

Rising Star Awards Recognize Top Emerging Brands in a Variety of Categories

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Patricia Field

American costume a...

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NEW YORK — The fashion industry is known for its willingness to mentor the next generation of creatives, so it was no surprise that Fashion Group International's 27th Rising Star awards drew a full house to the Lighthouse at Chelsea Piers on Monday afternoon to anoint the most-promising emerging brands.

Past recipients have included Jason Wu, Tory Burch, Phillip Lim and Thom Browne, so the path to success for those lucky enough to take home the crystal award is well established.

This time around, FGI established categories set up by sector rather than gender, including eveningwear, ready-to-wear and active/casualwear where men's, women's and gender-neutral brands vied for the awards. It also introduced a new award, one for collaborations, that recognized that popular fashion category.

The event started with FGI's president and chief executive officer Maryanne Grisz, revealing the launch of a mentorship and learning program for emerging brands. The program will address topics such as business plans, sales and distribution, design and production, legal issues and other potential pitfalls that can sink a young business.



Bach Mai

The program, which is open to finalists as well as winners, will pair the emerging designers with industry executives including Gary Wassner of Hildun Corp.; Edwina Kulego of Informa Markets Fashion; Behnaz Ghahramani of Brother Vellies; Caroline Fabrigas of Scent Marketing; Carlos Campos of his eponymous collection; Nicole Fischelis, a fashion forecaster and former Saks Fifth Avenue executive, and Douglas Hand, a fashion attorney.

But while the nominees were eager to sign up to participate in the mentoring program, it was the awards that took center stage at the luncheon.

Former Rising Star winner Patricia Field was the keynote speaker and chronicled her journey from NYU's liberal arts program to fashion designer, costume designer and now curator of ArtFashion Gallery, a Lower East Side location in New York where she selects handcrafted apparel and accessories from a group of artists.

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