

Cross-Border raid

Cutting-edge Scots fashion set for London

By Jonathan Brocklebank

THEY are some of Scotland's best-known clothing retailers, with reputations built on fine fabrics and understated style.

But now those traditional brands have been given spiky image makeovers by some of the nation's cutting-edge designers.

These collaborations between established manufacturers and pioneering designers will form part of a cross-Border assault on London Fashion Week this month.

And, ultimately, it could propel the brands into high-end fashion markets in the U.S., Japan and the Continent.

Among the team efforts is a flowing aubergine cashmere coat, the result of a collaboration between Holland & Sherry and Vidler & Nixon.

While Holland & Sherry, based in Peebles, is best known as a prestigious cloth weaver and bespoke tailor with an outlet in London's Savile Row, Glaswegian Kerry Nixon and design

53

catwalk shows during the six days of London Fashion Week

partner Stefan Vidler are two of the biggest names in British fashion.

Their pieces have been worn by Keira Knightley and Sienna Miller and some of their work was displayed in the Harrods Christmas window display.

Harris Tweed, meanwhile, was married up to an army-influenced print by Edinburgh-based designer Joey D for a patchwork coat and mini-kilt.

Joey D, known for his punky reworkings of traditional Scottish styles, is a regular at the Dressed to Kilt fashion show in New York.

Designer Sandra Murray, who has dressed the Queen for the opening of the Scottish parliament, was given free rein to work with a variety of Scottish manufacturers to create a green cashmere and copper tulle dress.

Other collaborations include raincoat maker Mackintosh teamed with designers Norreys and Catheryn Huntly, tartan weaver Lochcarron working with Glasgow fashion label



Caledonian chic: Top designer Joey D's Harris Tweed outfit, left, and the result of Holland & Sherry's collaboration with Vidler & Nixon, above

Olanic and cashmere manufacturers Begg Scotland joining with top designer Aimee McWilliams.

The collaborations are part-funded by Scottish Enterprise.

Kirsty Scott, head of the agency's Scottish textiles team, said: 'By enabling leading brands to work with some of the best design talent to come out of Scotland, these collaborations will provide a win-win for both designers and companies.'

'The designers can draw on the companies' years of experience of production and marketing while the companies will be able to benefit from the designers' reputation within the high-end fashion industry.'

The full showcase of collaborations will be staged at London Fashion Week Main Tent from February 10-13.

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Femail - Pages 44-67



Dressed to kilt: Designer Sandra Murray's Scottish-inspired outfit