



Dedicated followers of Irish fashion: The finalists for the Nokia Young Fashion Designer Award 2007

Fashionistas vie to come out on Top of the Shop



Finalists: Aislinn Sweeney, left, 23, and Jennifer Browne, 22

MOST young fashionistas could only hope to emulate the stylish outfits on show in high street window displays.

But one of these aspiring fashion designers is in the running to have their very own designs featured beside the work of fashion icons Kate Moss and Irish designer Joanne Hynes in Topshop's St Stephen's Green flagship store.

The winner of the Nokia Young Fashion Designer Award will also receive €5,000, invaluable media exposure, a work placement with Topshop and money for a buying trip or a bursary.

The 12 finalists were selected from design colleges across the 32 counties, including eight from the Limerick School of Art and Design and four from Dublin's National College of Art and Design. The students were asked to create

By Lucie van den Berg

avant-garde designs using a sophisticated colour palette.

Their aim was an overall look and feel of glamour and decadence.

Last night a panel of judges attended an event in Topshop's flagship store to congratulate the students, including Topshop's buying director, Caren Downie, Grazia magazine style editor, Paula Reed, Irish fashion designer Leigh Tucker and accessories designer Pauric Sweeney.

The designs will be brought to life on the catwalk at a glittering finale in Dublin's Olympia Theatre on Tuesday, March 27, where the overall winner will be announced.

Miss Downie said Topshop had a history of nurturing up-and-coming fashion design talent.

Cancer alert for men

By Kate Chambré

FOR the first time cancer has overtaken heart-related disease as the most serious cause of sickness among men, a new report has found.

And according to findings published yesterday by life assurance provider Irish Life, there were more than double the number of cancer claims for men and women last year in comparison to heart-related illness claims.

In fact, the company reported that of payments made to serious illness male and female policy-holders, 63 per cent related to cancer – a 10 per cent rise on the previous year's figures.

But considerably fewer payments (24 per cent) related to heart illness.

The remaining payments related to stroke (6 per cent), multiple sclerosis (2 per cent) and a variety of other illnesses (5 per cent).

The report was published as part of an analysis of the total payments made by Irish Life to life cover and specified illness cover customers in 2006. It showed that 47 per cent of payments made to male customers

Condition has overtaken heart-related disease as main cause of serious illness

in 2006 were to do with cancer-related illness, in comparison with 12 per cent the previous year.

Remarkably, however, fewer claims (39 per cent) accounted for heart-related illness.

The news comes as medical experts warned earlier this month that cancer cases are set to nearly double, from 22,500 this year to

'We anticipate an epidemic of cancer'

43,000 in 2020.

Recent figures from the National Cancer Registry in Ireland also warned that the number of potentially fatal cancers will more than double, from 13,800 to 23,800 in the same period.

The Irish Life report also backs up medical evidence that prostate cancer is one of the most common

forms of cancer in men. Prostate cancer accounted for 19.5 per cent of male Irish Life clients, followed by colon cancer (8 per cent), lung cancer (8 per cent), testicular cancer (8 per cent) and lymphoma cancer (8 per cent). And breast cancer accounted for 80 per cent of female Irish Life clients.

This was followed by cervical cancer (9 per cent) and colon cancer (7 per cent).

The National Cancer Registry says that prostate cancer is considered one of the most potent time-bombs, and has warned of a 275 per cent increase in incidence of the cancer by 2020.

One in 14 men living in Ireland will contract it at some stage during their lifetimes. But despite this there are just 26 publicly funded urologists in the country.

Jane Curtin, spokesman for the Irish Cancer Society, told the Irish Daily Mail yesterday it was not at all surprising that cancer had over-

taken heart disease as the most serious cause of illness among men.

'We certainly would not be surprised by the fact,' she said.

'We are anticipating an epidemic of cancer in this country. It's estimated that 22,500 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in 2007.

And this figure will have risen to

Prostate cancer to rise 275pc by 2020

43,000 by 2020.'

She added: 'Prostate cancer is the most common male-specific cancer.'

'There are approximately 1,370 new cases of prostate cancer diagnoses in Ireland every year.'

'And it's estimated that we are going to witness a 275 per cent increase in the incidence of prostate cancer by 2020, which

means there will be approximately 3,768 new cases of prostate cancer by 2020.'

Meanwhile, reacting to the new report Kevin Murphy, head of Irish Life Retail, said that during 2006 the company paid a total of €76m to more than 2,200 customers of its life cover and serious illness cover products.

'The average payments made to life cover customers increased from €38,000 in 2005 to more than €32,500 in 2006. The average payment made to specified-illness customers rose from €48,000 in 2005 to €55,700 in 2006.'

'Worryingly, there seems to be an increase in the percentage of our customers suffering from cancer-related illnesses,' he said.

'However, this increase may be partly due to people addressing the issues that lead to heart illness, thus reducing the numbers experiencing heart ailments.'

Other findings from the report found that similar to previous years cancer was the most common illness among women with more than 85 per cent of female claims relating to the disease. This was 9 per cent more than last year.

However, just 4 per cent of claims were for heart-related illness, which was the same percentage as 2005.