

# BRITISH FASHION COUNCIL

## PRESS RELEASE

12<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2016

### THE BRITISH FASHION COUNCIL STRENGTHENS EXECUTIVE BOARD

The British Fashion Council (BFC) is pleased to announce the appointment of three new non-executive directors: **Dylan Jones OBE**, British GQ Editor and London Fashion Week Men's Chairman; **José Neves**, Founder and CEO of Farfetch and **David Pemsel**, CEO of the Guardian Media Group. Dylan, José and David join existing board members Dame Natalie Massenet, Chairman; Caroline Rush CBE, Chief Executive and Anya Hindmarch MBE, Non-Executive Director.

Dame Natalie Massenet, commented: *'These are three strategic appointments, Dylan as the voice of menswear, an area of significant growth; David for his expertise in building international audiences through digital platforms and José a tech entrepreneur and retail disrupter. All three are leaders in their field, innovators and strategists and will play significant roles in ensuring London leads in design, business, technology and communication in fashion.'*

Dylan Jones, said: *'I am thrilled to be joining the British Fashion Council Executive Board and working with both existing and new board members. In my capacity as London Fashion Week Men's Chairman I have seen the British fashion industry grow year on year, confirming its place as one of the fashion capitals of the world. I look forward to continuing this growth alongside the board and ensuring London is not only known as the home of the best creative talent but also the place for fashion businesses to grow.'*

José Neves, stated: *'It is a huge honour to be joining such an esteemed group on the BFC Executive Board. Since I started my first fashion business in London in 1996, I have witnessed the tremendous evolution of British fashion and, as a designer and then as a technology entrepreneur I experienced both the transformational role of the BFC and its unparalleled leadership. The BFC will undoubtedly continue to ensure Britain stays at the forefront of global fashion and I am very humbled and honoured to offer my contribution to this group and its mission.'*

David Pemsel, said: *'I'm delighted to be joining the board of the British Fashion Council at such an exciting time. I look forward to working with the talented board to ensure the creativity of the British fashion industry is championed across the globe.'*

The British Fashion Council appointed its first executive board in 2009. The executive board briefs an advisory board of industry patrons, partners, media and educators. In 2013, Dame Natalie Massenet was appointed Chair and in turn appointed presidents of the organisation's strategic pillars. The initial presidents were Sarah Mower and Meribeth Parker, Education; Sophia Neophitou, Reputation,

Jonathan Goodwin, Investment; James McArthur, Business and Peter Fitzgerald, Innovation and Digital. As of Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016, Sian Westerman, Senior Advisor, Rothschild Global Advisory will succeed Jonathan Goodwin and James McArthur to become president of both the Investment and Business strategic pillars. The board of directors thank all pillar presidents for their time, energy and contribution to the fashion industry.

– ENDS –

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The British Fashion Council (BFC) was set up in 1983 to promote British fashion internationally and co-ordinate this promotion through fashion weeks, exhibitions and showcasing events. The BFC now supports designers beginning at college level and extending to talent identification, business support and showcasing schemes to help British designer businesses develop their profiles and business globally and promote British fashion and its influential role in Britain and London. The BFC Colleges Council offers support to students through its Foundation, BA and MA scholarships, links with industry through design competitions and Graduate Preview Day. Talent identification and business support schemes include the BFC Fashion Film sponsored by River Island; BFC Rock Vault; BFC Headonism; BFC/GQ Designer Menswear Fund supported by Vertu; BFC/Vogue Designer Fashion Fund; NEWGEN sponsored by TOPSHOP and NEWGEN MEN sponsored by TOPMAN. The British Fashion Council supports Boden's Future British initiative. Showcasing initiatives and events include London Fashion Week, London Collections Men, LONDON show ROOMS, the BFC Fashion Arts Foundation, International Fashion Showcase, London Fashion Weekend and the annual celebration of excellence in the fashion industry: The Fashion Awards.