

# WE'VE GOT DESIGNS ON KRISTY HINZE

## BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE SUPERMODEL WHO RULES PROJECT RUNWAY AUSTRALIA



**Kristy** (above with husband **Jim Clark**) gets made up for the judging of this week's challenge. Below: Mentor **Henry Roth** offers William some advice on 'creating for a national audience'



**P**roject Runway Australia is back and better than ever, and *OK!* was lucky enough to go behind the scenes with Kristy Hinze when the remaining contestants went stitch-for-stitch, frantically trimming loose threads and ironing out creases in their garments for the 'Cruise Collection' challenge in an upcoming episode.

When *OK!* arrives, we learn that the designers have been given the task of making three outfits (in record time) with the help of three students from Melbourne's Whitehouse Institute of Design. The atmosphere is frantic. 'Only one hour and 15 minutes left!' screams Anthony, while a flustered William quips, 'This would never happen, you would never send work experience out to buy your fabric.'

### 'It's jam-packed, fun and keeps the adrenaline running'

And Lauren, well, she's doing the whole thing herself, with two of her girls at work today and the other standing in as the model. 'I'll get it done, I always get it done,' she says, before demanding her model's hair be 'much more glamorous and not so rag dolly'.

We leave the chaos in the capable hands of mentor and designer extraordinaire Henry Roth, and head over to the runway for a chat with the show's host Kristy.

The 28-year-old splits her time between Australia and the US, designs sell-out pieces for fashion house Sportcraft, has a mean ▶





**Kristy** is convinced this year's contestants have what it takes for international success. **Right: Mark** puts the finishing touches on one of the three outfits he's designed and constructed today



With only an hour to go until their garments hit the runway, **Anthony** is all smiles. Of the coral fabric, he says, "I just don't want it to look 'grandma'"

golf swing and supermodel looks, and has just bought a reported \$8 million waterfront apartment in Sydney's exclusive Point Piper with her 65-year-old billionaire husband Jim Clark. Kristy may have flown in from Sydney, but she looks like she's just stepped off the catwalk herself...

**Congratulations on your wedding this year!**

Thanks. Thank you, we're really happy.

**How are you enjoying the second series of Project Runway Australia?**

It's been amazing. I think we've got better talent. I loved the people in the first series but it's a different standard as a whole. Every week they're putting things on the runway that are very hard to fault.

**Are they hungrier for success?**

I think it's because the designers have seen the success that Juli's had and they've heard about Lui going overseas and that Leigh's got a radio show now. There are some reality shows where people don't really go on to do anything - this show is different. It actually can give you a name.

**Have you seen things you'd wear yourself on the runway already?**

Absolutely. In the Fashions on the Field challenge the designers had to team up and Amber and Lauren made this beautiful one-shouldered feather black and white piece that I could see myself wearing to Oaks Day. It was divine, just so gorgeous. And William also made an incredible outfit, and so did Anthony. Actually, I could wear all three of those!

**How much time do you actually spend with the contestants?**

Not much because I've got to judge them. It's Henry's job to be the mentor. I really don't spend that much time at all with them except when I'm talking to them on the runway.

**They do seem a bit more of a serious bunch than last year...**

They're all in it to win it and they are a lot more focused. It's not so much the fame of TV - they want to be known for what they're doing.

**Where's your home base now that you're married? The US?**

Australia will always be home, but yeah, my husband and I live in the States. I live between New York and Florida.

**Do you ever get sick of the travelling?**

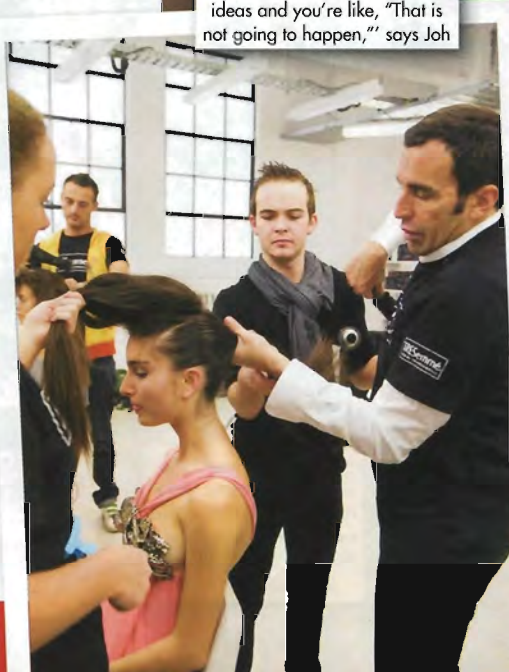
I do get sick of it for sure, I'd be lying if I said I didn't. It's no fun bouncing all over the place. Airports are stressful, and packing and unpacking is not my favourite thing to do. But *Project Runway*



Above: Stress levels run high as the deadline looms. Below: Ever-stylish Kristy, who has put her name to a line of handbags and cashmere apparel at fashion house Sportscraft, chooses an outfit for the day's judging



Below: Styling guru Joh Bailey and his team get to work on one of the models, following a brief they were given. 'Sometimes [the designers] come with these crazy ideas and you're like, "That is not going to happen,"' says Joh



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**Kristy** with judges **Aurelio Costarella, Sarah Gale and Jayson Brunson**

*Australia* is jam-packed and it's fun – it keeps the adrenaline going. I think I'll probably come to a crashing halt at the end of it all once I actually get back overseas.

**Does it feel different being married?**

Not really, but I think there's more of a sense of being more relaxed, more at ease and more secure.

**What does Jim think of the show?**

He loves it. He came to the set a couple of times, because he was out here to visit me. He wants to know who wins the challenges. Once he was sitting with us when we were judging and he says, 'Oh no, I don't like that. That's a piece of crap. Oh my God, what is that? What's that made of?' [Laughs]

**Do you ever get argumentative with the judges or with Henry about decisions that are made?**

Yep. I flat out blatantly disagreed with their decision [recently], but I let them know that too. I was overruled three to one, so it comes down to that... We have different points of view and I think it's good when we're forced to really make a decision and it's a hard one because it really drives home the point about how good these designers are and how diverse we are.

**Have you picked a winner?**

It's hard. The final selection of contestants are

all extraordinary... actually we really haven't had someone that was an obvious one the whole time. It's been a really high standard so I would say it's anybody's.

**They get quite nervous. How are you in front of the camera?**

Oh, I feel completely relaxed now. I love doing it and I'm comfortable. I got a bit sad last week, I get a little emotional, but no nerves.

**What do you think of any of the other reality shows around now? Do you ever watch shows like *Australia's Next Top Model* or *MasterChef*?**

I catch *Top Model* every now and then, yes. I love the cooking shows, like *MasterChef*, and the home improvement ones, like *HomeMADE*. There are certain programs like *Bridezillas* that I'm not bothered with.

**Have you met US *Project Runway* host Heidi Klum?**

Yes, she knows that I host the Australian version and she'd heard that it was really well received. She's one of the creators of the show so it makes her happy when it does well elsewhere too. **OK!**

*Catch all the action of Project Runway Australia every Wednesday at 8.30pm on Arena.*

INTERVIEW BY KELLI ARMSTRONG  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARNIE HADDAD, SNAPPER  
STYLING BY KIM ELLMER HAIR AND MAKE-UP BY SINA VELKE

*Here's Henry!*

We talk to the *Runway* mentor and designer of *Henri Josef Bridal*



**What's been unique about this year?**

I think that the standards have gone up tenfold. It's really incredible what we're seeing – the creativity, the workmanship and the flair that these

designers are showing us. I really believe that we are looking at *Australia's* future labels. These designers are much more hard-nosed, they know and believe that there is gold at the bottom of this rainbow and they all want to win – badly.

**Do you mentor the contestants away from the cameras as well?**

This is my life, I really do have passion for fashion and when the lights go down and each contestant leaves, I give them my mobile number and tell them to call. From last year I'm in touch with Juli. I organised an interview with Lui with Helmut Lang in NY. And Brent, who has launched his menswear collection, I wore his suit to the ASTRA Awards. So the answer is, absolutely. It's not just when the cameras are on or off, I'm always in fashion. I was born in it.

**What sort of host is Kristy?**

I think that she is just an exceptional woman. She doesn't just bring a clothes horse mentality. What I love is that she brings to the picture the business of fashion. There couldn't be anybody better than her on the runway. Kristy is the Australian epitome of gorgeousness, beauty of soul and she brings a business acumen to the picture. We are fortunate to have her.