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And more on their fab life

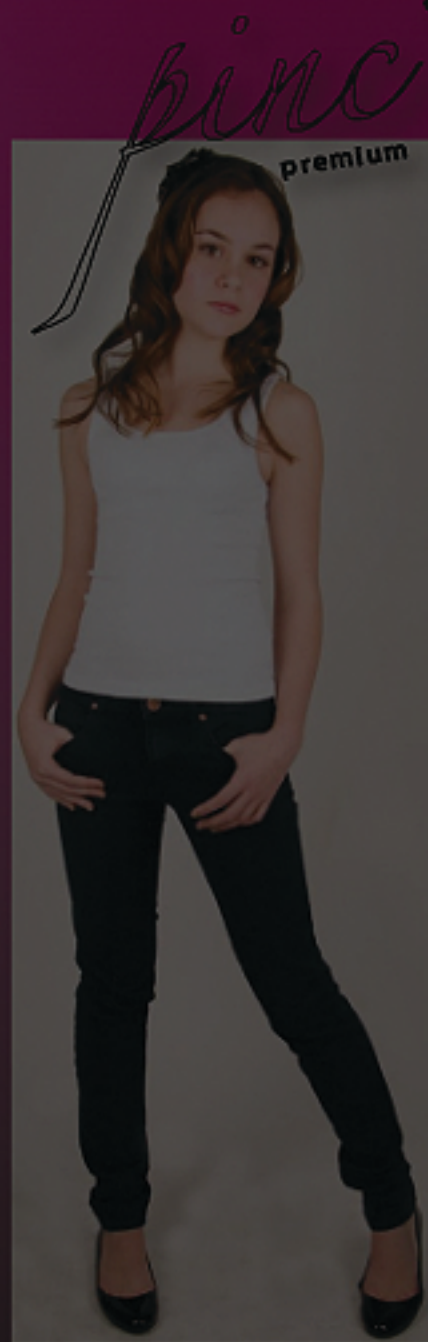
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Citing Karl Lagerfeld as one of her design icons, Cassini has already graced the front page of the Los Angeles Daily News, and has been invited to the CBS nightly news. Her "green-minded" clothing line reuses and repurposes fabrics to create new "one-of-a-kind masterpieces" for her excited admirers.

How do you like school?

I actually like school! I like to learn new things. But I am always happy to go home to design and sew new dresses.

Do you still like to hang out with kids your age? What do you do together?

I like to hang out with my friends and do girly things. I like to play tennis, go shopping. I like to be silly, and I love going out to get ice cream.

Do your friends ask you to whip up clothes for them?

My friends don't really ask me because I think they are shy to, but whenever a friend says they like something, I am happy to give it to them.

What do you think when people say that you are a "fashion prodigy?"

I don't really know what to think. I know it is something good but I don't really understand it. It sounds good.

If you could raid someone's closet, whose would it be?

Anyone's with a huge walk-in closet, with tons of gorgeous dresses and shoes in my size! ☺

cecilia cassini

At the age of 10, this talented and lovely designer is already being recruited at the FIDM. Her first trunk show sold out within moments of opening, including celebrities like Denise Richards and Candace Cameron Bure loving her creations

**How old were you when the fashion bug bit?**

Actually, I know I was born—yes born—with the fashion bug. So I guess that makes me a minute old!

Whose career success do you emulate?

I am like Coco Chanel. I am following my dreams, I even have the same initials as her—CC.

Any relation to the designer, Oleg Cassini?

Not that my parents know of.

What role did your parents play in pursuing your dreams?

Well, my parents let me! They let me cut dresses, they always encouraged my love for fashion, gave me art and sewing lessons at the beginning. They let me be creative and try new things, and they respect my ideas and opinions, even though I am just 10.

Apart from becoming a fashion designer, is there anything else you'd like to be?

I only want to be a fashion designer—of course, I will be a mom, too. And I want to be happy.

If you were to choose between designing couture with a limited audience, or designing RTW for a mass audience, what would you prefer?

Couture or mass, I want everyone happy and wearing my designs!

What, and who, inspires you?

Everything around me! Of course, fashion magazines and shows. Designers like Karl Lagerfeld, Marc Jacobs, Dianne Von Furstenburg, and brands like Louis Vuitton and Forever XXI.

We read that you were, "...moved by the story of a young woman who received a full scholarship to the FIDM in Los Angeles, but was homeless and did not have a sewing machine to practice on," and you gave her your own machine. What prompted this generosity?

I was at this charity event for Hollywood arts and this girl, Marie, told her story. As I stood there with my mom, I felt sad for her. I wanted to help her. I couldn't believe how lucky I was to already have my own sewing machine even though I was so young. I told my mom that I wanted to give her my machine and she said "OK," and that was it. I wanted to be nice and help her.

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