

BRITISH FASHION COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

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HAROLD TILLMAN IS APPOINTED COMMANDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

Harold Tillman, Chairman of the British Fashion Council (BFC) has been bestowed the honour of Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) by the Princess Royal this morning at Buckingham Palace. Tillman was appointed CBE in the 2010 Birthday Honours list for his services to the fashion industry.

Harold Tillman comments: 'It is a real honour to be recognised in this way. The UK is home to some of the world's leading fashion brands and I am proud to be associated with a number of them through the British Fashion Council and directly with Jaeger and Aquascutum. I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to acquire these two wonderful British businesses with true heritage and be part of their revival.'

Harold Tillman, throughout a career spanning four decades, has established himself as an entrepreneur across fashion, retail and leisure and an ambassador and champion of British fashion. Tillman has revitalised a number of British businesses, currently owns and Chairs British heritage brands Jaeger and Aquascutum and was appointed Chairman of the British Fashion Council in 2008.

During his tenure at the BFC, Tillman has strengthened London Fashion Week's reputation as a global showcase for British fashion design talent, and is credited with bringing Antonio Berardi, Burberry Prorsum, Jonathan Saunders, Matthew Williamson and Pringle of Scotland back to the London catwalk. As part of the BFC's 25th anniversary celebrations he launched the BFC/Vogue Designer Fashion Fund to assist talented British designers.

Having studied at the London College of Fashion, Tillman's services to the fashion industry began following an apprenticeship at Savile Row's Kilgour, a tailoring business. He was fast-tracked to the role of the company's Managing Director, and recruited a young Paul Smith to innovate the design department plus footballer George Best to promote the clothes; transforming Kilgour into a hugely successful brand of the late 1960s and 1970s.

Key to Tillman's services to the fashion industry are his charitable achievements. He set up a scholarship at London College of Fashion in 2006, pledging £1 million to sponsor ten MA students each year. He also sits on the board of the [Fashion Enterprise Forum](#), which raises money for young industry entrepreneurs and is Chairman of the Alumni Board for the [University of the Arts London](#).

Caroline Rush, CEO of the British Fashion Council, comments: 'Harold is an inspiring Chairman and driving force within the British Fashion Council and the industry as a whole. We are delighted that his achievements have been recognised in this way.'

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Editor's notes:

1. 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 Creative Britain and Creative London. The BFC Colleges Council offers support to students through its MA Scholarship, links with industry through Design Competitions and Graduate Preview Day. Talent identification and business support schemes include the BFC/Elle Talent Launch Pad; BFC/Vogue Designer Fashion Fund; Estethica; Fashion Forward sponsored by Coutts & Co; NEWGEN sponsored by Topshop and NEWGEN MEN sponsored by Topman. Showcasing initiatives include London Fashion Week, LONDON show ROOMS, the BFC/Harper's Bazaar Fashion Arts Foundation and the annual celebration of excellence in the fashion industry, the British Fashion Awards.
2. **London Fashion Week** is owned and organised by the British Fashion Council.