

## DESIGNER GOWN RAISES MONEY FOR MENTAL HEALTH CHARITY

A stunning gown designed by Northwest couturier Yvonne Gillon is to be auctioned at a star-studded event to help raise funds for the mental health charity, MIND. The event, at which soul legend Jocelyn Brown will top the bill of live entertainment, will be held at the Lowry Hotel on Saturday 2 September and is the brainchild of five friends who formed the Manchester based Creating Change Group (CC Group) aiming to use their professional skills to help raise thousands of pounds for charities and good causes.



Yvonne, based in Marple, Cheshire, is particularly noted for her classic couture Collections for mothers of the bride and groom. More recently her design for the iconic charity gala Little Black Dress event, which premiered in Manchester earlier this year, received the highest bid. She has trail blazed Northwest talent with the design of an exclusive wedding gown for Coronation Street's Karen McDonald, leading to the introduction of her Contemporary Bride Collection with front cover features on the 2006 and 2007 editions of Cheshire Bride. Yvonne will also be the focus of a feature in ITV's My Northwest in the New Year.

Yvonne explained why she is supporting this particular charity,

"I admire the enterprise shown by Neil McKay and his friends in this, their launch event. Mental health issues are often misunderstood and I am delighted to have been invited to sponsor this worthwhile cause. The fuchsia evening gown is quite spectacular and I hope that it helps to raise a significant amount of money for the charity. I'd also like to take this opportunity to wish the CC Group every success on the evening."

Neil McKay of the CC Group commented,

"We are delighted with the response from local businesses and thrilled that one of the Northwest's leading couture designers has agreed to support us in our launch event. Yvonne's generous donation will add both a touch of glamour to the evening and give a boost to our fund raising efforts on the evening."

The black tie Charity Event also includes a champagne reception, meal and auction hosted by DJ Justin Moorhouse.