

STYLE.com Brings Back '80s Couture Fashion For Charity Auction

New York (May 1, 2001) -- While Julia Roberts, Renée Zellweger and Winona Ryder's Oscar outfits put vintage couture in the celebrity spotlight this year, STYLE.com -- the online home of Vogue and W -- announces it's bringing this Hollywood trend to women everywhere. Today, STYLE.com kicks off a nine-week long charity auction with 30 exciting haute couture garments from the 1980s. A portion of the proceeds from the auction will benefit the Henry Street Settlement, a New York-based nonprofit that serves the city's Lower East Side.

The STYLE.com auction features haute couture garments from the legendary fashion houses of Chanel, Givenchy, Christian Lacroix, Yves Saint Laurent, Valentino (Julia Roberts wore a 1982 Valentino gown to receive her Oscar), Emanuel Ungaro, Madame Grès and Pierre Cardin. All of the items are from the private collection of a donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

Most of the garments -- eveningwear, cloaks, pantsuits and dresses -- were created in the 1980s and often go for \$1,500 to \$12,000 at the world's most prestigious auction houses. Starting bids at the STYLE.com auction will vary from \$350-\$2,000.

"Designers often take their inspiration from vintage looks and the most recent Fall runway shows were filled with references to clothing from past decades," said Lauren duPont, fashion director, STYLE.com. "Our auction presents a unique opportunity for vintage admirers to own an influential piece of fashion history while supporting a wonderful cause."

The vintage couture garments will be auctioned in two groups. The first group will be available May 1st and includes items such as a midnight-blue taffeta evening gown with train and wrap by Karl Lagerfeld for Chanel and a strapless black guipure-lace evening gown from Yves Saint Laurent. The second group, which showcases the artistry of Christian Lacroix and Pierre Cardin, will be up for auction on May 16th. The auction will run through June 30th.

To place a bid or for more details about the auction, please visit STYLE.com at www.style.com/couture.

About STYLE.com

Harnessing the expertise and authority of Vogue and W, STYLE.com is the leading online fashion resource. Offering consumers a total fashion experience, STYLE.com features an online store with must-have fashions from the world's top designers, comprehensive and up-to-the-minute fashion show coverage, authoritative trend reports, the latest fashion and Society news and celebrity photos. Based in New York, STYLE.com launched in September 2000 and is a property of CondéNet, the leading creator and developer of upscale lifestyle brands online.