

Strictly Embargoed until 11pm, Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2016

## United Kingdom Media Information Sheet

### 2016 World of WearableArt™ award-winning designers from the United Kingdom

Tonight (Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September) at the 2016 World of WearableArt™ (WOW®) Awards ceremony in Wellington, New Zealand, five English designers won awards for their WOW® garments. They are:

- *Lippydeema* by Daisy May Collingridge (Woldingham)
  - Winner, 2016 WOW® Wellington International Award
  - Winner, 2016 WOW® UK/Europe Design Award
  - Second place, MJF Lighting Performance Art Section
  
- *Princess Niwareka* by Maria Tsopanaki and Dimitri Mavinis (London)
  - First place, Wellington Airport Aotearoa Section
  
- *Alecto* by Maria Tsopanaki and Dimitri Mavinis (London)
  - Third place, David Jones Avant Garde Section
  
- *Lord Maharaja & Star Bride* by Liam Brandon Murray (Derbyshire)
  - Second place, Weta Workshop Costume & Film Section: Baroque/Rococo
  - Runner-up, 2016 WOW® Wearable Technology Award
  
- *Queen Angel* by Adam McAlavey (London)
  - First place, MJF Lighting Performance Art Section: The Greatest Show On Earth

### Further information about the United Kingdom's award winners

#### *Lippydeema* by Daisy May Collingridge

Daisy May Collingridge is the winner of the 2016 WOW® UK/Europe Design Award and the 2016 WOW® Wellington International Award and has placed second in the MJF Lighting Performance Art Section for her garment *Lippydeema*.

“My wearable art is a joyful creature who likes to dance when no one is watching,” Collingridge says. “She wants people to be kind and not stare.”

Last year, as a first time WOW® entrant, Collingridge placed second in the Open Section.

### ***Princess Niwareka and Alecto* by Maria Tsopanaki and Dimitri Mavinis**

Maria Tsopanaki in collaboration with Dimitri Mavinis won two awards this year for their two entries: *Princess Niwareka* and *Alecto*. Maria Tsopanaki and Dimitri Mavinis form Erevos Aether, an avant-garde, conceptual fashion brand that has dressed artists and fashion icons Lady Gaga, the Black Eyed Peas, Scarlett Etienne, and Jessie J.

*Princess Niwareka*, which is made from vegan leather and mirrors, placed first in the Wellington Airport Aotearoa Section. *Alecto* which is made from raw silk, leather, neoprene, acrylic, and mirrors placed third in the David Jones Avant Garde Section.

“For Princess Niwareka, we were driven by the rich Māori culture and embodied the princess of Rarohenga (the underworld) and her story with her mortal husband Mataora,” says Tsopanaki. “We set our muse into the abyss, wearing a black second-skin outfit contouring the female body, embellished with shapes and designs of tā moko art that were made out of thousands of square mirror pieces.”

“Alectos is a Greek mythological creature whose name means ‘the implacable or unceasing anger’,” says Tsopanaki. “Her main role was that of castigating for moral crimes especially if they were against other people. We dressed our muse in a body-conscious dress, adorned with linear embellishment in the colours of passion and fire, covering her face with a red half-face mask featuring a detail representing the symbol of scales, which is the symbol of justice since ancient times.”

Last year, as first time entrants, Tsopanaki and Mavinis entered three garments winning a total of four awards; their garment *M45 Pleiades* won three awards including the WOW® 2015 International Award.

### ***Lord Maharaja & Star Bride* by Liam Brandon Murray**

Liam Brandon Murray, a first time entrant, won two awards for his garment *Lord Maharaja & Star Bride*, placing second in the Weta Workshop Costume & Film Section: Baroque/Rococo and runner-up in the 2016 WOW® Wearable Technology Award.

“I wanted to create a piece that was both a lord and maharaja in a super fantastical way. His star bride is from the heavens and the year is 3492,” Murray says. “My aim was to come up with a piece that you can both wear and exhibit. Each individual piece that I make, for example, an arm or shoe, I think about that one piece being an art exhibit in itself, so when all the pieces then come together I aim to make it mind blowing.”

### ***Queen Angel* by Adam McAlavey**

Another first time entrant, Adam McAlavey a set builder and performance artist, won first place in the Performance Art Section: The Greatest Show On Earth for his garment *Queen Angel*.

“This character evolved as I was inspired to make and wear a dress that was empowering and imposing, that expressed both our human complexities and secrets. The dress section is inflated using a camp bed air pump,” says McAlavey. “Silent and powerful she has been anthropomorphized as her appearance doesn't make sense to human eyes. She represents unimaginable power and the unknowable mysteries of the universe.”

## **About The World of WearableArt™**

One of New Zealand's cultural success stories is the spectacular World of WearableArt™ (WOW®) created by Dame Suzie Moncrieff.

At the core of WOW® is an international design competition that attracts entries from all over the world. The range of garments produced for each year's WOW® competition is simply breathtaking, as the rules of competition mean that anything that is in any way wearable can find a place on stage, as long as it is original, beautifully designed and well-made. This also results in garments that are constructed from an extraordinary array of materials, pushing the boundaries of expectation.

Now staging its 28<sup>th</sup> production, the annual WOW® Awards Show presents selected designs in what is New Zealand's largest and most technically challenging theatrical production, brought to life by 350 cast and crew. For the 2016 show 163 designers' garments will be seen in performance by an audience of 58,000 over a three-week season in Wellington, New Zealand.

The winning garments from each year's show are then seen up close by more than 40,000 people at the iconic World of WearableArt™ and Classic Car Museum in Nelson, New Zealand.

WOW®'s international exhibition is currently being held at Seattle's EMP Museum until January 2017 after which it will travel to the Peabody Essex Museum in Boston and is expected to remain in the USA until 2019. The travelling exhibition showcases 32 award-winning garments curated to present the best of New Zealand's creative activity to the world.