

Irene Galitzine (1916-2006)

Biography



*Irene Galitzine
(1916, Tiflis - 2006, Rome)*

Irene Galitzine is the fashion's Princess and celebrity known in all over the world. Italian by adoption, the Princess was born in an ancient Prince Galitzine family, whose origins date to 1200. Her father is Boris Galitzine (1878–1958), an officer of the Czar, and her mother is Nina Lazareff (1888–1957). The family was forced to exile by the October 1917 Russian Revolution. But due to good connections of Nina Kovaldji with Italian ambassador in Russia they soon reached Italy, and together with other fugitives, Irene came to live at the Grand Hotel of Frascati. She grew up in Rome educated like a girl of Roman aristocracy. In 1945 Irene began to work in the Sorelle Fontana atelier that nowadays plays a significant role in the international fashion area. Two years after Irene opened her own atelier and therefore, in 1958, inspired by French and Italian haute-couture, Balenciaga and Dior, she created her own models of dresses.

Following years Irene had been working out a wide range of styled clothes and in 1961 the first Galitzine boutique was opened in Milan, in Via Montenapoleone, within the Elisabeth Arden store. Since 90s years of XX century, the designer began visiting her home country Russia giving lessons in fashion science to students from Moscow State University on her mother tongue. In 1996 the first Galitzine boutique in Moscow was opened in Pushkin place. That year Irene published her biography entitled "From Russia to Russia". Irene died in 2006 in her residence in Rome being 90 years old.

Creative Works



"Palazzo Pijama" suit, 1960

The works of the designer are of wide range and style from organdy mini-dresses and long rocks to the strict coats and bride hats. Among dresses and woman's wear, Irene Galitzine produced a line of cosmetics "Princess Galitzine" composed of 130 products and the perfume "Irene". She also designed a bed and bath line and men's perfume "Mon Homme". However, the best and well-known Irene's creation which gave her the floor to win international glory is a "Palazzo Pijama" suit. These are wide legged evening trousers and tops made of soft silk. In fact, nowadays some of her "Palazzo Pijama" is a part of permanent collections of the most important museums in the world such as the Metropolitan Museum in New York, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the Costume Museum in St. Petersburg, where Princess had made several fashion shows.

- Irene Galitzine won more than 11 international awards among which is the Fashion Oscar.

Florentine Influence



Palazzo Pitti nowadays, Florence, Italy

- Irene Galitzine became famous in **Florence**. Her «Palazzo Pijama» for the first time was presented at **Palazzo Pitti** in 1960 and therefore became an essential part of her following collections. the suit **did not** have any “public name”. But Diana Vreeland, an American photographer, noted columnist and editor in the field of fashion, **took** a photo of the outfit in **Palazzo Doria** and **the** American Press went into rapture over it, and **later** it was named “Palazzo Pijama”. Palazzo Pijama initially was just the home suit of Irene Galitzine that was very

convenient to wear but revolutionary to show, because trousers were predominantly worn by men. But her friends persuaded her to present a suit in the collection and the model made a revolution in the fashion world. Florence had given to **unknown Irene** a good start in the **career**, and the city was captured in her memory as a place of her first international success forever. In 1992 **for the celebration of the** 40th anniversary of **Italian** fashion, **there was an exhibit organized** at **Palazzo Strozzi** in **Florence** and at the Museums of Decorative Arts in Paris, Berlin and New York.

Associations:

With **regard to** the art of Irene Galitzine, the associations of the fashion works appeared in my mind. I have **worked as a** model and it allowed me to meet outstanding fashion designers – **Pierre Cardin** and **Vyacheslav Zaitsev**. In fact, the works of Irene Galitzine in 70s years were filled **with** Pierre Cardin’s futurism by which she was inspired at that time. This specific detail of each Pierre Cardin’s collection exists in his works nowadays. Pierre Cardin and Vyacheslav Zaitsev are in a good contact with each other since 60s year of XX century.



With designers Vyacheslav Zaitsev and Pierre Cardin at the International Fashion House Forum of Models and Talents, Moscow 2009



Pierre Cardin: **Spring/Summer** 2010: silk minidress



Irene Galitzine: **Spring/Summer** 1969: organza minidress

Interesting facts:

Learn more:

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Electronic sources:

- Official Irene Galitzine website: www.galitzine.it
- Encyclopedia of the Fashion World: www.fashionencyclopedia.com