



all that glitters

CASSANDRA LAFFEY CHATS TO A SYDNEY-BASED JEWELLERY DESIGNER GATHERING A CELEBRITY FOLLOWING IN TINSELTOWN.

YOU MAY NOT have heard of the name but you've definitely seen the bling. US actress Tina Fey rocked the Chrissy L "Lust" ring with her gown at the Oscars, catapulting Australian designer Chrissy Leighton into the spotlight.

Newly launched onto the US market, the Chrissy L Accessories label has attracted the attention of stylist Rachel Zoe and singer Britney Spears, who love the '70s aesthetic of Chrissy's designs.

When her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer, Chrissy was counselled to channel her feelings into a hobby. What began as "fiddling and experimenting with beads" led to demand for her pieces from friends and later from wholesalers.

In 2004, Chrissy L Accessories was launched and Chrissy left her advertising job to concentrate on her burgeoning business. She now focuses on designing and uses different production houses both locally and overseas to create the pieces inspired by her mother.

"The signature for each collection will always be big, bold pieces and

bling. Growing up in the '70s, I saw my mother dress beautifully and she influenced a lot of what I like today," Chrissy explains.

The winter 2010 Leaving Las Vegas collection of bold baubles, shoulder-grazing earrings and stacked cuffs was inspired by Sharon Stone's character in the 1995 film *Casino*. Featuring Lola Van Vorst from *Australia's Next Top Model*, the campaign was shot in Las Vegas, lending an authentic air to the covetable collection. Priced from \$45, it's an affordable way to transform an outfit.

Right now Chrissy is putting the finishing touches on her summer collection. "It's probably the boldest collection I've come up with and it's a revisit to your mum's stunning jewellery box when you were a kid," she reveals. "It's one of my favourite collections."

Chrissy L Accessories are available at Seduce stores, selected boutiques and online.

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kisses

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