

SHOPPING

TWINKLE TOES

From styling the runway at Alexander McQueen to dressing the Duchess of Cambridge, shoe designer Tabitha Simmons knows glamour



With A-list clients such as Sandra Bullock and Kate Bosworth knocking on her door, one has to wonder if British-born footwear designer Tabitha Simmons ever gets star-struck. "I haven't really. That sounds terrible actually, but no."

Her level-headed approach may come from her years of styling for fashion heavy hitters Alexander McQueen, Calvin Klein and Dolce & Gabbana.

"As a stylist, the clothes would tell the story but the shoes would be the defining good stuff at the end."

Here, the mother of two sons, Elliott, 8, and Dylan, 7, with photographer husband Craig McDean sits with *Hello! Canada* at Hudson's Bay to talk fashion and growing up in flats.

Did you receive any advice when you started your line? I called Stefano Gabbana and told him what I was going to be releasing and he was like, "Good luck. We give you lots of luck." Everyone has been

super, super supportive.

Is it true that growing up your mom forbid you to wear high heels? Yes. I had a very strict school uniform. I used to be only allowed to wear black and brown lace-ups ... then when I left for college, I finally said, "That's it! We're going to go nuts." Now she sort of laughs and says, "I wanted your feet to grow nicely."

Do your sons show any interest in your work? I really wish they did. I took one of them into a store and said, "Look, this is what Mommy does; Mommy made these shoes," and he said, "Oh did you make the tables, too?" [Laughs] So they kind of bring you down very quickly!

How did it feel to see the Duchess of Cambridge in your shoes? I was really honoured. I knew that she had some pairs and so, it was just amazing that she wore them. And to Canada! I think she's doing a phenomenal job and has such great style. **H**

INTERVIEW: JULIA SEIDL

Tabitha's 5 Perfect Pairs

Her New York closet may be home to over 400 pairs, but these soles are essential to every woman's wardrobe



1. POINTED FLATS

Your party shoes don't have to be 10 cm tall. Try less height with a posh point. "They're really getting into evening. It's like a new version of the ballerina."

Python leather flats, \$1,245, the Room at Hudson's Bay, thebay.com

2. ANKLE BOOTIES

What is Tabitha's shoe of choice in New York City? "A great fashion bootie."

Studded leather booties, \$1,495, the Room at Hudson's Bay



3. ELABORATE EVENING SHOES

The former model insists every gal needs something colourful for evening. "Let the shoe make the statement." Like Kate Bosworth, they're your LBD's best friend.



5. SINGLE-SOLE PUMPS

Platforms have a time and a place as do a sophisticated pair of pumps such as the Duchess of Cambridge's. "You could wear them during the day and into the night."



4. SLIP-ON BOOTS

"I try and test all the shoes. I'm a mother and I style everyone's sets for 10 hours a day standing in shoes. I really strive for function," says Tabitha. Which is why a comfortable flat boot is on her menu.



Buckle boots, \$1,195, the Room at Hudson's Bay

FROM LEFT: FAIRCHILD; PHOTO SERVICE/CONDÉ NAST/ORBIS; JASON KEMPIN/GETTY IMAGES; GEORGE PIMENTEL/WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES