

Newham teenager wins award at London Fashion Week

This week New Vic 6th Form student **Miriam Mwangi**, 18, was presented with one of three runner-up awards at the **2009 FAD Junior Awards**, organised by creative charity FAD.

The delighted teenager was welcomed on stage by Maria Alvarez, Executive Director of FAD who presented her with a special award for Creativity. The theme of the show was 'Arts & Crafts for a modern age', and Miriam impressed the jury with the originality of her vibrant design – a multi-coloured organza dress, with sculptural corsage details inspired by the glass gallery at the V&A.

Two other students from Newham were also in the final. **Thoffa Khanom**, 17 (Newham College), and **Prash Muraleetharan**, 17 (St Angela's & St Bonaventures) who presented a tribute to the 'King of Pop' in the form of a black, leatherette hooded jacket with Michael Jackson cross stitch detail. Jury member, Naomi Dominique, was so impressed by Prash's design that she offered him a two week placement in the menswear design team at River Island.

Now in its fifth year, the FAD Junior Awards took place at Vauxhall Fashion Scout, as part of their official schedule for London Fashion Week. The project has been heavily supported by industry, and on the evening there was a packed house at the Freemason's Hall with guests from Harrods, ASOS.com, River Island, John Lewis and Grazia taking front row seats. Excited family, friends and teachers were also there to support the young designer's debut at London Fashion Week.

Originally selected from 130 young people who participated in FAD's Fashion Futures 2 workshops earlier this year, the 23 finalists spent a week at FAD's Summer School, held at Central Saint Martins. Supported by a team of tutors, technicians and student mentors, the 17 – 19 year olds had only 5 days in which to construct their designs for the catwalk final.

Despite London Fashion Week now drawing to a close, there will be a chance for the public to see the finalists' outfits showcased again this week – this time to thousands of people – when they take part in a catwalk show in **Trafalgar Square, on Sunday 27th September** as part of London Peace Week.

Editor's notes:

2009 Newham Finalists

Name	Age	School/College
Prash Muraleetharan	17	St Angela's & St Bonaventures
Thoffa Khanom	17	Newham College
Miriam Mwangi	18	NewVic College



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2009 FAD Junior Awards Jury

- Naomi Dominique – Design Director, River Island
- Francesca Muston – Retail Editor, WGSN.com
- Michael Tomczak – Head of Design, John Lewis
- Lesley DeFreitas – Lecturer, Central Saint Martins
- Maria Alvarez – Executive Director, FAD

About FAD:

FAD (Fashion Awareness Direct) is a creative charity supporting young people to bridge the gap between education and the fashion industry.

We specialise in running professional fashion workshops and competitions for 13 – 25 year olds, working with creative young people throughout their education from secondary school and college right through to university.

Our aim is to provide young people with a realistic insight into what it means to work in fashion. From hands on workshops and industry days to high profile catwalk events, they learn important practical skills while also developing the confidence and experience they need to succeed in the future.

In 2009 FAD was presented with the 'Chairman's Award' by Sir Mike Tomlinson, at the London Educational Partnership Awards (LEPA).

www.fad.org.uk

Funders & Supporters:

- **Aimhigher** is a national programme for young people who come from groups currently under-represented in higher education. The programme aims to raise aspirations through a range of activities including university visits, sustained study support and information, advice and guidance about university and student life.
www.aimhigher.ac.uk

- **The London Development Agency (LDA)** works to improve the quality of life for all Londoners and drive sustainable economic growth www.lda.gov.uk

- **Newham College of Further Education** is committed to educational and social inclusion. Graded by Ofsted in June 09 as 'Outstanding', the College has developed a wide range of courses and initiatives to meet the needs of the fashion sector. FAD have been a key partner in the development of the College's fashion courses for many years, providing a range of introductory courses to give young people a real taste of what working in fashion involves.

For further information and hi-res images please contact FAD: 020 7490 3946

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www.fad.org.uk



VAUXHALL
fashion scout

