



SITTING PRETTY

Putney High School alumna Olivia Scott-Taylor explains more about the inspired chair collection she designed with her mum. Joe Wood finds out more about the pair making waves on the design scene...



Former actress Olivia has not looked back since bringing down the curtain on her burgeoning stage career to go into the furniture business full-time with her mother.

The remarkably creative pair are now taking orders for their exclusive designer chairs from as far away as Europe and the USA.

Olivia was born and raised here in south-west London, graduating from Putney High School.

Her mum, Lesley Scott, had a successful background in interior design and used this experience to rejuvenate older, traditional chairs.

But during her upcycling, Lesley found sourcing old chairs was proving more difficult and decided to design her own.

Olivia came on board to help but soon began to struggle with juggling two careers and subsequently focused her energy on Scott and Taylor. The arduous task of sourcing materials and finding British manufacturers to carry on Lesley's traditional methods began.

"The style and methods of building the original chairs were steeped in British custom, something

we are keen to continue," says Olivia. "Now everything is designed and made in Britain, hand finished and painted by our small team in Somerset."

In 2014, Scott and Taylor were chosen from hundreds of applicants at the Best of British Design Open Call after showcasing their prototypes. They joined forces with designers at Liberty of London and came up with a set of six chairs – known as the Liberty Collection.

Four years later, a second collection of five has just been released, inspired by the grand fourth floor at Liberty, embellished with stripes of gold.

The future certainly looks bright for this ambitious company, with expansion looming, and Scott and Taylor also have their own bespoke service for shop, café and home-owners.

Olivia adds: "Working with my mum is a dream. The idea of a table has been floated, as well as thoughts about further furniture.

"We are also keen to start our own range of accessories, with the stripe pattern adorning other products, such as kitchen accessories."

● Visit www.scottandtaylorlondon.com



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