

Personal Portfolio

‘About Me’

My Approach to Fashion and Costume Design: A Commitment to Sustainability and Ethics

As a newly graduated costume professional, my strive and passion for this subject is deeply rooted within its high level of creativity and diversity. Costume is a subject that can be moulded down into other creative aspects due to the variety of skills required. Within the costume industry/fashion industry, I have a commitment to practice and apply ethical responsibility, pollution and challenge the mass act of creating designs. I want to be environmentally conscious and socially responsible as I enter the reality of costume and fashion designing. My venture into sustainable and ethical designing processes began with my awareness of the fashion industry's detrimental effects on the planet. From the excessive use of water and toxic chemicals in textile production to the exploitation of garment workers in developing countries, the industry's practices are simply unsustainable. To add to this, there is also a large amount of animal cruelty, one minor example is that of Hermes which I researched for this portfolio. My realisation for this issue sparked my desire to explore alternative approaches that minimize harm and promote positive change. I love recycling, reusing, sourcing, and adapting the materials in front of me, as show within my portfolio. I strive to prioritise natural, renewable, and biodegradable fabrics such as organic cotton, hemp, linen, silk, and other naturally found materials. These materials have a lower environmental impact compared to synthetic fibers like polyester and nylon, which are derived from fossil fuels and contribute to plastic portfolio, are already used drastically within the industry. In addition to selecting sustainable fabrics, I also explore innovative materials such as recycled textiles, plant-based leathers, and fabrics made from agricultural waste. As show within my must I sew a vest from real leaves that I collected from trees over parks during the months they were shedding. By me repurposing existing materials and utilizing renewable resources, I aim to reduce waste and minimize the demand for virgin materials, which will also deepen the connection between people and nature. In terms of work itself, I love to collaborate with small business, freelancers, and communities. I want to talk to the local fishermen in hopes of using their netting, and I want to speak to the farmers in hopes is using their left over wool. I want to collect my materials and document them as ethically as possible, then in terms of costume designs, this multitude of textiles can be applied appropriately. To ensure ethical practices throughout my designing, I conduct thorough due diligence to identify and address potential risks. This includes being aware of factories and how they are run, workers rights, animal rights, and the environmental consequences of making each costume/garment. I am also committed to transparency and traceability. I believe that consumers have the right to know where their clothes come from and how they are made with all the stories each costume has to tell. By providing detailed information about my materials, production processes, and ethical standards, I aim to build trust and accountability with my customers, leading to happy costumers and a more honest approach. I believe that the fashion industry, majority of the time, lacks any form of honesty. That is an aspect I'd also like to change. In addition to using sustainable materials and ethical practices, I design for usability, durability, and visual appreciation. Ensuring that the costumes and garments are executed accurately on comparison to my designs, is extremely vital in creating the correct image related to industries, and work. I also embrace circular design principles, designing clothes that can be easily repaired, repurposed, or recycled at the end of their life. This includes using modular designs, detachable components, and recyclable materials. As shown within my portfolio, I have explored this by using old bedsheets, sources curtains and materials from charity shops, and the collection of wasted items. Within my work shown 90% of it was made and tested from previously scrapped materials. The calico was scrap within London college of fashions bins, and my dresses/bodices were created through previous projects that were discarded. Minus the vital compensates such as boning/wirier/needles/thread etc, I have made sure to repurpose as much as I can. Me working in this way has also helped me out finically long term. As I move forward within this subject, I want to collaborate creatively with companies, and people, who share the same values as me. That consists of recycling, reusing, being ethically and morally aware, avoiding any for of animal cruelty, and ensuring that our workers are happy and healthy both mentally and physically from the work at hand. I strongly believe that educating others is vital too. Through my designs, social media platforms, and public speaking engagements, I aim to raise awareness and inspire others to make a difference, as everyone who steps towards a more ethical approach, will slowly help change our current fashion house situations. Let's give back to the world, and take care of her, for all the times she has taken care of us.

In conclusion, my identity as a fashion and costume designer is defined by a deep commitment to sustainability and ethical practices within my making and design processes. I strive to create designs that are not only beautiful but also environmentally responsible and socially adequate, with transformative visuals being my passion within garments. I believe that fashion has the power to transform the world as one of the largest subjects/manufactures, and I am dedicated to using my skills and creativity to create a more sustainable and equitable future, for both us as people, and mother natures beauty.

Company Research

Large-scale company- Hermes

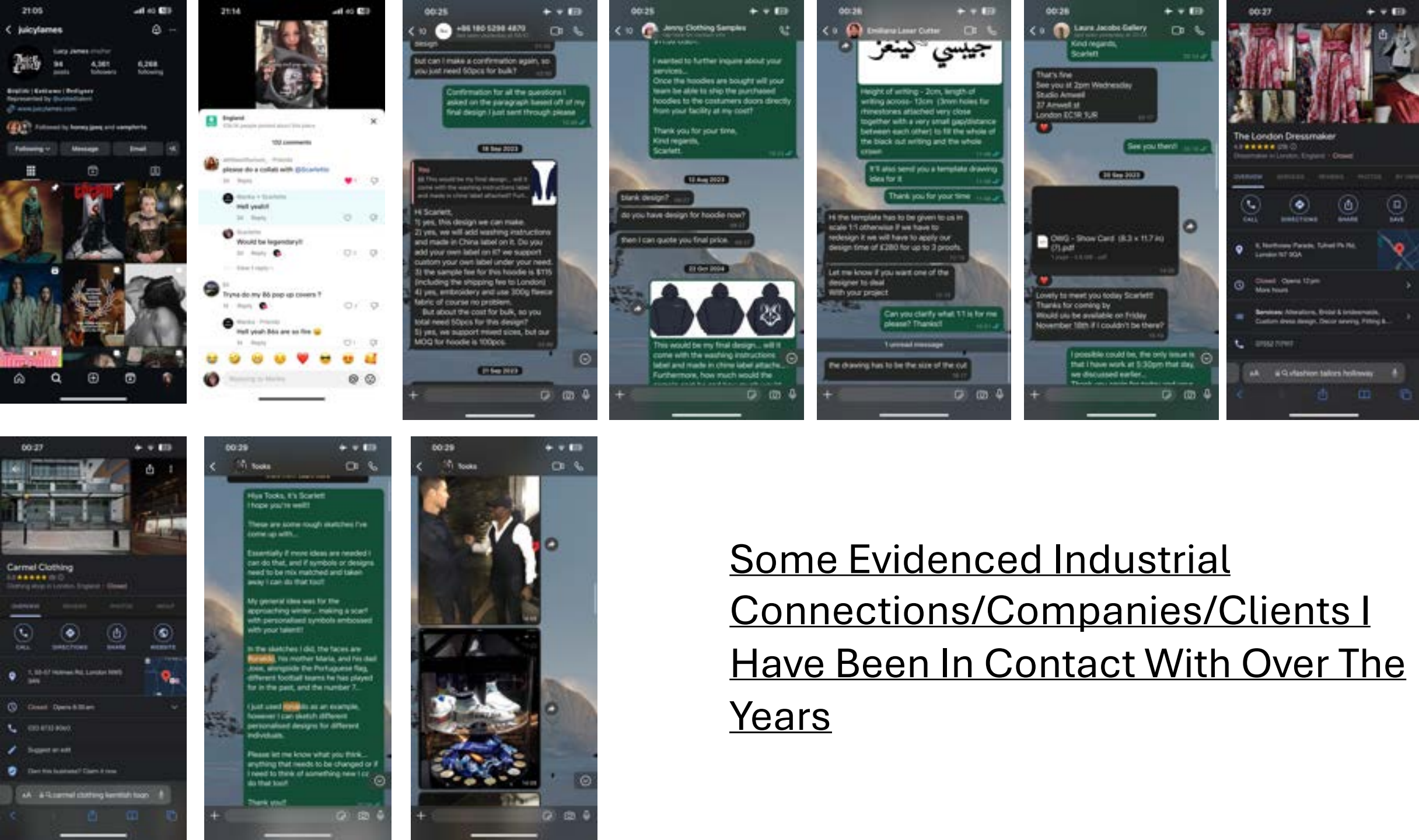
- Committed to respecting human rights and artisanal values.
- They focus on minimising their environmental impact and improving biodiversity.
- They use raw materials obtained from natural sources, which adds to the durability and structural integrity/quality of their products.
- Not cruelty free. E.g. using exotic skins like crocodile and alligator.
- No evidence to support their biodiversity within the production chain.
- PETA investigations found that Hermes keeps the animals they uses for their fashion in cruel conditions.
- They are overpriced to keep their production low.
- They use exceptional levels of craftsmanship.
- Hermes bags (specifically) tend to increase in value when collected and looked after well.
- The majority of their clothes are handmade in comparison to the mass-produced items from mid-scale companies.
- Workers are treated 4.0/5.0 stars as reported by 'The Fashion Law'.

Mid- scale company- ASOS

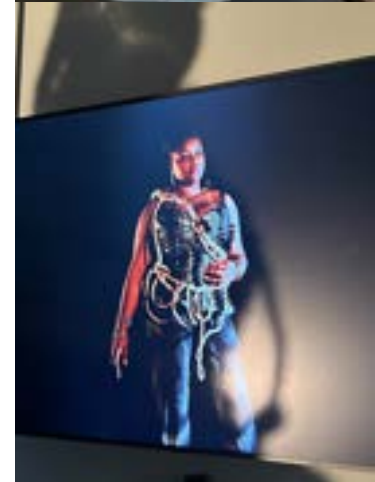
- 50/100 in ethical consumers.
- It can't be counted as sustainable or ethical.
- ASOS became less popular when the COVID lockdowns were lifted.
- Genuine items, no fakes.
- ASOS copies trending styles, which is why they are still a relevant business.
- Fast fashion.
- Large consumer base.
- Dependent mainly on the UK market.
- Criticised for the company's low wages, working conditions, and increase in pollution through the production of the clothing and shipments.
- Large contributors to textile waste.
- They attempt to use more eco-friendly materials, reduce carbon emissions, and they try to promote ethical sourcing.
- They try to use recycled polyester and organic cotton.

Small/freelancer company- The London Dressmaker (Victoria)

- As I know Victoria personally and have seen her work, I know that she spends hours of labour time amending and creating bespoke pieces for her clients.
- Victoria charges fair prices based on her skill set and time.
- Within her workshop, Victoria tried her best to remain sustainable as she would collect, gather, and reuse her fabric/material scraps from projects.
- Victoria has a clientele list of friendly returning customers. She understands the importance of human relationships and avoids the art of consumerism and selling for purely profit.
- She is dedicated to what she does and has a passion for it.
- Money and business can sometimes be difficult as she is a freelancer, but she is able to remain very close to ethical standards.
- Victoria is very skilled due to her freelancing opportunities and collaborations with other designers, seamstresses, and workers.



Some Evidenced Industrial
Connections/Companies/Clients I
Have Been In Contact With Over The
Years

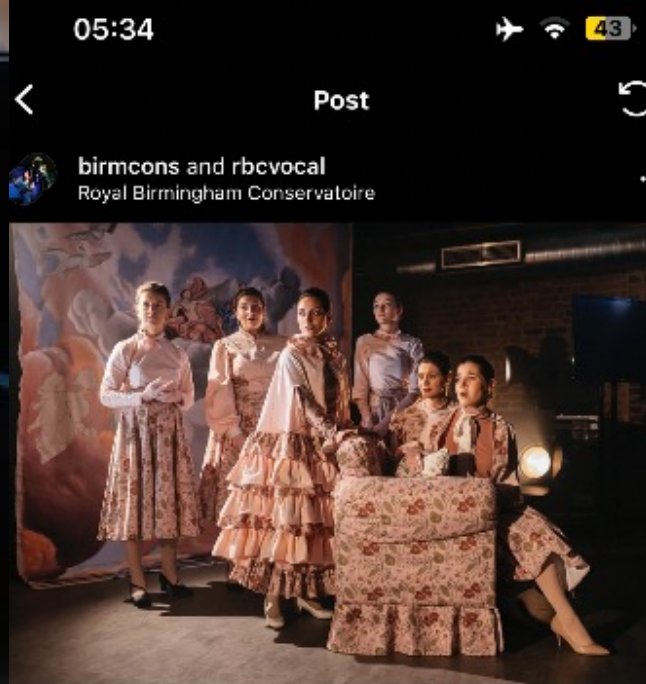












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Post

birmcons and rbcvocal
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

Liked by **ambermonxox** and others

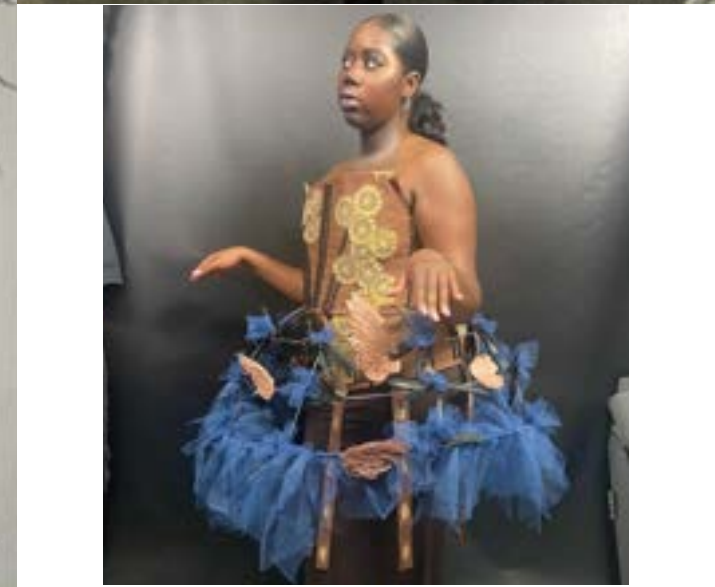
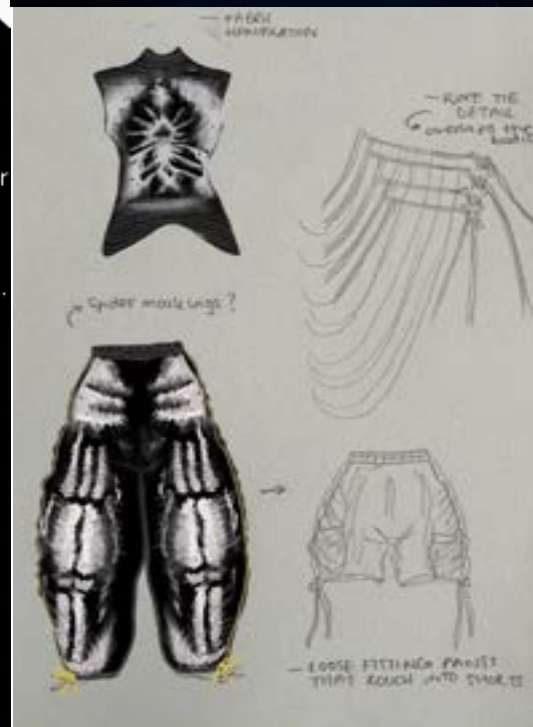
birmcons ✨ The stage is set, and the magic is about to unfold! We're excited for the opening night of Cinderella at Gas Street Central. ✨ Take a peek behind the scenes with these enchanting dress rehearsal snapshots captured earlier this week!

🎭 Act fast! With just a handful of tickets remaining, now's your chance to secure your spot for this magical experience. Don't miss out on the fairy tale adventure of a lifetime! ✨

📩 Last Chance! Link in bio! 📩

Grab your tickets before the clock strikes midnight. ⌚

📸 - @gregmilner.studio
14 hours ago





1/2 SCALE EXPERIMENT 2 (successful) ★ ①

