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First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the *Fondation de la mode de Montréal* for inviting me to be the guest of honour at this event.

After four decades in fashion design, I am still as passionate about my work now as when I first started out. I am extremely appreciative of the opportunity that I was given. Who would have thought that I would have started at WonderBra as an intern and that I would still be just as content and professionally fulfilled 40 years later? Back then, the production studio was located in Montréal, which allowed employees to apprentice in various departments. From this privileged exposure to different facets of the trade, I drew a great deal of practical experience and technical knowledge, all of which was extremely beneficial in my fashion design studies.

What do all fashion designers dream about? Designing new collections, of course! To be successful in this extremely competitive market, a designer must be a visionary who discovers new ideas and adds his own special flare that sets him apart from the competition. However, in light of today's commercial realities, garment design doesn't just require inspiration – it demands discipline and perseverance, both of which are essential when it comes to large-scale design reproduction. Above and beyond inspiration, trends and our dreams, we mustn't lose sight that our objective is to offer quality products to our customers. And that's another way to express creativity!

I hope that I have successfully expressed my view of a fashion designer's work, work that I never grow tired of and am still incredibly passionate about. Now it's up to you to launch a fantastic career, which will undoubtedly include many interesting twists and turns along the way. It's up to you to take up the torch and face the challenges of this dynamic industry!

I wish each and every student great success in their future projects! Never lose that passion that shines so bright-with this passion you will drive the fashion of tomorrow!

Thank you!