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FREE SCHOOL HOLIDAY GUIDE

Four-page liftout inside



PLUS WIN
MEGA
MOVIE PASSES
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Nine reviews TV deal as



style *Melissa Hoyer*

What's hot



Mod squad: Burberry coat and tie, beefcake from Versace and cool elegance from Armani



Spare us the freak peeks

After observing the week's pictures from the Milan men's summer collections I am, yet again, dumbfounded by the runway tricks used by some designers to garner a frock headline or two.

In among the beautifully wearable pieces from Miuccia Prada, Burberry, Armani and Jil Sander, and the stunningly sexy ones from the likes of Dolce & Gabbana, Cavalli and Versace, also unfortunately come some simply stupid clothes.

Making a bloke look like a complete and utter fool, an extra in a bad musical society play, or a bit part in a Big Brother dress-up skit, is par for the course for designers like Alexander McQueen and Vivienne Westwood.

I really am bored with some designers who treat their runways, and ultimately their customers, as freak shows by dressing models in costly, crazy clothes. I am sick of crap being heralded as "creative genius" and the simply garish being trumpeted as "talent".

There is no question that the likes of McQueen and Westwood are incredibly creative folk — give them a Las Vegas



Sale time: Tsubi's Dan Single

called Soochen and Soozhee (who work with an outfit called Margaret's Place couture) are "recycling" unwanted garments. Soochen and Soozhee redesign and refit old garments to create new pieces with the service designed to minimise fashion waste. Retailers will so hate hearing this!

The pair travel to their client's home or office where they can assess, design and create a wardrobe appropriate to the client's needs. Margaret's Place can be contacted on (02) 9826 0661 and their email is sales@margaretsplace.com.au for appointments.

Bargain time

HERE it comes. The annual Tsubi garage sale will be held next Saturday and Sunday, July 9 and 10, from 10am-4pm at The Kirk Church at 422 Cleveland St, Surry Hills.

There will be discontinued styles, samples and last-season stock, all on sale. You'd better start sleeping overnight at the Kirk to avoid the queue.

At the other end of the sale spectrum is the one hosted by Woollahra's divine Sambag store with 50 per cent off girlie-minded bags, shoes and skirts. It commences Monday, July 11.

be in nirvana — but, honestly, some of their offerings from the Milan runways really got to me.

Of course, I love seeing what fashion folk wear and design for themselves — but most of the young guns do it on a shoestring, and do not charge anything like the kind of bucks renowned designers like these will.

In among the silliness there are, of course, the wearable bits, but let's get rid of all this overdone style insanity, and get to some real clothes reality.

Fashion recycle

ECO-responsibility and recycling are not usually associated with fashion, but a duo

What's not



Gingering up

Australian accessory label Ginger & Smart is doing great business here. Treasure Hunter is the name of their spring/summer collection 05/06 and it is quite a mix of exotic fashion and accessories, inspired by escape destinations.

The pieces have had a great response from the European market, securing Browns Focus UK as a customer, while G & S bags will be sitting alongside Gucci and Prada at Italian stores Lazzari (in Venice), Sugar (in Arezzo) and Luisi (in Rimini).

Accessory pieces also include wrist purses, silk print head scarves, raw-cut stone and shell pendants. Phone (02) 9380 8900 for stockists.



Do not adjust your set: Vivienne Westwood (above) and Alexander McQueen (centre and above right)