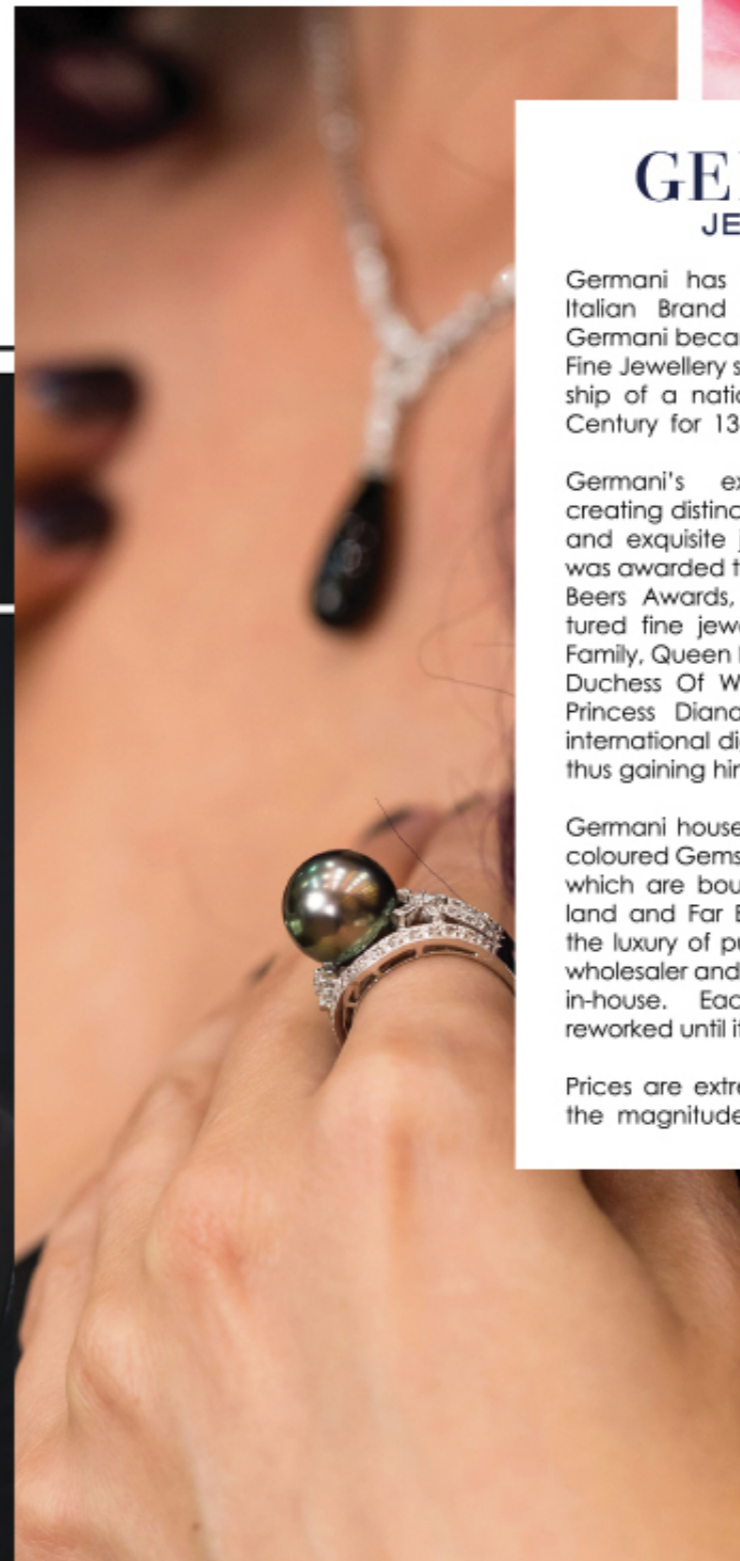


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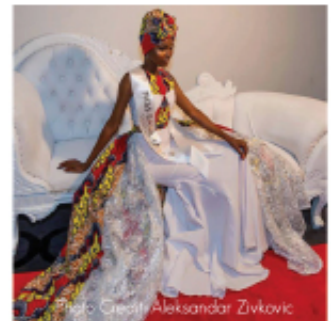
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FEATURE

Miss Sahara 2019



By Jenny Hu

On April 13, 2019, the top eight finalists of Miss Sahara 2019 embodied the notion of 'Black Is Beautiful' - diversifying the perception of beauty at the Bellevue venue in Bankstown. Since Miss Sahara is the only National Beauty Pageant in Australia, the organization/pageant's primary goal is to build notions of beauty in the multicultural Australian context, pioneering pathways to mainstream beauty and modeling industries.

Anyier Yuoi, the pageant's founder, is a South Sudanese, natural-born philanthropist who currently divides her time between community activism, youth leadership and completing her Master's degree in International Development (Forced Refugees and Displacement) at the University of New South Wales. She also works as a model and frequently enters beauty pageants on the Australian circuit. Her mission with the Miss Sahara pageant is to encourage, inspire and support these women of the African continent.

The event started at 6 pm with rounds of African beauties in line, taking pictures with their respective peers. Amongst the crowds were the contestants, Catherine Madziva, Akuac Arik, Rhama Hadji, Adut Lual, Tinashe Sithole, Christina Manyang, Princess Chinoyi, Beti Mapiou, and special guest, former Miss Philippines and Miss Supermodel Worldwide Australia, Jade Crystal Wright.

The Welcome and Opening Night was addressed by the founder, Anyier Yuoi, giving a speech about the scarcity of African beauty in mainstream media and how important it is to diversify the notions of beauty. She's trying to make the typically all-western convention of a beauty pageant more accessible for young, inspiring African women.

First on the agenda was the National costume where contestants wore their country's native wear. A plethora of bold primary colours and geometric shapes from their respective African regions graced the stage. Followed by the usual round of swimsuits, and evening gowns, which led a trail-blazing, and jaw-dropping impression on the audience.

It was followed by the magnificent performance by the Eritrean/Ethiopian Dance Group, which encapsulated grace and poise in one long dance performance.

The Miss Sahara 2019 title eventually went to Catherine Midziva, the first runner-up title went to Betti Maipou, and Adut Lul came second runner-up.

StarCentral Magazine wants to congratulate the winners of Miss Sahara 2019, especially the beautiful Catherine Midziva - we know you are going to bring honour to the title of Miss Sahara.



Photo Credit: Aleksandar Zivkovic



Photo Credit: Ray Borjesson Photography



Photo Credit: Aleksandar Zivkovic



Photo Credit: Edgar Mzumara



Photo Credit: Eric Forader

Since winning the title of Miss Sahara 2019, Catherine Madziva has become determined to make a positive change in her community. She wants to be part of the process that opens doors for people that are under-represented.

She was initially contacted during the Sounds of Afro Beats Festival, where she was approached by Teresa Yuol - the National Director of Miss Sahara. After talking to Teresa and her team, Catherine realized that their vision aligned, as they both had similarities in the desire to promote 'minority groups.' So she decided to enter the pageant. From the first getgo, Catherine felt right at home. All the contestants stayed at Novotel, so they were around each other pretty much all day. With so many girls together you'd assume cattiness would come about - but no, during both nights all the girls would come together in one room and they would all just hang out, talk about their lives, their careers, or movies they've seen. They'd dance, laugh, have snacks and just enjoy each other's company. This was a special moment for her as it changed her prior perspective of what pageants typically looked like backstage. It was a very warm and pleasant experience. Miss Sahara has given her the courage to continue to pursue her goals. After she won the Miss Sahara pageant, she wanted to create positive change in her community.

Miss Sahara has broadened Catherine's horizons in the fashion and beauty industry and has enabled her to work with incredibly talented people that happens to be from a diverse cultural background. She sees the platform as a means to diversify herself and have a wider audience to reach to speak on things like diversity, social issues and world change. During her reign, she has done multiple things to empower people from minority groups. For example, she has done community work, volunteering her time to causes she believes in. She also regularly hosts events that benefit young girls and women. This amazing work is made possible thanks to the support she receives from her friends and family. Her family also keeps her focused on important things, remaining wary of the intense value the beauty industry places on women. In addition, Catherine is planning to expand her platform by being more active on social media because this will enable her to continue expanding her influence. Another way that she is trying to improve the world is by getting her degree in Social Work. This will allow her to change the way we view social issues, changing the policies to improve the system for everyone. To do this, one of her biggest goals is to work at the United Nations.

Catherine Madziva is definitely someone we can see being successful in the near future. She wants to use her reign to make meaningful changes to empower minority groups. The title allows her to use her influence wisely. She also plans to experience more of the world through travel. This will allow her to meet new people, experience various cultures and try new types of food. At only 21 years old, you can expect more big things in the future from Catherine Madziva.



By Jenny Hu

The official coronation of Mrs, Ms, and Miss Teen Australian International was a whirlwind moment of truth for the six finalists who had endured the journey of the pageant. Held at the Parramatta Novotel Hotel on the 21st February 2019, six extremely motivated and inspirational women took on the challenge of competing for six prestigious titles.

After months of training and doing charitable work, the six beauty queens have finally been handed down their respective titles. When we asked the National Director, Ferial Younakim to explain the purpose of Mrs, Miss, Miss Teen Australian International, she said that it's really about empowering women and using the platform to raise awareness for their own noteworthy causes.

In her own words, Ferial stated that "It's about creating role models, not top models. We train our queens through our mentorships and networking to strengthen their heart and goodwill. We help our contestants to find their voices and give them a lot of guidance to represent the causes that are very passionate for them." Ferial, herself has also participated in this pageant and has been crowned the goodwill ambassador, she has a long history working in the beauty pageant industry and wears multitudes of hats.

Some of the most notable titleholders on the night were: Tracey Tickle who works with foster children and that's how she became involved with her charity called "Create Foundation." Divina Hopwood is an active advocate for epilepsy on behalf of her daughter, Danielle. She went on to state that over 250,000 people have some form of Epilepsy in Australia, and she wants to continue advocating and raising awareness for this cause. Ruby Adamson is a Down's Syndrome advocate because of her little brother who is

afflicted with the disease. After seeing him being ostracised by his fellow peers, she wants to combat the stigma of those who have Down's Syndrome.

As the introductions to each contestant ended, there was a showcase of evening wear. So all the ladies went down the runway with poise and elegance. The overall trend that night were gowns and jumpsuits. There were also eccentric silhouettes and fun prints that accentuated the curves in their bodies, that made them look like goddesses.

After the showcase of the evening gowns, the coronation finally took place. Tracey Tickle was crowned and given the Mrs. Australia International 2019 title who is planning to continue working with foster children. The Ms. Australia International 2019 title went to Michelle Fleming who wants to use her title to continue advocating in high schools about drought and farmers. Goodwill Ambassador 2019 was awarded to Divina Hopwood who's planning to continue to use her title to raise awareness about epilepsy. Ruby Adamson was crowned Miss Australia International 2019, and she wants to continue to raise awareness for Down syndrome Australia. And finally, the Miss Teen Australia International title actually went to two teens: Madison Dowden who wants to advocate on behalf of the Rural Aid's "Buy a Bale of Hay." An initiative that supports rural farmers and their communities by bringing hay and other resources in time of need. And Jasmine Alessio, who wants to continue advocating for the heart foundation and educate those around her regarding the dangers of heart disease.

As the night of philanthropy and inspiration came to an end, StarCentral Magazine would like to wish the girls the best of luck in their bid to win an international title and we're proud to be a media partner of such a noteworthy pageant.



Held at the Parramatta Novotel Hotel on the 21st February 2019





ANNA

NASEISA MA'U MA'ILEI

Ever since she was crowned Miss Tonga Australia, Anna-Naseisa Ma'u Ma'ilei has inspired many people around the country. Now, she plans to inspire many other people, helping women from the Pacific Islands reach their potential.

She first became involved in beauty pageants when she was approached by the director of Miss Tonga Australia Angela Lavaki. She decided to enter the competition and eventually, she ended up winning the crown. She admits that she thoroughly enjoyed her pageant experience, as it allowed her to grow as a person. For example, she has been able to develop more confidence as well as expand spiritually. One of the biggest lessons that she has learned is the importance of staying true to herself and her beliefs. However, the pageant experience has unfortunately also shown her the cruel nature of being in the limelight, as she received some cyberbullying because of who she is. Some online bullies were judging her based on her performance on the catwalk. Thankfully, the pageant experience has taught her about her self-worth. This enabled her to brush off upsetting online comments. Her success in the pageant industry has opened multiple opportunities for her to improve her community.

When Anna-Naseisa Ma'u Ma'ilei won Miss Tonga Australia she was presented with many prizes. However, one of the most fulfilling was giving her the

chance to start a dialogue that would improve her community. For example, one of the first things she did was to attend a forum called "Tu-Pasifika: Your Inner Warrior". This is aimed at starting a conversation about how women from the Pacific Islands can reach their full potential. Throughout the event, she learned multiple important lessons, like the importance of creating spaces where young people feel empowered to speak up. She also learned the value of supporting young people, as they will be responsible for making future decisions. For this reason, she wants to use the rest of her reign to help increase the opportunities available to Pacific Islander women. She will do this by using various networking events to provide support to Pacific Islander businesses. She also wants to use these events to bring awareness to issues in her community.

Anna-Naseisa Ma'u Ma'ilei has a diploma of Event Management, which she plans to use to start a wedding consultancy business. In the future, she wants to own a wedding or event venue. She can be confident about achieving these dreams thanks to the strong support base she had amassed. From the many people who helped prepare her for the pageant to her parents, who continue to offer their full support. Thanks to their encouragement, Anna-Naseisa Ma'u Ma'ilei is making the most of her current title and becoming an inspiring figure to people in the Pacific Island community.



NICOLE AGAYA

EMERGING BEAUTY QUEEN

A rising star in the Australian modeling scene, Nicole Angela Agaya came first runner up in the Miss Glamor Look Australia pageant last year. She has always harbored a love for the modeling industry. When she was younger, she used to practice walking like a supermodel in her lounge room. However, the first time she was asked to appear in a modeling show, she turned down the opportunity. This was because she was nervous about how people would perceive her at the time. The next time she was offered a chance to walk the catwalk, she accepted. Despite her initial nerves, she thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The positive reception she received helped encourage her in the future pursuit of her modeling career. The support from her parents has helped her through the tough times she encountered. However, she has occasionally encountered some people who judged her appearance harshly, having unrealistic expectations of physical beauty. Thankfully, most of the comments she receives online have been supportive. Her parents have also helped her stay grounded, despite her rapid rise in popularity. For this reason, Nicole says they are integral to her ongoing success.

Modeling has provided Nicole with multiple positive experiences. First, she got to combine her passion for modeling, make-up, and fashion. In addition, she has had the opportunity to meet a wide range of inspiring people. For example, she has been able to meet Mike Ilagan who happens to be the CEO of StarCentral Magazine. She has also had the chance to spend time with Maria James, who is the founder of the Miss Earth Australia pageant. As she is just getting started in the modeling scene, she will definitely have the opportunity to meet more interesting people in the future. Though she's still young, Nicole Angela Agaya has proven herself as a rising star in the modeling industry. Because she gets so much enjoyment out of modeling, she will no doubt continue to pursue a career in this industry and achieve success in the future.

Makisig Morales



To put it plainly, there's simply no mountain too high for Makisig Morales. The 'Bagani' star has definitely come a long way ever since he became famous for playing Super Inggo when he was just five years old.

As soon as he stepped onto the stage to the welcoming song 'Let's Go', he completely captivated the crowd with his poise and energy. His pitch perfect voice didn't falter once, and



that standard was kept throughout the whole show. Once he finished '24K Magic', his kicker of a personality shone through and suddenly, the reason why Makisig appeals to so many became very clear. Besides his progressive lyricism that his genre generally steers clear from, he's a pop artist through and through. He radiates a calming energy that is only strengthened by his onstage class and poise. Then, when he's just bantering with the crowd, he is charming, funny and unashamedly himself. He is the kick and edge that the music industry needs.

In fact, his beaming personality might have been the highlight of the whole night. From his heartwarming duet singing "Beauty and the Beast" with Trinity Young - to another stirring duet singing "Shallow" with Marlisa Punzalan - to his epic rendition of "superhero" popularised by Rockstuddy - to a lighthearted rendition of "Macho Guapito," Makisig was entirely himself and that energy beamed into the crowd and allowed us all to be ourselves too.

The strong sense of family was also impossible to ignore in Makisig's concert - whether it be singing a duet with his father Jong Morales or his sister Maaya Morales - Makisig made sure that his family also received their fair share of the spotlight. And of course, who could forget his captivating rendition of "Marry Me" to his wife Nicole after picking her out of a group of beauty queens and models?

Accompanied by the Vonix Connex band and appropriately multi-coloured lighting that bled into one another, his final performance of "Forever" was captivating. Never before has the Blacktown RSL been so quiet yet so electric. So, naturally, when he closed his set with 'Forever' it was like a colourful storm of energy. For attendees at his Sydney show it was an affirmation that this sort of show will have you on a high of love and laughter that isn't going to go away anytime soon. Congratulations to Ella Ponce and Len Puzon of MENM Productions for pulling off an incredibly entertaining show.

VALERIA

SIZOVA

Valeria Sizova's appeal is definitely in her stunning features and smoking hot body. She's a model, dancer and a choreographer who's based in Sydney, Australia and in fact, she owns her own dance and entertainment company called ICrave Dance & Entertainment. She has placed in a number of high profile modeling competitions such as Miss Supercars, Maxim's Swimwear Model of the Year competition or the World Miss All Nations as well as Miss Russia Australia and Miss NSW Face of Origin.

StarCentral Magazine recently sat down with Valeria Sizova to find out more about what it's like to be a model and an Instagram superstar and here's what went down.

Can you please give us a bit of a background as to who you are and what you do?

My name is Valeria Sizova, and I'm a model, dancer and a choreographer based in Sydney. I run a dance and entertainment company called ICrave Dance & Entertainment (@icraveentertainment) where I teach classes and crew rehearsals for the shows.

I completed Bachelor of Political & Social Sciences majoring in Government & International Relations; Certificate 3 & 4 in Fitness and completed Music School majoring in piano.

I made it to Top 4 in the Miss Supercars 2017 competition, I made it to Top 5 in the Maxim Swimwear Model of the Year 2017 competition, I won 1st Runner-up at the World Miss All Nations 2018 held in China, and I was also crowned Miss Russia Australia and Miss NSW Face of Origin in 2017.

2. What do you like most about being an influencer?

I believe that each one of us can influence people around us because we all have social platforms even beyond our surroundings. I am one of those people who loves to promote a healthy lifestyle and confidence in women by being the best version of yourself.

3. The downside to being an influencer?

Sometimes it's very hard to get the message across social platforms and expect people to understand and accept your view and the way you see things. That's because everyone has different perceptions and experiences in life, and they do affect us in various ways that influence our decisions.

4. What's your favorite social media platform?

I've discovered that our modern society is getting 'fed up' with reading long stories/posts and the right images or short videos are sometimes the only way to attract their attention. I believe Instagram has been the most popular asset to influence society these days. The beauty of this social media platform is that it gives you an option to choose which visual material you can use, add valuable context to your photos, organize polls, read the statistics of your posts and find out what topics attracts people the most to your profile.





Photo Credit: Ray Bartholomeusz Photography

5. What's your best advice when it comes to growing your Instagram account?

If you want to build a more significant following, first you need to be specific with what you want your Instagram profile to be known for – whether it be modeling, dancing, writing books, protecting animals from human cruelty around the world... you have to write down what you do, so people can clearly see the purpose of your social media profile. Secondly, regular posting is a key to engaging your followers and keeping them on their toes.

Don't play around with filters too much – don't hide your identity behind 'dogs face' snaps, overexposed filters or over posting on your social media (3-4 posts per day might be too much to handle/follow for people). People want to see real you as this is the only way how they can relate their lives to your posts.

6. What powerful strategies did you use to grow your Instagram followers to how it is now?

The time of my posts is specific. I only post a photo on Instagram either early morning or evening after 6 pm – before and after work hours when people are most likely to get on the social media pages.

Get a bit personal on your page so people can see the real person behind the images. Conduct a poll, ask their opinion, wish people a good day, make a promotion for a special event. Think of something that can get you more involved with your audience.



7. Being part of an industry whose only emphasis is on the external characteristics of a person, how have you stayed grounded?

'Work hard and stay humble' is probably one of my favourite quotes of all time. Who likes people who are up themselves, selfish and narcissistic?? I don't, so why be one?

8. Is your family supportive of you being in the limelight?

My family is unfortunately not living in Australia but I definitely have their support. Likewise, my partner is very supportive and encouraging with what I do. When you have a purpose to carry on and want to reach out to people, you have to make an effort and spend enough time to be understood and change someone's else perspective.

9. What are your plans? Inside your career or out of it.

I am currently working on my Dance & Entertainment business, and getting my shows up and running on a regular basis throughout the whole year.

I got through national finals in a few competitions this year, including fitness ones. So, my next 2-3 years will consist of raising my profile and getting more exposure in the modeling, dancing, and fitness industry. I don't think I would ever stop learning and trying to get better in whatever industry I am today and in the future.



TOP SIX MUST-HAVE FASHION TRENDS FOR THIS WINTER

If you plan to look super-cool this winter while remaining warm and cozy, we have made things easier for you. Here we share top most exciting, trendy and functional clothing items and accessories that you must own this winter.

Extra Long boots

Give the regular ankle boots style a little dramatic twist this year and embrace the extra long, over-the-knee boots because they look super-stylish and chic. These stunning boots will keep you warm and prove to be a perfect combo with winter tights, miniskirts and short winter dresses. They are superb for a casual streetstyle look and will keep you comfy in a fun night out.

Neon turtleneck

Turtleneck top is a hot favorite to keep you snug and cozy all winter long! It is a kind of style that can be rocked with anything from jeans to skirt and can be layered under a pretty sleeveless dress or a winter coat alike. This year we have an up gradation of traditional turtleneck and eye-catching Neon hues are in, to make the simple and boring winter outfits head turning.

Statement coats

Winter fashion seems to be all about fantastic outerwear! Warm coats are the essential things to complete your wardrobe in cold weather. This year the winter coats are being worn as a statement piece in vibrant colors and fun embellishment. It's going to be a stunning pop of color to any neutral or all black colored outfits of the season.

Plaid

Retro trend of plaid is back in a big way this year and you can find endless inspirational outfit ideas in plaid. You can wear a red plaid coat, plaid pencil skirt or just a long plaid boyfriend shirt with leggings and boots to be a head turning chic this season.

Skinny Jeans

Skinny jeans are a wardrobe staple for the women because they look amazing with almost any outfit style. Winter season's hottest looks can be created with skinny jeans because they streamline the silhouette and allow the multiple layering of outerwear. Wear them with a long coat and scarf in the day or team them up with pointed heels and silk drape top and you can never go wrong with it.

Blanket Wrap Scarf

The fabulous and chic wrap scarfs are a pleasurable fashion addition this year that can keep you active and warm outside all day and night of winter season. This timeless cold weather accessory is available in amazing colors, styles and prints this year, to make it a statement piece that effortlessly boosts up your personal style. Many celebrities can be seen wearing them in inspiring styles, either throw it carelessly over a shoulder or wrap it around you multiple times.





"In my own family culture, we have always been taught to look our best, wear clean and nice clothes all the time as well as always be respectful to others."



OOGII

FLOWER

It never ceases to amaze us how much precious time most people waste trying to find that imaginary shortcut that'll lead to massive wealth and entrepreneurial success when the only real way is staring them right in the face: genuine entrepreneurs who want to be successful in business needs to put in a lot of careful planning, research, and hard work - and that's what Oyuntsetseg Olonbayer aka OOGII Flower has done over the years.

OOGII started her career at the age of 20, by getting a degree in Journalism. She then entered a competition that was searching for someone who would be a newsreader on Mongolian National TV. After a lot of effort and perseverance, she eventually won the contest, which is held every 14 years. Eventually, though, she realized that her passion was not really in being a newscaster but in fashion. So, she left journalism to focus more on creating her own fashion label. This risky move has eventually paid off, as she has built one of the fastest rising fashion empires. She went from creating glamorous and comfortable shoes to making exquisite handbags and now accessories. She has also expanded from an online business to a retail store in Japan and just recently in Mongolia.



"For me, beauty is all about shining from the inside as well as being respectful towards other people."



Like many successful high-profile fashion designers, OOGII's career has had a lot of highlights. For example, she got the chance to collaborate with Germani Jewelry to create a range of products for weddings. In addition, her high-quality designs have received positive comments from several customers. One of the most memorable feedback she has ever received was from footballer named Robbie Farah and Japanese Sumo Wrestler, Harumafuji Kohei. They gave her a really good review because they were impressed by the comfort of the shoes she makes. Fashion has also paved the way for her to meet a range of interesting people. For example, at a function celebrating International Women's Day, she got to meet influential designer Carla Zampatti which is still one of the highlights of her career in fashion.

OOGII believes that the fashion industry can be difficult for people to get into. There are several things that designers need to learn before they can actually start making money from their designs such as learning to limit their production costs. You also need to have a realistic idea of how many products you'll be able to sell while using the best materials. For example, OOGII uses sustainably farmed snake skins to create her shoes. By mastering this aspect in her business, OOGII has made it easier for her to produce more high-quality shoes at a comfortable pace. Despite her rapid rise to success, she hasn't lost sight of the most important things in life. OOGII admits that she has been fortunate enough to get plenty of support from her friends and family. Her family and fiancé help keep her grounded and ensure that she continues to stay true to her values and beliefs.

Crossing from journalism to fashion has enabled OOGII to travel to many new places and meet inspiring people. Now that she's on a roll - she has no intention of slowing down. She wants to start designing her own clothing label soon, as well as creating multiple new products. Brace yourself Australia, because OOGII is soon to take the Australian fashion scene by storm!

FOMA'19

FASHIONS OF MULTICULTURAL AUSTRALIA

Fashion diplomacy has never been rich in cultural diversity at the Fashions of Multicultural Australia. The event has enlisted the support of 15 country embassies including, Korea, India, Russia, Ireland, Chile, Pakistan, China, and Indonesia. The first of its kind, the event showcased 20 designers across 30 different cultures - they all gathered to showcase their culturally unique collections to over 3,000 plus guests.

Fashions of Multicultural Australia is Sonia Sadiq Gandhi's labour of love, which blossomed into an initiative that aims to foster social cohesion and cultural diplomacy through the fashion industry. The event is proudly supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Australia-Korea Foundation, and it is part of a soft power foreign diplomacy plan, which aims to strengthen alliances from Australia's neighbouring countries.

"It's the platform to showcase the talent of indigenous, international, and refugee designers," said Gandhi.

"It's about breaking the stereotype of what you wear is where you come from, which makes the exhibition and show such as an essential opportunity to reflect on the fashions of the world and help develop a public appreciation for different cultures.

"The diversity of the showcase does not just extend to our designers, it also extends out on our runway with model participation of a Paralympian in our showcase," she continued.

An immersive experience into a cultural dress, the event puts cultural appropriation to bed and the upstanding definition of cultural appreciation through a plethora of cultural stalls that have been scattered through the Cutaway.

Fashion enthusiasts can try traditional garments from a certain culture, interact with the designer of the pieces as well as, trying different foods that are unique to each culture. There is an immaculate cherry blossom mantel-piece on the side of the showroom, where patrons can snap selfies away.

StarCentral Magazine's resident fashion designer, Lakshmi

Gowda had the privilege to speak to a plethora of multicultural designers on their garments. One of the many designers whom she came across was Aida Gurguis who owns a jewellery brand called "Scarab Rouge."

Scarab Rouge is an ethical jewellery brand which specializes in handmade luxury wearable art pieces that are inspired by Aida's Egyptian heritage. She personalizes jewellery to the essence of the individual, by creating jewellery catered exactly to the needs of the client.

Both Lakshmi and Aida bonded in their love for sustainability in fashion and how to recycle vintage pieces in both fashion and jewellery. Aida who had a technical, science background and corporate experience, admitted that her background taught her a lot about running her brand and unique advantage in making her jewellery.

Following the designers meet and greet, the magic of the runway ensued. Opening up the fashion show was the Indigenous Aboriginal designer, Colleen Tighe Johnson who is a proud descendant of the First Peoples of Aboriginal Australia. A proud Gomeri woman, Colleen grew up in Moree, NSW. Colleen uses her fashion as a way to revive Gomeri Dreaming Stories in today's youth culture. Her brand "Buluuy Mirri" has been featured in various international fashion events including Fashion Speaks International World Fusion Wearable Art 2017 in British Columbia Canada. In 2017 she also became the first-ever International Indigenous Designer to open PLITZS New York City Fashion Week.

Other highlights of the night were Korean hanboks, Indian saris, sultry Colombian dresses, and Irish woolen knitwear. The runway was a manifestation of multicultural Australia celebrating the nation's diversity.

With the ongoing adoration from the onlookers in the crowd, the last collection eventually fled off the stage. As the show came to an end, there was a massive sigh in amazement from everyone and acknowledgment that the event was a smashing success. FOMA wore the armband of pride and graciously showcased its beauty of multiculturalism and their fashion and has brought a new meaning of what it's like to haute couture fashion designers. Congratulations to Gandhi Creations for organizing this fabulous event.





"FOMA has enlisted the support of 15 country embassies including, Korea, India, Russia, Ireland, Chile, Pakistan, China, and Indonesia."



Photo Credit: Stephen Wong



Photo Credit: Eric Fonacier Photography





Herrera's fashion showcase was the highlight of the Tuloy Po Kayo (TPK) Fashion Expo which was held on Saturday June 1, 2019 at the iconic Cell Block Theatre in Sydney's fashion precinct in Darlinghurst.

'Tuloy Po Kayo' (which means 'welcome to our home' in Filipino) aims to showcase world-class Philippine arts, culture and fashion. John Herrera is actually part of an elite group of fashion designers with Philippine background who are making waves globally, such as Rocky Gathercole, Michael Cinco and Monique Lhuillier.

Last month John showcased his much awaited 'Agila' collection exclusively to Sydney much to the delight of his Australian fans.

For one night only, John Herrera's collection, which won him the title 'Britain's Top Designer' at the 2017 London Fashion Week, was showcased right in the heart of Sydney and the audience was mesmerized by his "Agila," "Armada" and Bridal collection. Congratulations to Michelle Baltazar, Marcus Rivera and the director Chi De Jesus for organizing such an incredible and fabulous event.



Set in the backdrop of Cellblock Theatre, various fashionistas, models, and photographers flocked together to witness an event featuring a world-class fashion designer – John Herrera. The event is the brainchild of Michelle Baltazar, Marcus Rivera, and Chi De Jesus and this is their second year in a row to run the event.

Amongst flashing lights, media coverage and music – there was fashion designer extraordinaire John Herrera right in the middle of it all. John was originally established in Manila,

Philippines specializing in evening wear and special occasion wear for women. He first showcased in London in 2015 at the International Fashion Showcase, produced by the British Fashion Council. He won the London Emerging Designer Awards 2015. That same year, he showed for the first time at the Tokyo Fashion Week (then Mercedes Benz) produced by the Japan Fashion Week organization ("Asian Fashion Meets Tokyo"). Last season, he showcased for the first time at the Fashion Scout Studio Presentation and won Britain's Top Designer 2017.





Western Sydney FASHION FESTIVAL

Set in the backdrop of Fairfield School of Arts, various spectators, journalists, and photographers flocked together to witness an event collaboration between Western Sydney Fashion Festival and The Rise Project. The event is the brainchild of Thuy Lanvin, and this is their second year in a row to run the event.

Amongst flashing lights, media coverage and music – there were 8 talented fashion designers. Founded in 2015 by Creative Producer and Events Organiser Thuy Nguyen, Western Sydney Fashion Festival (WSFF) is an annual community event showcasing a fashion runway for emerging and culturally diverse fashion designers. Pioneered by a group of young creatives from Western Sydney, their aim is to emphasize the rich diversity of fashion talents through social inclusion and cohesion. The Rise Project, on the other hand, was founded in 2018 by Fashion Designer Marky Dong. The Rise Project was set up with the purpose to help start-up fashion business owners and designers to enable them to sell their products to the "ready to pay" customers.

The fashion show supported and showcased a greater number of up and coming fashion designers such as Armando Clothing, GTAB, Iham A Ismail, Lakshmi Bee, Marky Atelier, Public Island, Sew Pretty and The Social Outfit. Congratulations to Thuy Lanvin for organizing such an entertaining event.



SEVEN TRENDS AND STYLES TO EMBRACE THIS WINTER

Topmost influential fashion weeks of the world are already gone, and we are left with plenty of trends and style ideas that are here to stay till 2020. Let's have a look at the hottest and happening fashion trends for fall/winter 2019

70's Trend

The retro trends are back this season as you can find the fabulous turtleneck, vests, wide-legged pants, corduroy and long jackets all over the red carpets and runways. Not just that, you can find plenty of stunning style suggestions with high waist pants and flared trousers this season. You can never go wrong with disco glamour outfit styles of 70s

Sustainable fashion

Fashion world has accepted the need of sustainable and eco friendly fashion products and therefore, we can see more of the slow fashion movement this year and it's going to prevail the next coming years too. It's important to understand that our love fashion should be limited to the products that are produced without harming the environment, are recyclable and sustainable. Many top brands have launched faux leather and faux fur to embrace the rising trend this year and it's our responsibility to make this journey of awareness be continued.

Unisex Clothing

The recent most influential Fashion Weeks have focused much on exhibiting the fashion items that are nonbinary and can be worn without the restriction of gender. The big blazers, graphic sweatshirts, baggy pants or loose trousers, we have plenty of options to choose from.

Neon

Millennial love for Neon is never going to fade away; rather it's going to be more popular than ever in the coming days. We can already see neon hues in the form of statement coats, boots, and turtleneck that you can rock this style all day long.

Patchwork

May be a bit inspired by punk rock aesthetic, we can see plenty of patch work outfits on the runways and we can inculcate some of it in our daily casual wear styles to bring a dramatic twist to ordinary styles. Patch work is a vintage style that has been reinvented by modern designer by making use of their own creativity.

Transparent

Recently many top fashion brands launched their fashion products in see-through material that may seem impractical to many. Transparent fashion trend is here, inevitably awesome and can be adopted in your personal style. Plastic boots see through coats and dresses are making their way from runways to the stunning streetstyle of modern fashionistas.

Trench coat

Trench coats are elegant, classy and give a perfect level of protection from cold weather. This season, you can take out a much cherished and timeless trench coat out of your wardrobe and create a new outfit with it as it is very much in and happening.



ARUNDHATI

BANERJEE

Arundhati Banerjee is a resident of Adelaide who has recently won the coveted title Miss Teen Diamond Australia 2019. She is the first South Australian teen to win the coveted title and in fact, she won seven subtitles in Miss Diamond Australia apart from her overall title.

As part of her pageantry journey, she has raised AUD \$3852.00 towards her chosen charity organization e.motion 21 which supports young adults and children with down syndrome. Arundhati Banerjee is an Artreprenuer and is a founder member of the Dance Academy called AIDA Bharatanatyaved which is based in Adelaide, South Australia. She has performed in various international and national festivals in Australia such as the Oz Asia Festival, International Indian film Festival-Melbourne, International Folkloric Festival and many more. She even successfully launched her debut production in one of the Southern Hemispheres most sought out festivals - the Fringe 2019. Her production was titled Dancing Sutra where the Story of EVE was depicted through an Indian contemporary classical dance ballet with a dance troupe of 20 artists of different cultural backgrounds.

Arundhati is the member of the International Dance Council - partnered with UNESCO. She has won the overall first place in the KAR dance competition and has been invited to Hollywood to perform. She was a student of Padmashree and National Award winner actress Shobana Chandra Kumar in India and currently, she is learning western forms of dance through the Australian Dance Theatre and the Australian Company of Performing Arts.

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