

From rags to riches

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London fashion students involved in the Savile Row project

As London Fashion Week comes to an end, a HLF-funded project is exploring the history of Savile Row.

Seeing the glamour of the catwalks over the last few days, it is easy to forget that this industry has a rich and detailed history. It originated from the patronage of the Prince Regent in the early 19th century. It was from these beginnings that the word 'bespoke' became one with the 'Golden Mile'.

There is also a forgotten history. An industry which was reliant on the blood and sweat of many men and women, who toiled in the sweatshops of Soho. The project aims to address this.

It will pay tribute to this varied history by interviewing the men and women who make it happen. The students will interview past and present tailors and seamstresses. They will also speak with a master tailor and one of the first female tailors. Students will also access the Museum of London archives and the Merchant Taylor Company.

The focus is to ensure that these memories are never forgotten. Once completed, these interviews will be preserved at archives throughout the City for future generations to enjoy.

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[A Savile Row tailor at work](#)

[**Tailored Stories: Lottery grant to uncover history of London's iconic Savile Row**](#)