



Paul Ropp and some of his bright and beautiful designs

HIPPY HIPPI CHIC

Bring out the gypsy in you with explosively colourful, creative and fun designs by Paul Ropp



Carlos Santana, Val Kilmer and Dolph Lundgren are just some of the celebrities Paul Ropp has designed for. The New York-born, Bali-based fashion designer's creations are exported to 18 countries around the world and the good news is that they are now also available in South Africa. His women's range was launched here in July 2006 and his men's range followed in November.

The most remarkable thing about Ropp's clothes is that the fabrics are hand-woven, hand-dyed and hand-embroidered in India and are then taken to Indonesia, where they are turned into intricate and exquisite garments. Astonishingly, it can take two women three months to complete just six metres of some of the fabrics.

BOHEMIAN ROPP-SODY

Ropp says he isn't interested in fashion but he *is* interested in art. And his unique designs are indeed wearable, stylish, comfortable and interesting works of art. They're non-conformist and, in Ropp's words, 'sensual, not sexual', with a distinct Bohemian flavour. After all, as he himself says, he makes clothes for people who'd prefer to be naked!

Ropp hasn't always been in the clothing-design industry. He started out designing and manufacturing cigarette papers in the US, then began making clothes for friends of his, some of whom also happened to be rock stars, including Janis Joplin and Jimi Hendrix. In 1976 he swapped paper for fabric full time and the rest, as they say, is history.

Like Ropp himself, his designs are fun, funky, unconventional and dramatic, with more than a little 'wow' factor – the perfect addition to any COSMO girl's wardrobe!

For more information call ☎ (021) 683-0552 or visit the Cape Town store at Cavendish Square in Claremont.

COSMO CHATTED TO PAUL ROPP

WHICH FEMALE CELEBS HAVE YOU DESIGNED FOR?

All my female clients requesting something special are celebs to me.

IF A COSMO GIRL HAD TO CHOOSE JUST ONE ITEM FROM YOUR RANGE, WHAT SHOULD IT BE?

A sarong, because it's so versatile.

DESCRIBE YOUR DESIGNS IN FIVE WORDS.

Clothes for people who smile.

WHAT FASHION ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR A COSMO GIRL?

Enjoy what you wear.

WHAT INSPIRES YOU?

Smiles!

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE IN THE WORLD?

Right where I am.

For a chance to win Paul Ropp clothing for you and a partner, worth R5 000 each, plus a stay in a luxury villa in Bali, turn to page XXX. □