

## Gavin Douglas Biography

With professional qualifications and training in the fashion and textile industry, Birmingham born Gavin Douglas is a dynamic, young designer who carefully researches, designs and crafts each individual piece of clothing, ensuring its uniqueness and quality. The concepts for each collection are developed through sketches, before patterns are drafted, toiled and transformed into the final pieces.

In September 2006 Gavin Douglas won first place in the prestigious **Fashion Fringe 2006** designer awards in London England. This award was established by the veteran Sunday Times journalist Colin McDowell. This year Fashion Fringe had Tom Ford, the savior of Gucci as their honorary chairman. The competition was judged by Tom Ford, Sarah Mower, Hilary Alexander, Nick Knight and Hamish Bowles. As part of the award, Gavin won business, legal and technical support and development grants from the Centre for Fashion Enterprise and will showcase a full collection at **London Fashion Week in March 2007 with assistance from IMG.**

On graduating from university Gavin Douglas successfully completed an 8-week **Prince's Trust business start-up course**. The course covered training in accounting, taxes, VAT and in writing a viable business plan. With assistance from the Prince's Trust, the label was launched, providing a unique brand of 'urban-couture' fashion for women who wish to express their individuality through clothing. Unique fabrics with varied finishes are selected from fabric specialists and teamed with unusual cuts, to create distinct, desirable garments.

In October 2004 Gavin Douglas was awarded the Young **Avant-Garde Designer of the Year** held in central London. The London Fashion Forum, Banardos Charity and Tyler Media who represent Caribbean Fashion Week supported this event.

In June 2005 Gavin Douglas showcased his debut collection at **Caribbean Fashion Week 2005** held in Kingston Jamaica alongside some of the Caribbean's most coveted fashion designers including Cedella Marley and Jessica Ogden. This debut collection was showcased in a runway presentation to an international audience of press and fashion editors receiving positive media coverage internationally. More recently Gavin Douglas has exhibited at **Barbados Fashion Week 2006.**

As part of the 2005 Black History Season, Gavin Douglas took part in the **Mayor of London's Kulture2Couture**. This is a high profile initiative aimed at celebrating, showcasing and promoting the artistic and creative talents of fashion designers.

In December 2005 Gavin Douglas was selected to take part in a regional **business-training course**, which has been set up especially for creative people. This is run by **NESTA**, the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts. NESTA is working to increase the UK's capacity for innovation and invest in all stages of the innovation process, backing new ideas and ventures that stimulate entrepreneurship. For this course NESTA partnered with the **University of Central England** to provide a 6-week intensive business-training course. Due to completing to successfully completing this course, UCE and NESTA awarded Gavin Douglas with funds to purchase essential equipment to help him to progress.

Gavin Douglas also due to exhibited work at the **Black British Style Exhibition** at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery starting in June 2006. This exhibition is the first of its kind in the UK and highlights the variety of lifestyles that co-exist in black culture, focusing on dress but also incorporating music, photography and film. This exhibition has been put together by The **Victoria and Albert Museum** in London and has previously been a success there.

Gavin will also showcase his second capsule collection at **Paris Fashion Week** in October 2006 and then later at **Brooklyn Fashion Week New York.**

### **What's been said about Gavin Douglas?**

"Gavin Douglas demonstrated the will, the drive and a certain amount of charm, which doesn't hurt."

**Tom Ford, September 2006**

"As ignorance of U.K. black history is almost complete, his (Gavin's) determination to bring a new voice to the business is commendable."

**Sarah Mower, Style.com September 2006**

"Gavin Douglas has exuberant designs that stand out, showing a sense of heritage."

**Fashion Fringe 2006**

"It was time for the super-talented Gavin Douglas ... The folly of the period was mimicked perfectly in an elaborate bustle skirt of some 10 metres of denim. We predict Douglas to be one under the fashion radar screen."- **The Sunday Observer, Jamaica, June 2005 on Caribbean Fashion Week 2005.**

"The British contingent brought a new energy and a different look to Caribbean Fashion Week 2005... Creativity wise they were amazing." - **Christie Dingham-Garlington, CEO Tyler Media, June 2005.**

For Press Enquiries, contact:

Blow

T: +44 (0)20 7436 9449

E: info@blow.co.uk