



5 JEWELLERY DESIGNERS

THE NOMINEES ARE:

- MANDY GILDER, MANDY G
- SARAH CARBY-THOMPSON, MYANG
- HEIDI LIEBENBERG, URBANATIVE
- MARK GOLD, MARK GOLD JEWELS
- KAI SCHMIDT, KAI SCHMIDT MANUFACTURING JEWELLERS



Momentum believes in people who believe in themselves, and by sponsoring these awards they are looking to celebrate a rare breed of people who are making a tremendous success of their lives. These passionate individuals are driven to succeed. It is this rare breed that Momentum and Top Billing are hoping to discover, and to showcase their success.



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1 MANDY GILDER CAPE TOWN

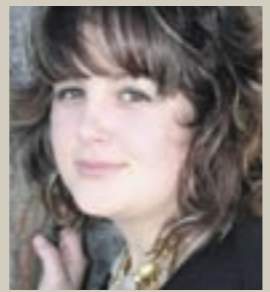


Mandy is a successful young entrepreneur who launched her 'Mandy G' label in 2003 and showcased her collection at the Design Indaba in 2004. Trained by her father, Cape Town jeweller Peter Gilder, Mandy is focusing on making brilliant 'New Generation' jewellery with an element of timeless quality. Her simple philosophy is 'Why fake it?', so she combines the fun of fashion with the seriousness of real precious metals and stones – because there's nothing better than wearing 'the real thing'. Mandy loves the creative process, especially working with clients, and travels abroad frequently to keep abreast of global trends.



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2 SARAH CARBY-THOMPSON PORT ELIZABETH



Sarah originally set her sights on fashion design, but while studying at PE Technikon, she found her 'true calling' while working part-time at a craft shop. Since graduating in 2004, she has been developing her label, Myang, which focuses on costume jewellery inspired by beadwork. Her favourite materials are crystal, glass, gem stones and pearls that she mixes up with unusual materials such as yarn, ribbon and fabric. 'My focus is more on technique than materials, though. I always try to do something nobody else is trying, adapting traditional techniques to create something new.'



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3 HEIDI LIEBENBERG CAPE TOWN



Heidi's jewellery company, Urbanative, has been in business for a year, and her work has been showcased at the Design Indaba Expo in 2005 and 2006. She has also been acknowledged on three separate occasions by Anglo Gold for excellence in gold-jewellery design. After studying interior design and graphics, she found her true calling in 2004 with jewellery design, which she calls 'an endlessly inspiring combination of science and art'. Heidi is inspired by African art, fabric printing, weaving and woodwork, and translates this into jewellery that has strong surface texture and physical weight.



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4 MARK GOLD DURBAN



Since winning his first competition, the Elegant Man of the Year Award for gents' jewellery, while still a jewellery-design student, Mark Gold's career has gone from strength to strength and he has built up a solid reputation for innovative, simple yet bold design. His trademark puzzle ring has been snapped up by a number of celebrities, including Usher, Ainsley Harriott, Tokyo Sexwale and Danny K. Since opening shop in Durban in 1999, he has expanded with outlets in Joburg and at Fancourt, George. Most recently, New York designers Jacob & Co have shown an interest in his Puzzle brand and concept.



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5 KAI SCHMIDT JOHANNESBURG



From small beginnings in Melville in 1996, Kai Schmidt Manufacturing Jewellers has spread its wings to include an outlet in Franschoek and producing pieces that go on auction at Sotheby's in the UK. His clients have included celebrities, sports stars and royalty. Kai places a strong emphasis on individualism, and is one of the few jewellers in SA who produces only 100% hand-crafted pieces using age-old skills and artistry. He served a long apprenticeship under his legendary father, Gerhard, a master goldsmith from Hamburg. Kai believes 'jewellery is personal and every piece has a special meaning for the owner and creator.'



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