

Hippie CHIC

Hannah Warner is one of London's hottest new jewellers, and she's stocked exclusively in the UK at Sefton, Upper Street. She talks gems with Francesca Hornak

At just 25, jeweller Hannah Warner's CV would turn the average fashion graduate emerald green. Snapped up last year by designer boutique Sefton, her youthful brand of 'gothic glamour' has since gained a following with fashion insiders and celebrity clients (Jamie Winstone is a fan), leading to shows in Ibiza, collaborations in New York and more commissions than she can keep up with.

Growing up in sleepy Jersey, it wasn't until her gap year that Hannah's interest in gems was sparked: "I saw all these different types of jewellery around the world, and three months later, when we had to specialise at art school, I decided to make that my profession," she explains.

She makes it sound so easy, but beneath the breeziness is clearly a steely work ethic. The globetrotting gap year was followed by degrees at Wimbledon School of Art, London Metropolitan and the Gemological Institute of America, where she graduated in 'Diamond Grading and Geminology'.

Now that Hannah has stockists in New York and Ibiza as well as Islington, her time is divided between London Fields and Manhattan's East Village, where her jewellery is produced in "a tiny little kiosk on the side of a building".

Your current collection has been dubbed 'gothic glam', but you aren't all about skulls and crossbones are you?

"No, that's just one of three collections I've



people just dress head to toe in amazing stuff day to day."

What inspires you?

"My surroundings really, I'm influenced by everyday life. It might be the rigidity of city architecture, or something more organic and evolving. I'm fascinated by the natural world - I love the shapes in coral, and the texture of bones and skulls. I travel a lot too, looking for different stones, and I'm always inspired by different cultures."

What's your favourite piece?

"I love the lizard skull with wings that I designed for the Skull & Bones collection. It's the casting of the skull, you can see every single detail, even his little teeth, and we put these tiny gems in the eyes - it sounds tacky, but it's really nice when you see it."

Who do you see wearing your designs?

"Everyone! My friends wear it, my sisters, my mum... Some of my designs are younger than others - the skull and bones stuff is more popular with youngsters. But women with more classic taste have also bought it, to add an edge to their whole look. I had a sale at home in Jersey recently and there were just as many customers in their 50s as their 20s."

designed - I'd describe my own style as a bit rocky, a bit hippie. My first collection was based on coral, big pendants of 'coral-effect' gold, studded with Tanzanites. Then I did Skull & Bones, which was all about animal skeletons and heads - on rings and earrings and anklets. And most recently I designed an Egyptian collection - I've never actually been to Egypt, but the Met museum in New York has an amazing Egyptian room, so I sketched there!"

How does life in New York compare to London?

"It's a great contrast. I find New York very inspiring, but it's a much more disciplined atmosphere, whereas here it's more chaotic. The look is quite different too - in pockets of London there's a concentrated wackiness, but in New York



Hannah's collection is exclusively available from Sefton

Womenswear, 271 Upper Street, Islington, N1 or at www.seftonfashion.com; Hannah is also available for private commissions

