

STYLE WATCH

# PASSION FOR FASHION

By Masada Siegel // Photography by Chris Loomis

Laura Tanzer ([lauratanzerdesigns.com](http://lauratanzerdesigns.com)) believes fashion is as much about social, economic and environmental responsibility as it is about artistic vision. The Tucson-based designer seamlessly blends sustainable practices—like digital printing, use of natural fabrics and hiring local talent—when crafting her pieces. Tanzer is one of 15 experts participating in the Emerging Designer Bootcamp, a four-month training for budding couturiers that will culminate at **Phoenix Fashion Week** Oct. 13 to 15.

**What inspired you to become a designer?** I was born an artist. I've been drawing since I could hold a pencil. I've experimented with all forms of two and three-dimensional media, mastering most, and mixing those that jazz me. But my passion comes through designing and engineering clothing.

**Describe your aesthetic.** I love creating new designs with interesting fabrics for real women. And I love making 'art' prints on fabric from my photography and illustrations. I also focus on quality—in the fabrics I choose, as well as how I engineer construction of a garment. Why shouldn't a more mature woman look and feel as chic as the models in *Vogue*? Better yet, she is more chic because she has life experience that contributes to her essence, her individual beauty.

**What are your core tenets of fashion design?** The importance of behaving in a sustainable manner

cannot be diminished—we should see ourselves as stewards of our environment and our resources. I do my part by using fabrics that are mainly natural fibers, avoiding fabrics that have heavily chemical finishes, and minimizing our own waste stream during production.

**You are very committed to producing your work domestically. Why?** This country lost a fantastic industry when our textile-, clothing- and accessories-makers moved production overseas in the '70s and '80s. We lost jobs, skills, pride of craft. To me, all of those are very important to national character. I am doing my part to contribute to this small vanguard of makers by crafting my clothes locally, training workers and, hopefully, bringing some pride of craft back into the character of our nation.

*Tickets from \$50, VIP from \$195, 9800 Talking Stick Way, Scottsdale, 480.850.7777, phoenixfashionweek.com*



STYLE MAVEN Designer Laura Tanzer brings her savoir-faire to Phoenix Fashion Week this October.



NUMBER CRUNCH

# 354

The total number of home runs hit by former Arizona Diamondbacks outfielder Luis "Gonzo" Gonzalez during his 19-year career. The fan favorite also hit the single that clinched the D-backs' only World Series championship win in 2001. And he can be your coach. That is, if you sign up for the **Diamondbacks Fantasy Camp**. During this weeklong experience, participants will train like MLB players as they don personalized uniforms; play games; enjoy daily bull sessions; hang in the clubhouse; receive coaching from current D-backs staff; and mingle with former players like Gonzalez, Steve Finley and Mark Grace. Former Arizona Attorney General Joel Grant Woods, past Random House Publishing CEO Peter Olson, local radio hosts Tim Hattrick and Willy D. Loon, and *The Arizona Republic* columnist Dan Bickley have all played ball. The camp will be held at Salt River Fields at Talking Stick in Scottsdale—where the D-backs train year-round—from Jan. 8 to 14. Participants stay at the Talking Stick Resort during training. Registration closes Nov. 1. Prices from \$4,000, 7555 N. Pima Road, Scottsdale, 602.462.3710, [dbacks.com/lacademy](http://dbacks.com/lacademy)—Teresa K. Traverse

BASEBALL PHOTO BY JORDAN HEGENHARDT/ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS