

Dolling up with crystals

Local designers create Barbie-inspired haute couture with brilliant Swarovski

MALAYSIAN designers Eric Choong, Khoon Hooi, Datuk Lewre Lew, Melinda Looi and Datuk Tom Abang Saufi recently followed in the footsteps of Vera Wang, Donna Karan and the likes of many other renowned fashion designers who had created Barbie-inspired haute couture which dazzled the 2009 Mercedes Benz Fashion Week in New York.

These five Malaysian designers each created three Barbie-inspired masterpieces embellished with brilliant Crystallised Swarovski Elements in celebration of Barbie's 50 years of timeless splendour, while one masterpiece from each designer is decked with a matching stiletto.

"A silky elegant gown adorned with organza twirls and Swarovski was my first thought when creating these beautiful pieces," said Khoon Hooi.

"I've always thought Barbie to be the quintessential woman personifying confidence, and sophistication and believe my designs will reflect these traits," said Choong.

Tom Abang Saufi said: "The mere mention of Barbie conjures up images of elaborate ball gowns and all things glamorous."

According to Crystallized - Swarovski Elements South-East Asia country manager Anna Hoetzeneder, Barbie is the ageless fashionista who was well loved all over the world and personifies glamour and style.

"We are excited that Swarovski is part of her sparkling lifestyle, expressed through the superb craftsmanship and distinctive signature style of the designers," she said.

The elaborate designs were paraded

on the glass table top runway at Café Stelle, Pavilion KL by models made up in a mixture of styles both fresh and reminiscent of Barbie's signature looks.

"My fondest memory of Barbie

would be when I first saw how my daughters were making pretty little dresses for Barbie to wear" said Lew.

Looi added that she had a wonder-

ful experience and thanked Mattel for selecting her to be part of the celebration.

From the three designs created, one special piece accompanied by an

doll that matched the design was placed up for auction.

A portion of the proceeds from the auction were donated to selected charity homes.



Pretty in pink: Khoon Hooi's pink Barbie inspired dress for auction.



exclusive Barbie

Hot stuff: Choong's stunning red Barbie inspired creation.