



An Interview with...

Ben de Lisi

Brooklyn born fashion designer, BEN DE LISI, lives and works in London. Best known for his elegant bias-cut gowns worn by celebrities like Kate Winslet, ANNMARIE O'CONNOR finds out just what else the straight-talking sartorialist has up his sleeve.

WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM YOUR AUTUMN WINTER 08 COLLECTION?

It's predominantly a much more sober collection. I felt it was essential to be cognizant of the current economic situation and for it not to be about conspicuous consumption. It doesn't have a lot of high gleam; there's no beading on it at all. It's all about the manipulation of fabric - taking it, sculpting it and making the best that you can with it. The colour palette uses very weathered colours: lots of bronze, champagne, toast, dark ink, silver and dull metallics. It was also about mixing high gloss patent leather with lace; so there's an almost, dare I say, S&M vibe to it, but done in a very upmarket way. It's sexy, but on the right side of dangerous.

WHAT WOULD BE YOUR KEY PIECE FROM THE COLLECTION?

I think one of the essential pieces for me is a beautiful little gunmetal metallic lace pencil skirt with a ruched fin on the front. You can wear it with a white shirt and flip flops; or with a pair of Christian Louboutins and a cashmere sweater. It's that kind of investment which becomes a staple vintage piece.