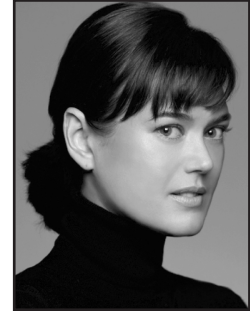


# GEORGE BROWN

## THE CITY COLLEGE

### 2006 Premier's Awards Nominee Summary



**Name:** Kimberley Newport

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#### Summary of Career Achievements

Kimberley Newport is the owner, designer and president of Pink Tartan, a successful Canadian collection of contemporary sportswear for women. Since launching Pink Tartan with her husband Joseph Mimran in Toronto four years ago with just three accounts, they now have a showroom in New York and ship to 170 locations across North America. As the brand continues to gain recognition, overseas markets have also begun opening up, with orders coming in from Dubai, Japan, Greece and England. In addition, Pink Tartan designs have been featured in major fashion magazines, including *O*, *Glamour*, *Elle*, *In Style*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Marie Claire* and *Flare*, while celebrities like Kate Hudson, Kim Cattrall, Alicia Keys and Charlize Theron have been spotted wearing Pink Tartan clothing. Recently, Newport was chosen to design the uniforms for the pilots, flight attendants and sales personnel of the new Porter Airlines, a regional passenger carrier operating out of Toronto Island Airport. According to Porter President and CEO Robert Deluce, "The style, sophistication and elegance for which Kimberley and Pink Tartan are renowned" was a perfect fit for the airline. Prior to launching Pink Tartan, Newport was primarily involved in the business side of fashion, gaining hands-on experience in all aspects of the industry. "I didn't start designing until later on in my career. I've always loved to design but I didn't pursue it as my primary focus because it's much more difficult in Canada than it is in Paris or New York." After graduating from George Brown, Newport worked for three years in the buying office of the Hudson Bay Company before joining Club Monaco, where she was senior director for the team that launched and then sold the Canadian lifestyle company Caban. While at Club Monaco, Newport met its owner and founder, Joseph Mimran, and the couple began dating, marrying in 2000. The couple, who have a five-year-old daughter, Jacqui, were named "Canada's most stylish couple" by *Flare* magazine in its September 2006 issue.

# GEORGE BROWN

## THE CITY COLLEGE

### 2006 Premier's Awards Nominee Profile

<b>Name:</b>	Kimberley Newport
<b>Program of Study:</b>	Apparel Manufacturing Management
<b>Graduating Year:</b>	1989
<b>College:</b>	George Brown College

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#### **Title and Description of Current Position(s) and Organization(s):**

Kimberley Newport is the owner, designer and president of Pink Tartan, a successful collection of contemporary sportswear for women. When Newport launched Pink Tartan in Toronto four years ago with her husband Joseph Mimran, they had just three accounts. Today, with a showroom in New York, Pink Tartan ships to 170 locations across North America. As the brand continues to gain recognition, overseas markets have also begun to open up, with orders coming in from Dubai, Japan, Greece and England.

#### **Highlights of Career Achievements:**

Newport's goal of making Pink Tartan an internationally-recognized brand appears close to fulfillment. The collection is carried by all the leading fashion department stores in Canada and the United States, including Saks Fifth Avenue, Neiman Marcus and Holt Renfrew. In addition, Pink Tartan designs have been featured in many major fashion magazines, while celebrities like Kate Hudson, Kim Cattrall, Alicia Keys and Charlize Theron have been spotted wearing Pink Tartan clothing. Even Oprah ordered two custom-made shirts.

Newport, who is mother to a five-year-old daughter and stepmother to three grown children, works hard for her success, turning out an extensive collection every season. "Each season I design about 200 pieces; it's a large collection. I design almost to a monthly calendar so that the stores are always getting fresh merchandise."

Recently, Pink Tartan was chosen to design the uniforms for the pilots, flight attendants and sales personnel of the new Porter Airlines, a regional passenger carrier operating out of Toronto Island Airport. "Pink Tartan is a perfect fit for us," said Robert Deluce, Porter's President and CEO, "The style, sophistication and elegance for which Kimberley and Pink Tartan are renowned will bring a fresh look to the airline's terminal and in-flight experience."

Prior to launching Pink Tartan, Newport was primarily involved in the business side of fashion, gaining hands-on experience in all aspects of the industry. "I didn't start designing until later on in my career. I've always loved to design but I didn't pursue it as my primary focus because it's much more difficult in Canada than it is in Paris or New York. So I went the business route but I always had a very strong passion for design." After graduating from George Brown, Newport worked for three years in the buying office of the Hudson Bay Company before joining Club Monaco, where she was senior director for the team that launched and then sold the Canadian lifestyle company Caban. While at Club Monaco, Newport met its owner and founder, Joseph Mimran, and the couple began dating, marrying in 2000. The following year their daughter Jacqui was born and a year later they launched Pink Tartan. Newport says they haven't looked back since.

# Kimberley Newport

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Newport says one of the best things about being a clothing designer is the thrill she gets when she sees people wearing her clothes. "It's really quite exciting when I see people wearing the clothes on television or in movies or just on the street. The other day I saw a woman coming out of Starbuck's in New York wearing one of my dresses – it was fabulous."

## **How College Education Contributed Directly to Career Achievements:**

Newport credits George Brown College for giving her a realistic introduction to the business of fashion. She says, like a lot of people, she entered the program knowing that she wanted to work in fashion, but without having a clear idea of how the business worked. She says she found the program challenging and was not surprised when a number of her classmates dropped out before graduation. "I think a lot of people don't realize that fashion isn't just about pretty clothes."

"I think the fashion program was really good at laying the groundwork for learning how the business of fashion works, which has been invaluable in my career and in making my brand successful. I learned about the manufacturing process, timelines, and mark-up strategies. Of course, I also learned a lot from my actual hands-on work experience, but George Brown College really helped to lay the groundwork."

## **Community Involvement:**

Newport and her husband support a number of charities including The Hospital for Sick Children. In addition, through their company, they donate clothing for auctions and to help raise money for a variety of different causes such as Fashion Cares, breast cancer, AIDS and homelessness.

## **Awards/Recognition:**

Pink Tartan designs have been featured in a number of major fashion magazines, including *O*, *Glamour*, *Elle*, *In Style*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Marie Claire* and *Flare*. In addition, a number of magazines have featured articles about Newport and the success of Pink Tartan. For example, the new in-flight magazine for Porter Airlines features a cover article on Newport and her designs for the Porter uniforms and the September issue of *Flare* magazine includes an article about Newport and her husband, calling them "Canada's most stylish couple."