

Student designers wow July judges

A MASSIVE entry of 110 outfits put together by student fashion design students from across KwaZulu-Natal left the high powered panel of judges with a tough task to shortlist the candidates for the semi-finals of the Vodacom Durban July Young Designer award.

The overwhelming majority provided cutting edge interpretations of the theme *A Material World* and pushed the boundaries of fabrication and construction as they delved into a wide array of recycled fabrics for their creations.

Facing a panel of judges that included established design icons Andre Martin and Brenda Quin, fashion industry stalwart Derrick Mhlongo, fashion programme director Tiffany Prior and Gold Circle's Monica Holman, it took several hours for each of the designs to be carefully scrutinised before the final thirty semi-finals were shortlisted. "I was really impressed by the deepness of thought that went into the interpretation of the theme," said Martin.

The thirty semi-finalists will be shown at the festive Vodacom Durban July Fashion Experience show on Monday 18 June at Greyville Racecourse, where ten finalists will be selected. Entrance is free.

The 30 semi-finalists are: Amiee Cilliers,

Jasmine Huang, Alyssa Govender, Chloe Kippen, Divan Brits, Kirra-Lee Brodowicz (all Style Design College), Pretty Ngema Sifiso Kunene, Charity Gumede, Senzo Mosia (all Lindiwe Kuzwayo Academy of Fashion Design), Jade Pillay, Nkosingiphile Thusi, Kylie Folkard, Tamaryn-Lee Sturrock, Lauren Vansen, Chanelle Wright, Elishah Eswardutt, Nicole Sharratt, Nolwazi Buthelezi, Joyce Letu, Daniel Pantoni, Chelsea Larkan, Wondile Masinga, Saneliswe Myeza, Banu Bulose, Nabeelah Ali, Karen Fisher (all Durban University of Technology), Paveshen Pillay, Nontethelelo Smelembe (both PMB School of Fashion) and Sibongiseni Myeni (Jabu's Academy of Fashion).

The Vodacom Durban July takes place at Greyville racecourse on Saturday 7 July 2012.

Model Cassidy Lilburn (left) in a recycled plastic and newspaper outfit by Gabi De Nadai, and model Brittany Kippen wearing an edgy design by student Chloe Kippen in the semi-finals of the Vodacom Durban July Young Designer Award, brought to you by Canon.

