

# Prominent ties in Europe, Mexico create need for a career in middle of New York

By RUSTLE SHAND

Devotees of Nina Ricci's fragrance, L'Air du Temps, are being offered an opportunity to enhance their summer days with the airy perfume as well as little designer float.

Saks Fifth Avenue has combined the charm of Nina Ricci's perfume with the newly acclaimed design talent of Maria Jose Pagliai. The float can be worn over pants, or it can drift lightly over a bikini. It could even be all that's needed for a summer's night sleep shift.

The float is \$10 with any purchase from the Nina Ricci fragrance collection at Saks, and it comes with its own miniature perfume sample.

If you are asking yourself "Who's Maria Jose Pagliai?" well, to begin with, she is another of the world's beautiful people who has entered the fashion design field. Maria actually entered the field with a bang last August when she introduced a printed terry loungewear collection.

She is also the step-daughter of Merle Oberon, with whom she bears an amazing resemblance. Miss Oberon, you will remember, is the Hollywood star who rose to overnight fame with her portrayal of Anne Boleyn in "The Private Life of Henry VIII."

Maria's own mother is the Princess Margherita Aliata di Montreale, who was the first wife of Bruno Pagliai, the Mexican industrialist who later married and divorced Miss Oberon.

Born in Paris, Maria was raised in Mexico, went to high school in Connecticut and attended college at the



Sorbonne. Until recently, horses were her great preoccupation. She rides well enough to have been a member of Mexico's international riding team. However, in 1971 she came to New York and decided to stay.

Maria explains that she first became interested in horses when her father, considered one of the founders of modern Mexico, built a race track in Mexico City. The track gave her a chance to be around horses from the time she was seven, she said.

She also ended her seven-year career as a horsewoman because of a horse. "One year, I was forced to sit on the sidelines because my horse was lame. I realized that everything I was doing was totally dependent on this animal," she said.

It was time to do something else she decided, so she left for New York to find a vocation that would mean relying only on herself. She found it at New York University. An interior design course led to an interest in fabrics and finally to the design of clothing.

One of the first challenges she set for herself was finding a way of printing on terry cloth — unheard of at the time. Whether she is using terry cloth or any other fabric, Maria loves designing loungewear that is the ultimate in femininity, such as the Ricci Float with its exquisite dove motif. Even when the masculine fashions are "in" she prefers to use lace and soft materials with beautiful colors near a woman's face, so that the woman looks her most feminine.

"I was brought up in a world that no longer exists," she said. "If you had money you could sit back and not do

anything. But, people who don't do anything are boring, not only to themselves but to others."

Being caught up in the excitement of the arts is one reason that she now lives in New York, although not the only one. "My father is famous in Mexico; my mother is famous in Europe. New York is in the middle. Here, I am on my own," she said. "Go out and try it — this is what New York represents to me. This is what living is all about."

## Fashion Calendar

Tuesday, June 27

Hudson's Northland — Ethel Merman, a living legend and Broadway's undisputed queen of musical comedy, will share her triumphs and trials on and off the stage when she personally autographs her autobiography "Merman" at 12:30 p.m. at Hudson's Northland.

Saks Fifth Avenue — The Ernst Strauss and Schnell Sports Collection for fall and winter '78 will be informally modeled from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the coat and suit collections of the Somerset store.

Friday, June 30

Hudson's-Stroh's Fireworks Extravaganza — The 20th annual fireworks display will begin at 9:35 p.m. with a half-million viewers expected to watch from both banks of the Detroit River. Four barges will be moored halfway between the United States and Canada from which the dazzling display will be detonated. In the event of rain the display will be held on July 1.



The Pagliai float can be teamed with pants, drift lightly over a bikini, or it could be all that's needed for a summer's night slumber.



Born in Paris, raised in Mexico, educated in Connecticut and at the Sorbonne, Maria Jose Pagliai is another of the world's beautiful people who has entered the world of fashion. Saks has teamed her designs with Nina Ricci's fragrances to enhance the summer season.

## Where It's At

By JUDY SOLOMON

### Counter spying

One thing's for sure: you can always count on Miner's to have a marvelous variety of interesting items. For example, if you like things a little spicy, try one of the six different dips made by Adobe House of Dallas, accompanied by their Nacho Thins, a sweet, yet salty, corn wafer. Should you wish to add a touch of class to your next dinner party, how about washable gauze lemon wedge bags (\$3 for 25)? And, to work off the calories, a deluxe jump rope (\$10) with a digital counter in the handle to measure your amount of exercise would be nice too.

Miner's of Bloomfield, 41 W. Long Lake, Bloomfield Hills, 644-6514.

### Ms. Pinafore

Surely you've heard of Lilly Pulitzer by now. She's the Palm Beach socialite who designs divine ice cream pastel print fabrics and then has them made up into all kinds of things from men's slacks to women's nightgowns to picture frames. You can deck your little granddaughter, daughter or whomever out in Lilly's too. Pinafore sets (including bloomers and bonnets) are priced at \$21. Plain pinafores cost \$9. Both are available in size toddler 1 only. Sundresses from toddler 2 to girls' 14 range from \$20 to \$24 in price.

Lilly Pulitzer, 51 W. Long Lake, Bloomfield Hills, 645-1790.

### It's in the bag

Bloomingdale's can't keep them in stock. Now you can find the LeSportsac line in the Detroit area exclusively at Roots. All the pieces are made out of coated "Parachute Plus Nylon" which will not tear or run and is waterproof. Lightweight, available in several colors and trimmed with beige webbing. Prices range from \$22 to \$40. Included in the group are suitcases in three different sizes (all of which fold up into little 10-by-7 inch pouches for easy storage) plus small duffel bags, camera cases and shoulder bags. My favorite item is a 15-by-20 inch shopping bag that folds up into its own zippered pouch.

Roots, 123 W. Maple, Birmingham, 647-4220.

### Closet queen

What a good idea! Hide-A-Safe is a portable vault you can use at home or when you're traveling. It grips closet poles with a vice-like action so that no one can slide it off without having both the proper key and the number of the combination lock. Best of all, when you put a coat or sweater over it, the safe blends right in with the rest of the hanging garments in your closet, making the Hide-A-Safe almost totally inconspicuous.

The Linen Closet, Bloomfield Plaza, 6822 Telegraph, Birmingham, 626-7760.



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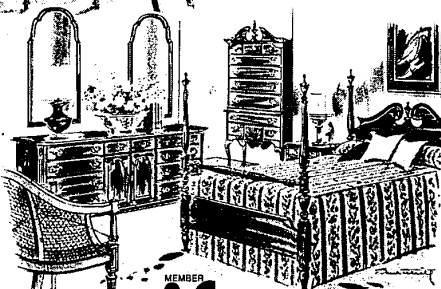


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