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Gavin Rajah designs couture doll for UNICEF auction

Funds to help children who do not have the simple privilege of play

South African couturier and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Gavin Rajah has joined the ranks of a select group of the world's most prestigious designers who have been commissioned to design a high fashion doll to raise funds in support of the global children's organisation.

Mr. Rajah's contribution will be part of the annual designer collection of dolls, known as the *Frimousses de Créateurs et Frimousses du Monde* which includes designs by fashion luminaries such as John Galliano for Dior, Karl Lagerfeld for Chanel, Marc Jacobs for Louis Vuitton and Miuccia Prada. It goes on show on 29 November in Paris and will be subsequently auctioned at an event staged under the patronage of singer and UNICEF France Goodwill Ambassador, Laeticia Hallyday.

Rajah, who joins the elite designer elite group is the only fashion designer in the world that is also a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador. The doll he has designed for the special collection is a glamorous creation embellished in diamonds and gold. These special component pieces were donated by Galaxy Jewellers of South Africa, which collaborated with Rajah in the decoration of the doll to mark the launch of their '*Twinkle Twinkle*', range of jewellery developed exclusively for children.

Helping children who do not have the simple privilege of play

"As a designer, it's been just great creating something for a child to play with," says Rajah. "Yet, the irony is that it will go towards supporting so many of the children of the world, who do not have the simple privilege of being able to play."

Thanking Gavin Rajah for his gift, which is expected to raise some €50,000 at auction, UNICEF South Africa Country Representative Macharia Kamau said, "Through his generous philanthropy and advocacy Gavin Rajah continues to champion the rights of children to grow and develop healthy, educated, protected and safe, not only in South Africa but all around the world. We are especially pleased that this generous initiative has come in the year that we celebrate the 18th anniversary of

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the Convention on the Rights of the Child and extend our heartfelt thanks to Gavin for his support of UNICEF's work.”

According to Parisian fashion insiders, this year, demand for these one-of-a-kind special dolls has already increased. It is expected that they will be snapped up by buyers all over the world either as collectors of couture or as Christmas gifts for children.

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