



**W**ELCOME to the Los Angeles Business Journal's third annual Fashion Awards special supplement, in which we celebrate the outstanding work performed by the remarkable individuals and companies that make up one of the most exciting and dynamic sectors of industry today – the apparel industry!

The world of fashion, garments, apparel manufacturing and style design as a whole is unique in many ways – and here in Los Angeles, where we have some of the most fashion-forward and stylish people in the world, there's perhaps an even more finely tuned set of rules for success.

In the following pages we hope to shed additional light on some of the premier examples of companies that make the fashion world tick. Be they retailers, manufacturers, wholesalers, makers of denim, couture, activewear, swimwear, footwear, accessories, or innovative methodologies or online applications for getting the latest fashions to the people that seek them, these are the finalists and honorees we singled out for achievement across the full spectrum of this ever-evolving industry.

Our celebration of these examples of excellence took place at our 2016 Fashion Awards event on November 30 at Casa del Mar.

The list of prestige finalists – each an example of excellence in the industry – made it particularly difficult to arrive at the honorees. Nine honorees and two additional finalists are presented in this section under nine different categories – “Trendsetter Award,” “Supplier of the Year,” “Professional Service Provider of the Year,” “Direct to Consumer Award,” “Rising Brand Award,” “Made in California Award,” “Technology Innovation Award,” “Philanthropy Award,” and the “Social Responsibility Award.” We applaud each of the finalists and honorees – all of whom are described in these pages.

It should be noted that each of the finalists and honorees featured in these pages has played a key role, not only in the success of the apparel industry, but in the success of the Los Angeles economy as a whole. So to all the great organizations profiled in this volume we say thank you!

Best regards,

Matthew A. Toledo  
 President and Publisher

TRENDSETTER AWARD HONOREE

## ADRIANO GOLDSCHMIED

Designer

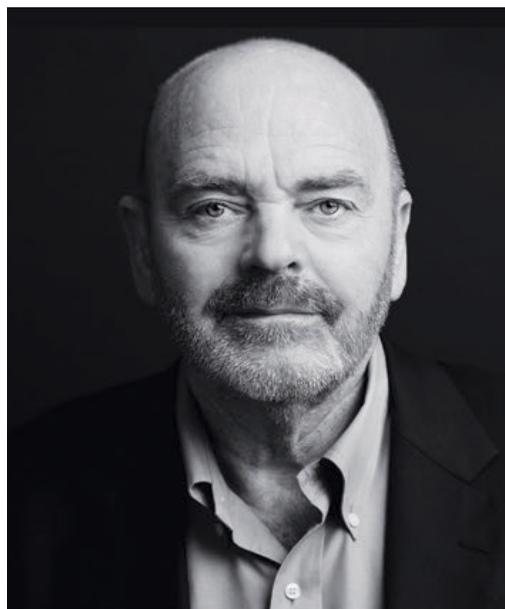
**A**DRIANO Goldschmied, the Italian fashion designer, is known as “the Godfather of Denim” and is the originator of the very concept of “premium denim” that is so popular today. Among the many great brands he created are Diesel, Replay, Gap 1969, and AG Adriano Goldschmied. With initial dreams of becoming a competitive skier, he opened up a store in Cortina d’Ampezzo in 1970. This was a springboard for beginning his own denim company.

Goldschmied’s first link to the denim industry was a pair of jeans he bought from an American soldier for \$15. He was 14 and living in Trieste, where his mother moved him from his birthplace in Turin after World War II, following his father’s death. In the Italian port city, Goldschmied was influenced by the mix of cultures from his homeland, as well as Greece, Turkey, Yugoslavia and Austria.

By the end of 1972, he decided to make his own jeans. The jet setters in Cortina loved Goldschmied’s designs. Even better were the exclusive prices, going up to \$700 for five-pocket jeans.

Goldschmied’s experimentation with washes started with a big bowl of bleach and water heated over a fire in his yard. Around 1974, he founded a label called Daily Blue. Later, he became instrumental in the formation of Diesel, A Gold E, Gap’s 1969, AG Adriano Goldschmied and GoldSign.

In 2013, he left Citizens of Humanity, which had acquired GoldSign six years earlier. Once his non-compete clause with Citizens of Humanity expires at the end of the year, Goldschmied aims to groom the next generation of Genius Group.



TRENDSETTER AWARD FINALIST

## KEVIN CHEN

CEO  
 FRANKIE

Kevin Chen has been an innovator in fashion businesses as well as a visionary for the real estate development of the Arts District. His next foray into wholesale and retail fashion is the re-invention of the iconic brand Frankie B. The high-end line launched with a full-scale fashion presentation in New York last October, with the first freestanding retail store opening this year. The merchandise will all be produced in and around Los Angeles. While Frankie B Hollywood will be offered as a more moderately priced collection, the two concepts will be aimed at the “trendsetters” of the fashion industry at different price levels; identifying the “democracy of fashion.”

Chen is no stranger to fashion. With over 30 years of experience in the fashion and garment industry, he is credited for the multi-million dollar relationship he established between Hyundai Department Stores (South Korea) and Juicy Couture, a multi-million dollar brand, now owned by Authentic Brands Group.



**FRANKIE.**

TRENDSETTER AWARD FINALIST

## BOOTH MOORE

Fashion Senior Editor  
 The Hollywood Reporter

Senior Editor of fashion for the Hollywood Reporter since earlier this year, Booth Moore has been a continual one-woman cheering squad for Los Angeles fashion for decades, while, at the same time, commenting on and analyzing the global spectrum of the fashion world for Los Angeles. Her insights are sought after by retailers and fashion producers alike. She possesses the unique blend of the “eye” of a fashion maven with the mindset of the Los Angeles public.

As the former fashion critic of the Los Angeles Times, Moore logged tens of thousands of miles covering the runways from New York to Paris and interviewing style leaders such as Karl Lagerfeld, Tom Ford and Donatella Versace. The world has been her runway since she was a little girl in New York City, on through a career that found her expert writings featured in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Town & Country, C Magazine, Metropolitan Home and many other publications.



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