

THE
PROFESSIONAL
CLOTHING AWARDS

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PRESS RELEASE

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The Prestigious Professional Clothing Awards 2018: Another Successful Year!

I am proud to announce that on 20th June saw another successful evening of the prestigious Professional Clothing Awards!

Throughout the years, this unique event has grown and thrived, counting amongst its guests both UK and European companies. However, this year, we truly became international! Seeing companies that ranged from Europe, China, Australia and all the way from Canada and USA, the Professional Clothing Awards welcomed guests from all around the world. Having over 300 of the greatest key-players in the industry attending the ceremony, the event was conducted by **Reuben Lynch**, Toastmaster, and hosted by **Sharron Davies, MBE**, and **John Miln**, Chair of PCIAW.

Amongst our international winners we had the **Unisync Group**, based in Vancouver, who took home the Award for Best Design for Corporate Clothing, standing out with their **Air Canada** Uniform. **MASCOT® WORKWEAR**, with Headquarters in Silkeborg, blew the PPE industry away with their **MASCOT® ADVANCED**, and won the PPE Innovation of the Year Award.

This year, our most competitive category was Best Innovation in Footwear. In the end, it was **RockFall UK Ltd** who took the Award home for the second consecutive year, with their Electrical Hazard Range.

Other stand outs were beyond a doubt **Hunter**, who won Best Managed Major Contract for the **Virgin West Coast Trains** Corporatewear and Workwear, and Business Manager of the Year – proudly awarded to **Timothy Matthew**, Uniform Account Manager.

Incorporatewear made their strong presence felt by winning Best Leisure/Sportswear with the **TUI Holiday Reps** Uniform; and Made In Europe with the **HSBC** Suiting.

The wonderful team at **Jermyn Street Design** also had their share of victories, having won Best Managed Contract for Boutique for the Bare Minerals Denim Shirt; and Best Design for Workwear for the **OCADO** Workwear Range.

Also joining the league of PCA winners we had **SANKOM SA**, who won Best PPE Accessory with the **SANKOM** Patent Sock; **Tailored Image**, who won Best IT Innovation & Website; and **Wearwell**, who won Made in UK.

Congratulations to all of them! We all know how hard these talented people worked and we're honoured to be able to recognise them with due pomp and circumstance.

I would like to give a special thank you to our good partners and sponsors at **INVISTA CORDURA®**, who not only won the Awards for Best Fabric & Fibre Innovation, and Best Catalogue, but who also sponsored and helped organising PCA VISION.

The warmest thank you goes to **Cindy McNaull**, Global CORDURA Brand & Marketing Director, who graciously introduced the contest and brightened the stage with her contagious energy.

PCA VISION international is the industry's contest for student designers to showcase their garments across a range of corporatewear, workwear, PPE and sportswear. In Cindy's words;

"This year's student designers have submitted an impressive array of innovative & diverse professional clothing designs. We know how important it is not only to believe in the future, but to invest in it, to seek out and stimulate creativity, to break the mould and break free of convention. To break into new fields and look well beyond what's happening today. At CORDURA® we'll be relying on the innovators and student designers of tomorrow to help us realise our own vision of that future. This year's PCA VISION contest has proved that you shared our '360 degree' understanding of what was demanded in professional clothing, seeing it from every angle, including the wearer's perspective and that met all the criteria in terms of protection and functionality."

director-e magazine and the Professional Clothing Awards worked with **INVISTA CORDURA®**, **YKK** and **GERBER Technologies** to reward the best designs, and together we awarded the PCA VISION Overall Award to Summer Gill from Bedford College; the **CORDURA®** Durable Design Award to Thomas Davidson from Manchester Fashion Institute; the **YKK** Award to Filipe Santana from Lisbon University; and the **GERBER** Best Design Award to the Manchester Fashion Institute. The finalist garments were showcased in a live catwalk choreographed by the wonderful Debbie Astell, from **Times Two Productions**.

It was a great moment to see such young talent rewarded and encouraged to take their places in our industry. Our special thank you goes to **Catherine Anderson-Jones**, **CORDURA®** Brand Marketing Manager EMEA Region, and her team, who were relentless in the organisation of PCA VISION.

One of the biggest highlights of the evening was the launching of the **PCIAW** – Professional Clothing Industry Association Worldwide. Hosted by **Yvette Ashby**, Managing Director of Professional Clothing director-e, Show and Awards, and **John Miln**, Chair of PCIAW, this moment was a milestone in the history of our industry. We had the pleasure to witness the beginning of the only association dedicated exclusively to the sourcing and provision of

corporatewear, workwear and PPE. The industry finally has a voice. As Yvette herself said in this epic evening, “one voice can start a conversation, but many voices can start a revolution”.

The Professional Clothing Awards owe a lot of its success to our partners in Portugal, **ANIVEC**, **APICCAPS** and **CENIT**, who have been sponsoring us for many years and have helped the event grow and thrive. A special thank you to **Mr Cesar Araujo**, President of **ANIVEC/APIV** and CEO of **CALVELEX**, and **Mr Marco Araujo**, CEO of **CALVELEX**, who we have recognised with the Long Service to the Textile Industry of the Year 2018 Award. Their efforts, energy and knowledge are instrumental to the continuous success of the Textile Industry and the Professional Clothing Awards. **Mr Cesar Araujo**, with the help of the wonderful **Marlene Oliveira** from **CENIT**, presented **GINETEX** with the International Partnership 2018 Award.

On this special evening, we awarded the inspirational **Sophie Lydia Smith**, Building Surveyor, Infrastructure from **WS Atkins PLC**, with the Best New Comer Award. We were also honoured to give out the Lifetime Achievement Award to **David Clark**, Managing Director at **Hultafors Group UK**, and **Rob Pollock**, Senior Director at **Cintas E.M.A.E.**

The Awards for Long Service to the Textile Industry were presented to **Stan Groucott**, CAD Operator at **Wearwell**, and **Paul Bryce**, President and General Manager at **Ansell Ltd.** It was a privilege to see all these brilliant people getting their due recognition for all their contributions to the industry.

I would like to thank all of our sponsors and supporters, especially **Clubclass**, **Brook Taverner**, **Dickies** and **Magnum** for clothing the director-e team.

A special thank you to **Phil Newman** and his fantastic team at **Cobmex**, who also sponsored us this year and contributed greatly to the Professional Clothing Awards’ success.

For further information contact:

Diana de Oliveira | Managing Editor | Professional Clothing director-e

t: +44 (0)1908 658890 | twitter: @pcdirectore

South House 3A, Suite 4, Bond Estate, Bond Avenue, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK1 1SW

Notes to Editor:

About the Professional Clothing Awards

The Professional Clothing Awards have been established to recognise the international uniform supply chain and reward exceptional workwear, corporate clothing and PPE from around the world. The awards cover all facets of the working garment industry from Business Manager Awards, PPE Innovation Awards, Supplier, Manufacturer and Distributor Awards and Industry Recognition Awards. 2018 also saw the PCA VISION contest, our quest to shine a light on young designers looking to make their mark on the professional clothing

industry, which has been kindly sponsored by **INVISTA CORDURA®**, **YKK** and **GERBER Technologies**.

Award categories include: PPE Innovation of the Year 2018; Suppliers, Distributors and Manufacturers Awards; Industry Recognition Awards and Business Manager Awards.

For more information visit

<http://www.professionalclothingawards.com/>

About director-e Magazine

director-e™ is first for news, information and marketing in the PPE, workwear and corporate clothing industry. Host to industry conferences and founder of the UK's first Professional Clothing Show, director-e™'s ability to adapt to the changing needs of its customers is paramount. This commitment continues to attract more and more buyers, suppliers, distributors and manufacturers in the international supply chain for company clothing. If you work in the working garment industry, you will no doubt have come across director-e in some shape or form. Apart from its bi-monthly magazine, the global media service provides websites and conferences. These facets of the company work together to inform and educate the industry on the latest news, trends, innovations and events.

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