

Karen Walker's new collection a worldwide hit

Fashion
Karen Walker, *Tree Girl*
collection
Review by Zoe Walker

Karen Walker's summer collection *Tree Girl* is one of her best yet.

Walker first showed this new collection earlier this year at London Fashion Week, where it received rave reviews.

Pieces from the collection have featured in *ID*, *Black Book*, *Australian Vogue* and style.com. The *Evening Standard* featured a four-page spread of current it-girl Theodora Richards wearing pieces from the collection. This is testament to the hipness and wearability of the clothes.

Inspired by the film *Vigil*, about a girl coming of age in an isolated sheep farm in the hills of New

Zealand, the collection continues Walker's fascination with the outsider.

Tree Girl has the usual Walker traits of pushing together the extremes: dark and light; tailored and street; luxury and non-luxury; dark and super-cute.

And like all past Karen Walker collections, *Tree Girl* clashes masculinity and femininity. Pretty silk fabrics sit alongside heavy dockworkers coats; puffball and tutu dresses with Prince of Wales checks and thick rope detailing with pretty crochet collars.

This collection also sees the welcome return of high-waisted pants. It seems that a move away from bum cleavage and the dreaded muffin effect is the next big thing in fashion.

But if you have hips of any shape or form, proceed with caution. This is not a look that everybody can pull off.

J.Lo was recently spotted wearing a pair of Karen Walker high-waisted jeans, something which will surely, and hopefully, encourage more girls to put away their low-riders and cover up their bums with high-waists.

These high waists give a distinct 70s feel to the collection, reminiscent of Walker's 2005 summer collection *Liberal and Miserable*. Cinched waists, cap sleeves, mannish shirts and dotty prints add to the charming 70s vibe.

Tree Girl also references the current 80s trend with her puffball skirts and dresses. While not particularly wearable, they are surprisingly appealing. All Walker's collections have a quirky retro feel to them, and *Tree Girl* is no exception.

Crochet is big this season, and Karen Walker interprets the trend in her own original way by adding cute and quirky crochet collars to mannish

shirts and rugby style t-shirts. Bows on skirts and frills on dresses add a more feminine edge to the collection.

Blocks of black feature heavily, but the distinctly colourful Karen Walker prints are still present.

Tree Girl is actually far more vibrant than past collections, but still has the required Karen Walker angst.

Walker is New Zealand's most well-known designer, and it certainly isn't hard to see why.

Described as high casual, all Walker's collections have an almost anti-fashion feel to them.

Her clothes have been described by the *Independent* as "the kind of look that provides a means of appearing cool but not trying-too-hard, cute but not saccharine, alternative but not self consciously so".

Tree Girl continues this effortlessly cool look that is so distinctly Karen Walker.



MODEL: *Tree Girl* heralds the return of high waisted pants.

Book of teasers supports disaster victims

Book
New Beginnings
by various authors
Review by Emma Moore

Buy this book and do disaster victims a favour! If that's not enough of an inducement, try this one: Buy this book and do yourself a favour!

With an introduction by Bridget Jones creator Helen Fielding, *New Beginnings* is an assortment of first chapter teasers from 15 celebrated international writers.

By the time I was half-way through *New Beginnings* it occurred to me that *New*

Endings would have been a more apt title. A cancer scare, a couple of dead bodies, suicide, manslaughter, a brain tumour, a limb amputation, a wife who has disappeared and a fatal shooting all feature in the first few chapters.

Packed full of tantalising tasters selected mainly from upcoming books, *New Beginnings* introduces authors who readers might usually dismiss as not their kind of thing. Chick lit and horror are two sections that I routinely walk past in book stores, but I have to admit to thoroughly enjoying Maeve Binchy's contribution — happy ending and all.

Stephen King's tale of an author shot by a lunatic fan was another engaging surprise among the works I didn't really expect to like.

Other standouts for me included Harlan Coben's harrowing account of a promising middle class college student whose young life is ruined by a freak accident resulting in manslaughter.

Alexander McCall Smith of *Number One Ladies Detective Agency* fame found himself at least one guaranteed buyer for his next novel *Friends Lovers and Chocolate*.

I'm intrigued by what happens to the English woman who

marries the Italian who refuses to reveal his occupation.

Nick Hornby's much-discussed new novel *A Long Way Down* deals with suicide in a frank manner but failed to hook me, as did Joanna Trollope's suburban tale of a loss in which a couple deal in their own ways with the departure of their youngest son.

Trumpeted by publishers Bloomsbury as "an unprecedented global publishing event," *New Beginnings* is a novel way (sorry) to raise money for victims of the Boxing Day tsunami. Around 90 per cent of the proceeds from book sales (about NZ\$1.1 million to date) is channelled directly to

charity organisations working in the stricken regions.

I admit to the churlish suspicion that although published solely as a revenue-raising venture, *New Beginnings* is also something of a literary guinea pig.

Ever eager to discover something new and sure to sell, other publishing houses will surely be glancing at the book's sales figures with something more than a philanthropic eye.

I hope they are impressed by what they see. *New Beginnings* deserves support from anyone who cares about supporting good causes or widening their literary horizons.

films

Media and Realpolitik film series
AUT, WT1505, Arts Faculty Building, Wakefield St., School of Communication Studies

September 16, 3pm
Someone Else's Country
So controversial it was kept off NZ screens for eight years, this classic documentary tells the story of the New Right revolution and the rise of Rogernomics.

October 14, 3pm
Uncovered: The whole truth about the Iraq war
An in-depth look at the Iraq War, directed by Robert Greewald.

For more information email: wahanui@aut.ac.nz

Those Who Love Me Can Take the Train
Village Skycity on Broadway
September 19, 6.30pm
A 1998 French film that explores the emotions of a motley group of mourners who take the train from Paris to Limoges for the funeral of a painter. Part of the Auckland Film Society 2005 season.
For more information email: info@aucklandfilmsociety.org.nz

Wallace and Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit

Cinemas nationwide
From September 15
Wallace and Gromit are running a humane pest control business in the lead up to the Giant Vegetable competition. They are soon called upon to capture a mysterious beast who has been destroying vegetable gardens. Will they capture the beast or will someone else get to it first? Featuring the voicing talents of Peter Sallis and Ralph Fiennes.

Stealth
Cinemas nationwide
From September 15
A sci-fi filled with hot young stars. *Stealth* is about three fighter pilots who take to the skies to try and defeat an artificially intelligent drone fighter that has gone haywire.

The Dukes of Hazzard
Cinemas nationwide
From September 22
The old TV series film adaptation has finally hit New Zealand's big screen. The story is set in the present day and follows the boys and their sexy cousin as they try to save the family farm.

sport

Rugby
Eden Park
September 10, 7.35pm
Auckland v Waikato

Eden Park
September 24, 2.35pm
Auckland v Northland

Basketball
Trusts Stadium
September 17, 12pm
Breakers v Hunter Pirates

Rugby League
Ericsson Stadium
September 11, 2.30pm
Mt Albert v Counties-Manukau

planet fm 104.6

Mon - Buddhist 1.35pm
Niuean 5.25pm
Tue - Korean 9.40am
Panjabi 3.20pm
Irish 10pm
Maitreya 9.05am
Thur - Samoan 7.40pm
Cook Islands 6.30pm
Christian 2.10pm
Swahili 8.10pm
Sat - Spanish 10am
Turkish 7.35pm
Sun - Jewish 9am

tammy's picks

The Resene Classic Film Evening of Casablanca

The Civic
September 16, 7.30pm
Enjoy some old time entertainment at the Civic. Sing the national anthem then nestle in under the Civic stars and don't forget to grab your popcorn from the candy girls. *Casablanca* is one of the greatest wartime love stories ever made. Starring Hollywood darlings Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman, this is one classic film not to miss. Even more so now we have the chance to view it at the Civic.



Heritage Week
Locations in Auckland
September 12 - 18

Join in the celebrations of the city's unique heritage. There will be a diverse range of events, most will be free of charge. Highlights include opening day festivities in Aotea Square, maritime and harbour tours and tours of the historic Symonds St cemetery. There will also be archival film screenings of *Early Auckland* and *The Milk and Honey Years*. The celebrations include the anniversary of Auckland's founding day September 18. A great chance to learn more about Auckland's history

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Cinemas nationwide
Showing now
This is one film you don't want to miss. Starring the fabulous Johnny Depp and directed by kooky Tim Burton it's a guaranteed hit. It is said to be more in line with the book and darker in content. It doesn't matter what age you are make sure you get out and see this flick!