

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE MALL AT CRIBBS CAUSEWAY

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FASHION STUDENTS CELEBRATE AT THE MALL

The winners of The Mall at Cribbs Causeway's Student Fashion Design Competition were Maurizio Grioli from the University of the West of England and Sally Davey of GLOSCAT.

The winners, both 22 years old, each picked up a £1,000 cheque, a crystal trophy and a work experience placement with either Jeff Banks or Planet on the opening day of The Mall's annual Fashion Week event.

22 year old Maurizio, who is originally from Sicily and studying Fashion Textile Design at the University of West of England in Bristol, won the Higher Education award for his Belle Epoque red organza one-sleeved corset and tight-fitting brocade skirt.

Watched by his family who had flown in from Italy especially, Maurizio was very emotional as he said: "I'm so happy, it means so much to me to win. I'm looking forward to the work experience placement and will spend the prize money on my final university collection."

Sally Davey was the winner of the Higher Education category. Sally is studying Fashion and Creative Studies at GLOSCAT in Gloucestershire. Her design was a pale blue strapless evening gown inspired by moving water, designed for a charity ball in support of Water Aid – and she is generously donating her prize money to the charity.

As well as her design, the judges were impressed that Sally had created her own material for her dress, heat-treating the synthetic blue fabric to alter its form and create a shimmering effect with luxurious beading and a fishtail.

She said: "I can't believe I've won. I didn't think I would as the others were so good. I'd love to have my own fashion label one day, so I'm really looking forward to the work placement."

After the show, Jeff Banks said: “The standard was incredibly high and for the winners to already be this good at such a young age – watch this space.”

The Mall’s marketing manager Sue Boor was one of the judges. “The variety and quality of the finished outfits was just amazing and proves why the UK offers the best fashion education in the world,” she said. “There were influences from punk to gothic, tweed tailoring to evening glamour and our audiences have really enjoyed seeing the outfits here on the catwalk.”

Nearly 100 students from Higher Education and Further Education establishments across the region entered the competition with a brief to design an outfit for a social occasion. Twelve students were selected as finalists and invited to create their outfits for the final round of judging on the catwalk at The Mall’s Fashion Week.

The Mall’s Fashion Week also featured many of the key looks for this autumn/winter from leading retailers such as Marks and Spencer, John Lewis, Karen Millen, Gap and O’Neill. The event continues until Saturday 20th September.