

FEBRUARY 2017

20th Annual Rising Star Awards

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Rising Star Cocktail Party

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FGI Annual Meeting

Save The Date
RTW

Fall / Winter 17

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Upcoming Events
New Members List

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iTALK@FGI

The Fashion Group International Rising Star Awards



The 2017 Rising Stars



Margaret Hayes and keynote speaker Whoopi Goldberg



Presenter Aerin Lauder



Presenter Julie Wainwright



Presenter Bobbi Brown



Presenter Roopal Patel with
Saks Fifth Avenue's Tracy Margolies



Presenter Prabal Gurung

Accessories



Allison Mitchell
Allison Mitchell LLC

Retail



Jennifer Bandier
Bandier

Beauty / Fragrance Entrepreneur



Isabel and Ruben Toledo
Hot House Beauties by Isabel Toledo

Beauty / Fragrance Corporate



Kia Ragland
Smashbox Cosmetics

Fine Jewelry



Dana Bronfman
Dana Bronfman

Home/Interior Design



Gabriel Handler and Jeremy Anderson
Apparatus

Menswear



Peyman Umay
Peyman Umay LLC

Womenswear (Tie)



Alejandra Alonso Rojas
Alejandra Alonso Rojas

Hilldun Business Innovation



Christine Hunsicker
Gwynnie Bee

Accessories Award

presented by Roopal Patel

Allison Mitchell for Allison Mitchell LLC.

Aimee Kestenberg for Aimee Kestenberg Elan
Freida Rothman for Freida Rothman
Susan Easton for From the Road
Heather Hubbard for Mr.
Bruce R. Katz for Samuel Hubbard Shoe Company
Tarryn Simone for Tarryn Simone LLC.

Retail Award

presented by Julie Wainwright

Jennifer Bandier of Bandier

Megan Berry of byReveal
Sarah Krauss of S'Well

Beauty and Fragrance Corporate Award

presented by Linda Wells

Kia Ragland of Smashbox Cosmetics

Alexandra Besnard of Firmenich
Chiaki Nomura of International Flavors & Fragrances
Cate Powell of MAC Cosmetics

Beauty Fragrance Entrepreneur Award

presented by Bobbi Brown

Isabel and Ruben Toledo, for Hot House Beauties Fragrance Collection by Isabel Toledo

Matthew Waitesmith for Artis
Mark Veeder for Farmacy
Zanna Roberts Rassi for Milk Makeup
Elizabeth Gaynes for Strange Love NYC
Holly Riddel for The Riddel Group LLC.

Fine Jewelry Award

presented by Amanda Weiner Alagem

Dana Bronfman for Dana Bronfman

Gourav Soni for 64 Facets
Meredith Marks for Meredith Marks
Lepa Galeb-Roskopp for Misahara Jewelry

Home Furnishings and Product Innovation Award

presented by Aerin Lauder

Gabriel Handler and Jeremy Anderson for Apparatus

Jason Miller for Roll & Hill
Andrew Deming and Rachel Gant for Yield

Menswear Award

presented by Eric Jennings

Peyman Umay for Peyman Umay LLC.

David Hart for David Hart
Carlos Garciavelez for Garciavelez
Stephen Ferber for Stephen F

Womenswear Award (tie)

presented by Prabal Gurung

Alejandra Alonso Rojas for Alejandra Alonso Rojas

Claudia Li for Claudia Li
Jeffrey Dodd for Jeffrey Dodd
Ji Oh for Ji Oh
Georgia Lazzaro for Protagonist
Romeo Hunte for Romeo Hunte New York
Emily Brady Koplar for Wai Ming

Hilldun Business Innovation Award

presented by Gary Wassner

Christine Hunsicker of Gwynnie Bee



Presenter Gary Wassner



Presenter Linda wells



Presenter Amanda Weiner Alagem

The Annual Rising Star Awards, presented by The Fashion Group International on January 26, at New York's Cipriani 42nd Street, celebrated not only the fashion, design, and beauty categories for which they are so well known, but also the heart and passion of the entire industry. In addressing the sold-out audience of more than 400, **Margaret Hayes**, president of FGI, said the event marked a special day, the 20th anniversary of the awards, and also welcomed "perhaps the most exciting keynote speaker ever, **Whoopi Goldberg**."

Hayes explained that the awards recognize achievement in the categories of accessories, home furnishings, fine jewelry, beauty and fragrance (both corporate and entrepreneurial), menswear, retail, and womenswear, and noted that the program supports FGI's mission to promote the careers of both seasoned and emerging talents.

Every year, the voting process begins with 120 nominees proposed by the Rising Star creative committee, FGI Board, members and friends in the fashion, beauty and design communities. The FGI Board of Directors and committee members vote in the first round, using a numbered scale rating creativity and innovation to determine finalists. The second and final round of voting is open to the entire FGI membership.

Members represent all industry classifications; their vote reflects a microcosm of the consuming public and is a barometer of success, said Hayes. She added, however, that while talent is a special ability, it can only be fully realized through "strength of character, selfless commitment of time, energy, resources, and relentless drive." Emphasizing her confidence in what lies ahead, Hayes said, "You are all to be congratulated for the passion that has brought you to this moment. The industry's future is secure because of your talent and creativity."

Hayes thanked sponsors of the event, including Hearst Magazines, Saks Fifth Avenue, the Hiltun Corporation, the Movado Group for creating and donating the awards, **John Sano** for design of the "step-and-repeat" wall, and the day's presenters: **Amanda Weiner Alagem**, **Neil Blumenthal**, **Roopal Patel** (stepping in for Neil Blumenthal who had a last-minute emergency out of town), **Bobbi Brown**, **Prabal Gurung**, **Eric Jennings**, **Aerin Lauder**, **Julie Wainwright**, **Gary Wassner** and **Linda Wells**, as well as former Rising Star winners **Monica Rich Kosann** and **Catherine Smith**.

A Keynote for All Seasons

Hayes introduced the Goldberg as "one of the few performers to win every major entertainment award, including an Oscar, Tony, Grammy and two Emmys, as well as two Golden Globe Awards, a Drama Desk Award and three People's Choice awards." She asked attendees to join her in welcoming "actress, comedian, television host, and human rights activist, **Whoopi Goldberg**."

Goldberg began by declaring, "I'm fashion's worst nightmare and you're probably wondering why I'm here." However, she brought it all into focus by noting that the room was filled with young people, the hope for the future, and their creativity would change fashion. "Fashion is not predicated on how thin you are, but on how good you want to look," she said. Goldberg referred to her own fashion venture last year, in which she conceptualized and designed the ugly sweater collection, a line of quirky Christmas sweaters made of wool, cashmere and cotton, which featured cartoonlike designs that expressed her humor and style.

She confessed she found the venture pleasurable but also a lot of hard work: "I designed an ugly sweater and I realized how difficult it is. I had a liking for it, but you have a passion for it. Fashion without passion is beige. Please don't make us beige. So do it. Do kick-ass stuff. Someone will wear it," she said. "Don't lose your passion, it's rare to find it."

Alluding to the state of the world today, Goldberg said, "It's going to be a little rocky for a while, but people always need to feel good and that's where you come in. In the strangeness that may or may not come, do whatever you can to make it better. Smile at people. I smile at people. We can have that connection. We're not all the same and that's what makes us interesting. So do it without evil, do it with goodness in your hearts. Cherish these moments, get in it, swim in it, then share it."

In presenting Goldberg with FGI's Spirit of Rising Star Award, Margaret Hayes took the opportunity to share Goldberg's own inspiring words, "I am the American dream. I am the epitome of what the American Dream basically said. You could come from anywhere and be anything you want in this country...and that's exactly what I did. I am where I am because I believe in all possibilities."



Presenting the Womenswear award, **Prabal Gurung** acknowledged **Isabel** and **Ruben Toledo**, **Bobbi Brown**, and **Linda Wells** for "their fabulous examples in the fashion and beauty industries." He applauded the fact that the nominees had created collections for a diverse range of women, and cited the combination of passion, art and achievement that were hallmarks of this year's award ceremony.

Winners in all categories thanked their teams and expressed their gratitude for the encouragement they received along the way. Among the fashion award recipients, Menswear winner **Peyman Umay** noted how honored he was to accept his award from "such an amazing organization as FGI. Everybody called me a dreamer, and here I am. There are two things that you need to have, and they are your beliefs and your values," he said.

Kia Ragland of Smashbox, winner in the Beauty/Fragrance Corporate category, thanked her team, noting that The Estée Lauder Companies and Smashbox had given her great opportunities. "Even when I created a bright color like Punch, they welcomed it, and it became a big hit," said Ragland.

Isabel and Ruben Toledo, who won Fragrance Entrepreneur honors, shared their enthusiasm for breaking the mold with their fragrance collection. Their deeply personal fragrances feature tropical scents and tell their own story of love and joy. The first-time fragrance collaboration between the Toledos and Lane Bryant followed the debut of the Isabel Toledo fashion collection for Lane Bryant.

In a tribute to what was at the heart of the Rising Star Award celebration, the Toledos thanked FGI, as well as their Givaudan family, with whom they worked to create the fragrance collection. They concluded with a quote from their friend **Karl Lagerfeld**, who said, "It's never too late to start rising."

— Nancy Jeffries

Contributing Writer, bnjcasa@aol.com

Rising Stars Cocktail Party

"I work at Fashion Group." With these words, **Margaret Hayes** summoned the attention of the packed Café SFA, a crowd of FGI Board and committee members, rising star finalists, past winners and guests. The fun and intimate annual event is held each year (and hosted by Saks Fifth Avenue, thank you!) to honor all the finalists a few weeks before the Rising Star Awards luncheon.

"It's hard to believe it's the 20th year for the Rising Stars," Hayes said. She explained how the finalists had been culled from a starting pool of more than 100 nominees in eight categories to a group of 38. She also highlighted the many past finalists and winners who have gone on to further greatness—**Catherine Smith**, **Clio Ermenidis**, **Julie Mackowe**, **Donrad Duncan**, **Loris Diran** and **Brandon Maxwell**, to name just a few.

The crowd mixed and mingled over tasty nibbles and sparkling drinks—and also got to meander through Saks' annual shoe sale (in case anyone needed new footwear to wear to the awards).

— **Katie Kretschmer**
Editor/Contributing Writer

ALL NEW ON THE FGI WEBSITE!

"FASHION SPEAKS..."

A blog featuring FGI members worldwide, sharing their thoughts and views on fashion, retail, beauty, culture and current events.

A MEMBERS-ONLY EXCLUSIVE!
FIND IT ON YOUR REGION'S HOMEPAGE
AT WWW.FGI.ORG



Catherine Smith of Plan de Ville,
2016 Rising Star Winner in retail



Designer Ji Oh of Ji Oh, Womenswear finalist



From left: Womenswear finalist Alejandra Alonso Rojas
with Rebecca Blair



From left: Nicholas Graham with Beauty/Fragrance
Entrepreneur finalist Elizabeth Gaynes of Strange Love NYC



From left: Model Kim Alexis and
2011 Menswear Rising Star winner Loris Diran



Amanda Weiner Alagem



From left: Rhona Stokols and Fine Jewelry finalist
Lepa Galeb-Roskopp of Misahara Jewelry



From left: Accessories finalist Allison Mitchell with
Womenswear finalist Emily Brady Koplar of Wai Ming



Margaret Hayes and Erica Orange



Deanna Clark Esposito

FGI held its annual meeting at headquarters on January 30th. Board members, committee chairs and general members assembled to enjoy wine and snacks and hear quick reports on the state of the organization and vote on new Board members.

For starters, FGI President **Margaret Hayes** announced that the full slate was elected, as follows:

Seven new directors were elected for three-year terms: **Karen L. Bromley**, **Jodi Kaplan**, **Jaqui Lividini**, **Roopal Patel**, **Frederic Pignault**, **Michael Sengstack** and **Jameel Spencer**. **Angela Mariani** was elected for a second three-year term, and **Nancy Cardone** and **Nicholas Munafo** were elected to serve a third and final three-year term on the board. Additionally, **Donald J. Loftus** was elected chairman of the board for a three-year term.

Hayes then gave a brief financial overview for 2016. "It was good, but not great," she said, adding that "good is the new great." She explained that while the organization lost money, they typically plan to lose money every year (but don't always) and in general the organization was healthy. "However, the big challenge remains membership growth. Everyone in this room should aim to bring two new members to our organization."

Hayes was followed by the chairs from the various committees who each presented the highlights for the year.

Amy Rosi, who leads the special events committee, spoke about the importance of events both for raising funds and for attracting new members.

Emily Koltnow, chair of the Regional Conference committee explained how the two-and-a-half-day annual meeting for regional directors serves as valuable training and education to help them support and promote FGI for their local members.

Maryanne Grisz, director of special events & social strategy, explained how FGI's social media presence has grown over the past three years. "Our social media reach is growing faster than membership," she said. She highlighted the new blog, FGI Speaks, that is open to contributions from all members and has been very well received.

Diane Clehane takes care of public relations for the organization and handed out a fat printout of clips showing off front-page coverage of FGI events in major outlets, as well as video clips.

Deanna Clark Esposito talked about activities of the membership committee—stepping in for committee chair **Donella Tillary**, and **Katie Kretschmer** gave a quick rundown on the publications committee.

The evening is also an opportunity for the board to recognize members for contributions to the organization or for achievements. This year, the Entrepreneur of the Year award was presented to **Erica Orange**, executive vice president and chief operating officer of The Future Hunters.

— **Katie Kretschmer**
Editor/Contributing Writer

SAVE THE DATE

READY TO WEAR

TREND PRESENTATION

FALL / WINTER 2017

April 6, 2017

Hearst Tower Screening Room
2nd Floor, 300 West 57 ST

9 a.m. Trend Presentation

12 Noon Trend Presentation
(with panel discussion)

2 p.m. Trend Presentation
(with video encore of panel discussion)



For more information
and to purchase tickets and/or tables
Visit www.fgi.org or call 212.302.5511

March 9, 2017
TASTEMAKERS
JOHN DEMSEY

 Executive Group President,
 The Estée Lauder Companies
 &

ALINA CHO

Editor at Large, Ballantine Bantam Dell

21 Club / 21 West 52nd Street

 Seated Breakfast 8:50 - 9:20 a.m.
 Conversation 9:25 - 10:05 a.m.

March 21, 2017
Next Gen
Brett Heyman,

 Founder of Edie Parker and 2016 FGI Rising Star
 Winner, joins us to talk about her passionate hunt
 for the post-WWII vintage clutches that inspired
 her collection of customizable, acrylic
 minaudières & crystal-dazzled bangles being
 snapped up by cool girls everywhere.

 FGI Headquarters
 8 West 40th Street, 7th Floor

 5:30 - 6 p.m. Reception
 6 - 7 p.m. Program

For more information
and to purchase tickets and/or tables
Visit www.fgi.org or call 212.302.5511
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