

Wedding and eveningwear reflected in the Daarlarna store window.

BUDAPEST

Local talent fuels a growing boutique scene

BY CAROLYN BÁNFALVI

While luxury labels like Chanel, Louis Vuitton, and Burberry are rumoured to be opening shops in Budapest, the city's designers are starting to attract attention from retailers beyond Hungary's borders for their collections of directional, often reasonably priced clothes, accessories, and fabrics. Local and international celebs filming in Budapest have already discovered Hungarian fashion. At right are some names to check out:

AQUANAUTA Krisztina Mátrai, Kinga Mosshammer, and Bernadett Pallai met at university six years ago and opened their Aquanauta-label shop, Aqua-tick, visited often by stylists from local fashion magazines like *Stilus* and *Beau Monde*. The trio regularly design costumes for Hungarian theater productions and recently created pieces for pop group **Rapülök's** 2006 reunion concert in Budapest. Hungarian actress **Anikó Für** shops here.

Style: The downtown boutique carries casual ready-to-wear—retro zip-front dresses, brightly coloured tops that mix printed cotton with sheer fabrics, colorful men's printed camp shirts were recent finds—and accessories like embroidered silk belts and canvas bags in multiple sizes.

Price: From €8 for small denim purses stamped with their trademark terrier dog to €68 for multicolored triple-layer skirts.

Where to buy: Aqua-tick, V.Zrínyi utca 12; 36-1/302-3277; www.aquanautadesign.com

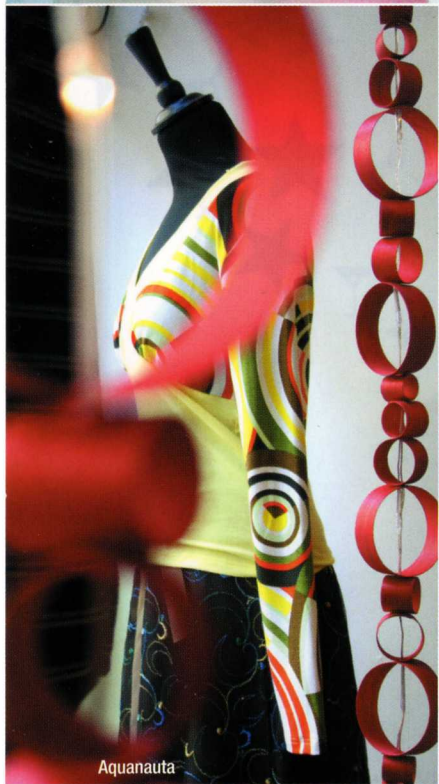
DAALARNA Since Anita Benes opened this couture wedding and eveningwear salon in 2002, Daarlarna wedding dresses have become highly sought after. TV reporter **Zsuzsa Csisztu**, singer **Zséda**, and executive **Margaret Ann Dowling** (head of Marquard Media Hungary) wear Daarlarna clothes.

Style: Daarlarna's romantic dresses, made of silk, satin, and lace imported from Italy, Scotland, and France, are frequently embellished with crystals and faux fur. Wedding dresses often feature plunging necklines and low backs; eveningwear is influenced by Asian silhouettes and patterns.

Price: From €58 for ties to approximately €1,400 for couture wedding dresses and eveningwear designs.

Where to buy: V.Alkotmány utca 16, 30/241-7175; www.daarlarna.com

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Aquanauta



Embroidered leather dress by Katti Zoób



LARGE PICTURE AND FAR LEFT: SEED CORPORATION.COM; CENTRE: COURTESY KATTI ZOÓB

