



McGRATH

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 [Burlesque's] migration to the mainstream has given us collective permission to announce that indeed we enjoy a bawdy joke, we love titillation, throw in some glitter, a good-looking dame and a show tune and suddenly the mood in the room is uplifted.

XX auctions and open for inspections

Suburb	Bed	Bath	Car	Weekend	Guide
Allawah					
33/432 Railway Parade	3	2	1	Sat 1:00PM	Over \$45
Annandale					
31 Reserve Street	2	1	0	Sat 11:45AM	Over \$70
Arncliffe					
153 Lerong Street	2	1	1	Sat 9:00AM	On req
Avalon					
26 Ruskin Rowe	4	2	1	Sat 2:15PM	Over \$1.1
Avoca Beach					
3/145 Avoca Drive	2	1	1	Sat 2:00PM	Over \$45
Balgowah					
4/157-159 Condamine Street	3	2	2	Sat 11:00AM	Over \$2
Banor					
7 Ingelbar Close	4	3	2	Sat 2:00PM	On req

XX Property of the week
 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
 XXXXX

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Cover image: Jenny Vidler of Lil Jen

Top hatter round town

[Burlesque's] migration to the mainstream has given us collective permission to announce that indeed we enjoy a bawdy joke, we love titillation, throw in some glitter, a good-looking dame and a show tune and suddenly the mood in the room is uplifted.

By Daniel Bloom



FASCINATING FASCINATORS and wide brimmed bonnets: hats are an absolute necessity come the racing season. However, for those who wish to truly express their individuality and stand out among the many photogenic fillies, a creation by Lil Jen is an absolute must.

Created by design doyenne, Jenny Vidler, Lil Jen is a Sydney based millinery and jewellery label with a decided love for all things vintage. "It [vintage fashion] is inspiring because so much effort and attention to detail was invested in these garments in contrast to the bulk of what is around today. I have always found the period of history from Edwardian times to the fifties very inspiring from an aesthetic perspective. The focus for the Lil Jen label is a high voltage, decadent and glittery nod to overt femininity" Vidler declares.

It is this overt femininity that Vidler so effortlessly portrays with her creations. And, as she attests while those who do wear one of her hats to the races will certainly stand out, her hats also translate to other arenas. "Now that social conventions have relaxed we are rediscovering the fun in wearing

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something fabulous perched atop our heads," she says.

And, it is the fact that hats, in general, have made a comeback that Vidler designs not only for the race-going gal, but for those who want something a little different for a wedding, party, or simply to stand out from the crowd.

It's a philosophy that appears to be working with many a celebrity, such as 80s pop-icon Cyndi Lauper and more recently The Veronicas, taking a shine to Vidler's creations.

However, perhaps like one of the ladies who wear a Lil Jen hat, the design process is very much mercurial. "Sometimes the making of a hat is quite organic and seems to flow from the fingertips which is magical, other times it is like a petulant child, testing your will," Vidler opines.

"I believe people are seeking authenticity and enjoy investing in a unique, quality product that connects to their own joie de vivre."

Jenny Vidler

Despite an often exacting creative process, the enterprising designer behind Lil Jen is still extremely optimistic, "Sometimes a hat happens quickly and other times it requires a little bit of experimenting and so will take longer...It is always very satisfying to achieve the challenges you set yourself," she says.

"It is one thing for it to look amazing on paper but the realisation and physicality of how a hat works on the head is another challenge altogether."

She also credits changing social norms for a differing in collective attitudes in regards to the burlesque aesthetic she effortlessly achieves with her creations, "Its [Burlesque's] migration to the mainstream has given us collective permission to announce that indeed we enjoy a bawdy joke, we love titillation, throw in some glitter, a good-looking dame and a show tune and suddenly the mood in the room is uplifted."

And what of the future for this savvy, sassy and creative dame? "My focus is to continue to connect with the people that have been very supportive of Lil Jen and introduce many new women to the whimsical delights Lil Jen has to offer," Vidler says.

Vidler hits the nail on the head: "I believe people are seeking authenticity and enjoy investing in a unique, quality product that connects to their own joie de vivre." It's this joie de vivre that ultimately embodies a Lil Jen piece. As Vidler eloquently surmises, "It's the female spirit engaged in performance and the aesthetic glamour that is inspiring. I like to capture this energy in the hats and jewels that I make." ✨

Lil Jen
liljen.com.au

