

A HALF-HOUR WITH...

ZAC POSEN

As he prepares for his first Canadian fashion show, the designer to the stars talks Mother's Day gifts, dining abroad and partying at Madonna's place



Zac has teamed up with Suzanne Rogers, inset, to raise money for charity with his first Canadian runway show in Toronto on April 28.

MOTHER NATURE

On Mother's Day, I usually get my mother a gift certificate to her local garden shop because we used to buy fall-blooming bulbs together for her to plant. It was usually a surprise to see where they would bloom in the garden. [Laughs] My parents also have an amazing vegetable garden. There's nothing like lying in a tomato patch and eating them off the vine.



MOVIE HOUND

My poodle, Tina Turner, will sometimes wander through the building and I will find her at the [neighbouring] Tribeca Film Festival, sitting on a movie seat watching whatever is playing.

MADGE-IC MOMENT

What moment in my career has been most surreal? Before Christmas, when I found myself at a very intimate pre-holiday party at Madonna's house. I thought about when I was a kid in my parents' backyard, dancing to "Vogue," and to think 20 years later that here I am. I had to pinch myself.



CANADA'S GOT TALENT

Suzanne Rogers surpassed my expectations of grand style. She understands glamour and quality. Both she and [super-model] Coco Rocha have a flair for fashion.

SARTORIAL FIRSTS

I remember my older sister dressing me up and me dressing her up. She had a really great pair of 1950s Lucite heels with crystals in them. And I loved Miss Piggy's runway show in *The Great Muppet Capers!*

REPORT: JULIA SEIDL

DRESSING THE A-LIST

"Glamour is the ultimate celebration of femininity," says Zac, whose name has become synonymous with dazzling gowns. Tinseltown's finest often turn to the New York-born designer for their biggest red-carpet moments. Here, we look at some of Zac's most famous fans:

WHERE THE HEART IS

Natalie Portman was one of his first celebrity clients. "Zac's clothes are classical and elegant but also made for young people," says the *Thor* star. Zac is equally smitten with the award-winning actress – he has called Natalie his muse.

GOLDEN GIRL

When Lena Dunham attended her first Golden Globe Awards in 2013, she turned to her pal (and former babysitter!) Zac. It wasn't the first time the future *Girls* creator wore a Zac Posen original – he made her dress for her high school graduation.

PALTROW POWER

After seeing one of Zac's gowns on television, Gwyneth Paltrow had her stylist call the designer's studio the next day to arrange a fitting. A week later, the blond beauty was a vision in his peachy chiffon mermaid gown at the 2007 Academy Awards.



GOOD TASTE

When the keen foodie isn't busy cooking for friends like Coco, you can find him dining in high style at these global hot spots.

NYC: OMEN

"The perfect spot for sushi in SoHo," says

Zac of the authentic Japanese eatery.

PARIS: CAVIAR KASPIA

A favourite of the fashion crowd (designers Tory Burch and Giambattista Valli are regulars), this place has one main draw. "It's the caviar, of course! I absolutely love it."

LONDON: THE CONNAUGHT

Named after Queen Victoria's third

son, Prince Arthur, the first Duke of Connaught, the historic hotel's high tea service is a must for the designer.

MILAN: RISTORANTE DA GIACOMO

Whenever Zac is in the Italian fashion capital, he makes a point to enjoy a meal at the traditional trattoria. "The food is amazingly fresh, and it's an institution!"

CLOCKWISE (FROM TOP LEFT): MATTEO PRANDINO/IFRANCY/SIPA; PETER KRAMER/AP/CFP; JEFF VESPA/WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES; JON FURNISS/WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES; JON KOPALOFF/FILMMAGIC/GETTY IMAGES; SANTIAGO BAEZ/RAEY PHOTO/STONE PRESS; FELIX WONG