

YVONNE GILLON FEATURES ON ITV'S 'MY NORTHWEST'

Cheshire designer, Yvonne Gillon features on ITV's My Northwest on Thursday 6 September at 7.30pm. The programme sees Yvonne visiting Platt Hall, an 18th century textile merchant's home and now home to Manchester's Costume Museum, to trace the relationship of couture fashion from the 1800s with her own business today.

Yvonne explained,

"Bespoke tailoring is something that I am extremely passionate about. This area was at the height of the textile industry in the 19th and 20th centuries – Cottonopolis - the workshop of the world in cotton, from the raw materials to spinning, weaving, dyeing, fabric design and manufacture and marketing."

She continued,

"The Collection at Platt Hall represents high fashion of day during the 18th century and, in fact, many of the processes are still in use today and although women no longer have 18 inch waists, my designs can give women the illusion of making them appear two sizes smaller and six inches taller."

The programme follows Yvonne to her own studio in Marple to show the modern day processes used in couture and show some of the designs available. However, Yvonne's concern regarding the lack of young professional skilled people entering the industry has prompted an appeal for anyone interested in developing a career in couture to contact her,

"Now that the vast majority of clothes are manufactured abroad, the skills to produce clothes are disappearing. As the demand for the type of service which I provide increases, I am finding that I have to limit the amount of work which I take on. This is purely because of the lack of machinists. I have schemes in place to train those keen to pursue a career in couture. There is a genuine concern that there may not be enough young blood to keep our world class bespoke tailoring industry alive. I would urge anyone interested in developing a career in couture to contact me at the studio either via email or telephone."

