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## A Triumph For Canada!

The *Triumph Inspiration Award* is a global lingerie design competition for fashion design students. Young talents around the world were called

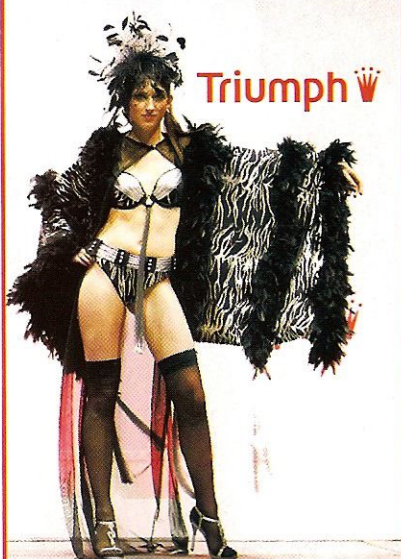


upon to create a lingerie set fashioned after an "icon" of their choice. On April 27th, thirty fashion design students from George Brown College showcased their one-of-a-kind bra and panty sets on the cat walk in front of a panel of high profile judges.

Andrea Tucker placed first in Canada with her art deco inspired concept "Believable Beauty". Andrea will travel to Milan in September during fashion week to compete in the Triumph Inspiration International Finale with over 30 countries competing for the International title.

Andrea says the inspiration behind her creation came from the exquisite details that art deco designer *Erte* used in his work. This was reflected beautifully in her design, which included a bra, thong, kimono, stockings and feather headpiece. Andrea's passion for designing lingerie comes from her grandmother who has been sewing lingerie and swimwear for many years. Andrea will graduate George Brown this year and hopes to specialize in lingerie and swimwear.

Support our Canadian finalist by casting your vote on-line and you could win a trip to Milan. Visit [www.triumph-inspiration-award.com](http://www.triumph-inspiration-award.com)



"Believable Beauty" by Andrea Tucker

**Triumph** [www.triumph.com](http://www.triumph.com)

## ELLE FASHION

### “CHARLES JAMES WOUND A ZIPPER AROUND THE TORSO OF A DAY DRESS HE CALLED THE 'TAXI.'”

side of Karen Walker, the pill-popping cynic on *Will & Grace*, who, in one episode, admitted: “I love Chinatown. You can buy a bag of zippers for a dollar. I hand them out to poor kids. I love to watch the look on their little faces as they zip and unzip their new toys.”

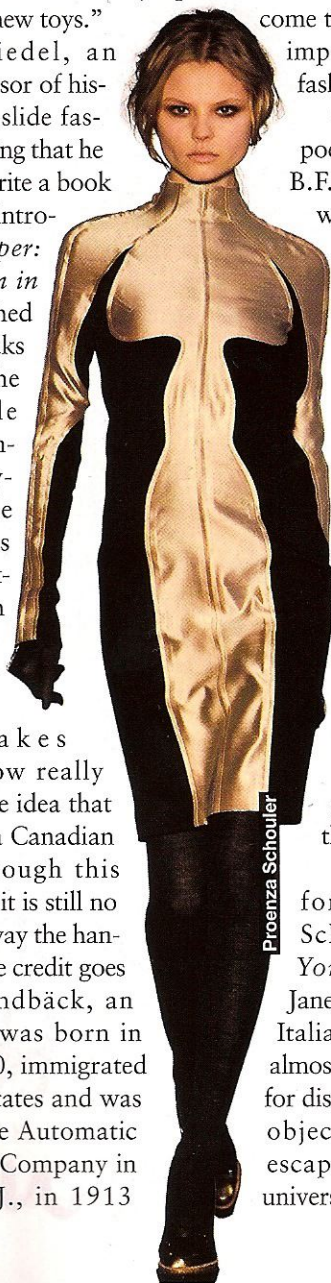
Robert Friedel, an American professor of history, found the slide fastener so fascinating that he was moved to write a book about it. In his introduction to *Zipper: An Exploration in Novelty*, published in 1996, he speaks touchingly of the ordinary little gadget as a symbol of the newness that people in modern times have come to expect and cherish as an improvement in the human condition.

What makes Canadians grow really misty-eyed is the idea that the zipper was a Canadian invention. Though this wasn't the case, it is still no reason to put away the hankies: Most of the credit goes to Gideon Sundbäck, an engineer who was born in Sweden in 1880, immigrated to the United States and was working for the Automatic Hook and Eye Company in Hoboken, N.J., in 1913

when he perfected the device that had been worked on by several others—most notably American Whitcomb Judson. Besides the slide fastener, Sundbäck also invented the machinery that was best suited to making them and was the pride of the Lightning Fastener Company, which he became president of and moved to St. Catharines, Ont., in 1925. The company lasted until 1981, at which time hometown girl Linda Evangelista was about to become the region's second most important contribution to fashion history.

Given their onomatopoeic name in 1923 by the B.F. Goodrich Company, which used them on rubber boots, zippers—which are known to catch—were slow to catch on. Used on money belts and tobacco pouches, they didn't become an instrument of fashion until 1933, when Charles James—who was impossible to get along with and a genius at clothing construction—wound a zipper around the torso of a day dress that, in the spirit of going places, he called the “Taxi.”

Even more famous for gadgetry was Elsa Schiaparelli. In a *New Yorker* profile in 1932, Janet Flanner wrote that the Italian designer had “a gift, almost uncontrollable at times, for discovering beauty in lowly objects that have hitherto escaped attention by being universally useful.”▷



Proenza Schouler