Royal Runway

Married life is treating **The Duchess of Cambridge** well, and it shows. On her whirlwind tour of Canada, Catherine's footwear stepped up for the occasion. She was spotted in an array of designers during her short trip, from **Manolo Blahnik**'s navy Calogera pump to **Tabitha Simmons**' Dela pump in cream and gray (at left).

Duchess of Cambridge

Blahnik told Spy he was very honored the Duchess chose to wear his shoes and that "she is always dressed impeccably and is always very elegant." But the list of fashion picks doesn't stop there. The Duchess also was seen in looks by both **Sebago** and **Prada** (see page 22 for FN's Pick of the week), and her California style made the front pages as well.

Fan Favorite

While Canada basked in the arrival of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, designer/retailer **Ron White** was thrilled by a sighting all his own. On the royal couple's arrival day, the Canadian Prime Minister's first lady, **Laureen Harper**, stepped out in an exclusive style that White appropriately titled the Canada Day Shoe (below). "We basically came to a place where we found some styles she was head-over-heels over, no pun intended," White said of Harper, who he first started dressing last year. And it didn't stop there. Harper was also spotted in a silver strappy dress sandal by the designer. "She said she can't wear any other shoes anymore, and she only wants to wear mine," said White. "That's a huge honor." But there could soon be an addition to White's admirers. "Mrs. Harper is such a fan of my shoes I know Kate will be hearing about them soon."

Harper and White

Shopping Spree

Designer **Jessie Randall** admits she has always been a "high-and-low shopper." So what's her secret to looking great without breaking the bank? Randall told Spy she frequents stores like **Topshop** and **H&M** for her outfits and then splurges on some nicer accessories. And aside from her personal shopping, Randall recently teamed up with another personal fav, **Club Monaco**, to launch **Loeffler Randall** lace-up rain booties. Always a fan of the store, Randall dished that she often pops into its Soho location, conveniently across the street from her office. "I love the clean, modern aesthetic," she said.

Loeffler Randall's rain booties

Reality Check

Who knew **Gilbert Harrison** rubs elbows with royalty? The **Financo** chairman has known **Sarah Ferguson**, Duchess of York, for over 10 years after meeting through a mutual friend. Harrison made an unintended cameo on the Duchess' reality TV show, "**Finding Sarah**" on OWN, when the pair coincidentally ran into each other at Gagosian art gallery in New York. "My wife and I walked in and [Sarah] was there with cameras and they started to shoot me," Harrison said. Although he hasn't yet seen himself on the show, Harrison's cameo was noticed. A number of friends reached out after watching the episode, which aired last month. "What can I tell you, I'm a movie star," he joked. — *With contributions from Natasha Bodily, Gerald Flores and Alexa Pizzi*

Sarah Ferguson

GOT TIPS FOR FN SPY? Email kristen_henning@condenast.com

Nine West Debuts Sneaker Line

BY KRISTEN HENNING

NEW YORK — The Jones Group Inc. is getting sporty.

The company has inked a licensing agreement through 2014 with Philip Simon Brands Group Inc. for a line of fashion sneakers under the Nine West brand.

The collection, which will include about 30 styles under the name Nine West Original Sneakers, is slated for spring '12 and will debut at FFANY in August.

"As Nine West starts to become a more exciting and energetic brand with new extensions and personalities, the fashion athletic category is a key component," said Richard Dickson, president and CEO of branded businesses for Jones Group. "It's a long-term relationship, and we think [PSBG] is a terrific partner."

The search for the right company to produce the line began over a year ago, according to Dickson, who added that his team was attracted to the experience and creativity at PSBG.

Moving forward, the PSBG team, led by Chairman and President Philip Chemla, will work closely with Nine West creative director Fred Allard on the seasonal collections.

The new line will range in price from $49 to $129. Nine West plans to sell the shoes at its global branded stores, and also will target department stores and specialty retailers.

Ariel Weindling, CEO of PSBG, noted the sneakers will feature lots of color pops, as well as unique materials and shapes.

"[The styles] will stand out in the fashion sneaker [category]. There is going to be a diverse style for every woman," he said. "The customer will be drawn to the Nine West brand first as loyal customers, and the product will be very much on trend and stand out on its own."

This is not Nine West's first foray into sneakers. The company partnered with New Balance for a co-branded line that debuted in spring '09, but this time, Dickson said, the line will specifically be branded by Nine West.

"We did the co-branded thing and we remain great friends with New Balance, but what keeps Nine West relevant is we're able to continue enticing consumers with new exciting programs," he said.

Some of those new programs, for example, include the launch of a Nine West fragrance for 2012 and the Shoelaborations series, which has produced partnerships with Karen Elson, Giles Deacon and Sophie Theallet.

More projects are on the way. "Between the fragrance, Karen, Giles and Sophie, you can be sure [there will be] additional launches for 2012," said Dickson.

Ultimately, both Nine West and PSBG have high expectations for the unveiling of the sneaker line.

"When you see the product, it's different, it's fun and it has its own personality," said Dickson. "With a partner like [PSBG], we can build a consistent branded business and take the Nine West brand to new heights."

PHOTOS: DUCHESS OF CAMBRIDGE, GETTY IMAGES; WHITE, COURTESY OF BRAND; RANDALL, COURTESY OF BRAND; HARRISON, COURTESY OF ROBIN LAYTON/OWN; NINE WEST, COURTESY OF BRAND