

FASHION

Perfect 10

Francisco Costa knows what it takes to design for the stars. As he celebrates 10 years at Calvin Klein, he talks red-carpet style and more – JULIA SEIDL



A lot can happen in a decade. Just ask Francisco Costa, the Calvin Klein Collection women's creative director, who is marking his 10th year at the helm of the brand. "We have explored an amazing journey," the designer tells *Hello! Canada*. It's a journey that involved creating gowns for some of the most glamorous women in the world.

Long before that adventure began, Francisco, 49, got his start at his mother's factory for childrenswear in a small Brazilian mountain town. Stints at Oscar de la Renta, Balmain and with Tom Ford at Gucci followed, and soon enough he was selected by Calvin Klein himself as his replacement.

Here, we sit down with the award-winning designer to talk psychics, dressing the stars and Brooke Shields's infamous commercials ("Nothing comes between me and my Calvins").

Is it true that a psychic told you that you would work at Calvin Klein? It's totally true. I was at Oscar de la Renta and I went to a psychic – I had never been to a psychic before. He said that I'm moving and I'm going to Calvin Klein and I thought, this guy is out of his mind! And

then five years later, I met with Calvin. I've tried to look for the psychic again but I couldn't find him anywhere.

Growing up in Brazil, did you know about the brand? Yes, of course. Because it was on Brooke Shields and she was so young and so sexy. My God! When those ads came out, you couldn't think of anything else.

What did you learn from your mother about fashion? Everything! Her business was kind of a playground for me. I grew up with scissors in my hand, cutting and pasting. So I was very creative and open to whatever. She was pretty influential on me. Unfortunately, she passed away and she never got to see me work in New York. But honestly, if she hadn't have passed away, I probably wouldn't have been here because we had a very intense relationship. I probably would have stayed. Her death liberated me to pursue what she had taught me.

Tell us about your experience working for Oscar de la Renta and Tom Ford. I learned about colour from Oscar and to design with

prints. I learned the craft from him, attention to detail. With Tom Ford it was kind of the opposite of that because Tom always looked at the big picture. Tom looked at the process with a camera lens as if it was a movie and he was shooting something, so the final product was very important to him.

Which of your celebrity clients is a thrill to dress? Jennifer Lawrence is a good example. She is provocative, extremely talented and gorgeous. She's taken many roles that are so different from one another. She is a real woman. And that's exciting.

Do you design a dress with a particular celebrity in mind? It depends. If an actress comes to us at the last minute, I have to look in the archives and see what we have, which most of the time ends up going OK. But we like to have the chance to design something for special moments, a special time, and so that happens, too ... and most times also it's not the work of one. It's a collaboration; you work with the talent and also their stylist. It's magic when it happens. **H**

FRANCISCO'S FIVE MAGIC MOMENTS

WE ASK THE DESIGNER TO SHARE HIS FAVOURITE RED-CARPET GOWNS FROM THE PAST 10 YEARS



JENNIFER LAWRENCE
2011 Academy Awards

"Onscreen you never got to see how amazing her body was. She's voluptuous, she's beautiful, she's very athletic and all those things had been hidden. That night she was the first one on the red carpet and people wondered: who is this woman?"



SCARLETT JOHANSSON
2004 Met gala

"It was her first Met ball so we made the dress for her. It showed her body so well - she loved it. It was a moment."



HILARY SWANK
2005 Golden Globes

"She looked beautiful and it was so special because she won the Golden Globe for Million Dollar Baby in it."



EMMA STONE
2011 Golden Globes

"She bloomed! The colour on her was amazing - perfection with the back detail."



GWYNETH PALTROW
2011 Academy Awards

"She had that golden dress with a slit in the front, she was exquisite. A very different type of dress and a very different type of attitude."

CLOCKWISE (FROM TOP): BILLY FARRELL/BFANY.COM; FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY IMAGES; JASON MERRITT/GETTY IMAGES; CARLO ALLEGRI/GETTY IMAGES; PETER KRAMER/GETTY IMAGES; JEFF VESPA/GETTY IMAGES