

## A GLOBAL SENSE OF STYLE

Dolores is the Founder and designer for Dirty Dog Fashion Group that owns the labels - Dirty Dog Jeans, and Waktu . These labels showcase Dolores' s accessories and clothing and each label is an outlet for her vast and creative talents!

Dolores grew up in Singapore and began her lifelong involvement in the fashion world as a teenager. A self-trained designer, Dolores's influences stem from pure design, intuition, and logic. Some of it comes naturally from her family. Her mother was involved in custom tailoring and design, and her father was a fine jeweler. She learned sewing alongside technical drawing, metalwork and woodwork, which all enhanced the development of her line.

Her global exposure seeps into her work creating textures and layers that are seamless, fluid, holistic, and intimate. She is particularly influenced by French and Italian design lines and uses this edge as a platform for the clean and elegant lines found in her work. Her current Dirty Dog Jeans collection blends European and American styling for men and women. Her latest collection is fun, sexy, and well tailored for men and women who are bold and confident about their lifestyles. We had a chance to catch up with her and get a more in-depth look at her life as a designer.

Here is a portion of that interview.

### *What are some of the places you have traveled?*

I have been to 41 countries to date and there are only a few I do not like. But in general I love them all. My favorite country is Italy for its essence of passion and soul for me and especially the aesthetic and creativity that seems apparent and I hope it never goes away. All my destinations and travels affect my creativity and design. A piece of architecture or language or color will randomly show up and insert itself into my designs.

### *Why did you get into fashion and when?*

I don't think there was a real conscious moment when I thought I wanted to be a designer. My passage was more fluid and unconscious. I was always running errands for my mom, buying more fabrics, matching threads, and accoutrements as she needed them. I saw her cut the forms, patterns and I watched how she fitted the garments. My father was also classically trained. He had flair and attitude. We never bought anything off the rack, my mother designed and sewed our clothes and then when my older sister and I were in our teens we designed our own clothes. Then about three years ago, I decided it was time to step back into the world of fashion and release my designs and collections.

### *What does fashion mean to you and how does it affect the world?*

Fashion affects the world on many levels and of course the obvious one is resources. And as designers we can and should be thinking of how we can recycle and use our materials to make a contribution to the well being of our planet. Dirty Dog Jeans is working on our second collection that will utilize recycled t-shirts for certain accessories for our men's collection.



### *So do you feel you have social responsibility as a designer?*

It is my firm belief, that as independent designer I have the luxury of building my brand and my sense of social responsibility with honesty and passion. Dirty Dog has chosen three very important causes to support.

- One is the prevention of trading and killing of exotic and other animals to be used as pets, aphrodisiacs, and for other consumption.
- Global sustainability of water.
- Children infected with HIV/AIDS virus through sexual misconduct.

For every item we sell, we will donate a percentage of the retail price to the three causes.

### *How does music relate to fashion?*

Music is as old as the human race and so is fashion (clothing). They are both ancient ways of communicating and each sets the mood for sharing happy or sad celebrations. When music is combined with fashion, we have an ultimate expression of creativity. I produced the Dirty Dog CD as an extension to the look and feel of my collection. It is collection of expressions through global instruments and dance tunes.

### *What fashion shows and events do you have coming up?*

I will be in the fashion show on May 28th at the Bellevue Art Museum. We will also have our big Seattle launch event, Dirty Dog Night sometime in May. This will showcase Dirty Dog jeans, t-shirts, and music.

For information on upcoming shows, distribution, stores and or other comments log onto [www.dirtydogjeans.com](http://www.dirtydogjeans.com) or contact Dolores Gill at [dolores@dirtydogjeans.com](mailto:dolores@dirtydogjeans.com) or 425.451.7863

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