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22 April 2015, Windhoek; Namibia.

Lourens Loux Gebhardt, known as Loux the Vintage Guru, is an award winning designer at the Mercedes Benz Africa Fashion Festival Ghana. Loux is also a Polytechnic of Namibia (PON) graduate and is an Accountant/Internal Auditor by profession in the mining industry. With international fashion shows in his practical background, Loux was born and raised in Windhoek. After obtaining his qualification in Accounting, he decided to follow his dreams of fashion and designing on a part time basis. The stylish designer always strived to be a part-time fashion designer ever since childhood. With the inspiration from his grandfather and father, he introduced his brand called LOUX, "A Gentleman's Living". He was part of the main designers that dressed the Namibian Annual Music Awards 2014 presenters as well as the Miss Namibia pageant in the same year.

The brand has been part of several fashion shows around the world in countries such as South Africa, Ghana, Kenya, Germany to mention but a few. The brand has also been featured in international fashion publications such as the fashion bible Vogue, Elle as well the UK based Newspaper, ‘The Guardian’ and on fashion blogs all over the world. In Africa the brand has been featured in Air Namibia Flamingo Magazine and the Sunday Times. Loux is also a fashion stylist, and is currently Head Stylist at a local retail men’s store to be opened soon in Windhoek called C-squared, which is originally South African based.
Facebook page: Loux
Instagram: louxthevintageguru

Melissa Poulton studied at the Cape Academy of Fashion and Design. Melissa beamed, “I have a higher national diploma in Fashion and Textiles. I currently started my own business from 2011; I started from my home and it grew with time. I am now a boutique owner.” Her boutique is located at the Khomas Groove Mall in Khomasdal. She specialises in all aspects of clothing from casual wear to evening wear as well as bridal attire. All of the garments sold in the shop are designed and produced locally. Melissa states that the aim is to create a huge brand and have many chain stores within Namibia. “I want everyone to own a #MelisaPoulton item” she added.
Taimi Sakeus studied at the College of the Arts, where she obtained her Diploma in Fashion and Designing (2010). After having graduated, she has been doing charity fashion shows across the country. Taimi said, “In 2014 I won best fashion designer for Africa’s Finest and Culture Season 2. Early this year I also got an opportunity to showcase my work in London, which was a great opportunity to expose my work internationally.” She went on to thank everyone who has supported her and thanked the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (nbc) for giving her the platform to design for the Namibian Annual Music Awards, 2015. “It is indeed an honour and privilege to be part of this big event, I am eternally grateful,” she concluded.
Nicolene Menjono was born at the coastal town of Swakopmund, which also happens to be the host town of the Namibian Music Awards. Nicolene is the eldest of four siblings who were raised by her grandmother. Nicolene said, “I would say my interest in fashion and design where inspired by my grandmother. She was a great seamstress.” Nicolene then enrolled in the clothing production program at the Namibian Institute of Mining and Technology (NIMT) which laid the foundation of fashion drawing and pattern construction for her.

In 2009 Nicolene burst onto the fashion scene when she exhibited her work at the Young Designers Fashion show hosted by Pambili Young Designers. Nicolene also did various other shows; at HIMBA in the MIX, where she was placed second overall best designer and at the Queen B Fashion show; where she was accorded the tile “Show Stopper”. She added, “From this point on the fashion world was mine to conquer. I have since deigned for Namibia’s socialites, including weddings. One of my designs was named best dressed at the recent movie premier Katutura.” She concluded that her relationship with her mentor, Melanie Harteveld Becker proves to be instrumental in the rise of her brand named Damage.
Usuta Couture – International trendy individuals with a modern twist

Vancella Keri Mootu was born in Gobabis, Omaheke. She added, “I am a wife and mother of two. From a young age, I have always loved fashion. It wasn’t until 2012 after a soul searching journey that I had an epiphany. That’s when I knew my purpose in life.” UsuTa Couture was formed in 2012 in Northampton, England from a true passion for fashion. It was not until 2013 that founder Vancella Keri Mootu registered UsuTa in Namibia. She added, “I haven’t been to fashion school or anything of that kind, I have a God given gift.” The label operates from Oshakati with the hope of expanding to Windhoek in July 2015.
Namibian Annual Music Awards Fashion Sponsors

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