

FASHION

**CATHAL McATEER**

Passionate about style from an early age, McAteer must have cut quite a dash in his native Cumbernauld. All the money from his milk round was spent on clothes.

"I was always into how I looked," says the 34-year-old. "I used to hang about Ich Ni San, a designer clothes shop in Merchant City, Glasgow, looking at all the beautiful gear I couldn't afford. They took pity on me and offered me some modelling and a Saturday job, then full-time work. At school, I passed nothing except O-Grade English, but inspired by the people in the shop I signed up for an access course and studied fashion marketing at Queen's College in Glasgow.

"I ended up leaving the course before they showed me the door and moved to London when I was 21, where I was determined to find out about every single job in the rag trade, working for people like Komodo at the height of the Nirvana/grunge look, which smashed it back then, and Nicole Farhi."

McAteer set up his own sales agency eight years ago, selling select brands along with his own designs and adding his own shoe collections two years ago. The Folk signature is gently bohemian, its distinctive fabrics embellished with artisanal touches and quirky detailing. He describes his designs as having a "quietly relaxed, earthy appeal with a strong feel for colours". He plans to open a retail outlet early next year, but with a baby due any time soon and his second nomination for Scottish Fashion Designer of the Year, the near future is pretty much sewn up.

This page Cord jacket, yellow jumper, blue shirt dark and brown cords all by Cathal McAteer for Folk

