

Fashion Retail Academy Appoints Five Industry Leaders as Ambassadors on 20th Anniversary

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The **Fashion Retail Academy (FRA)** has announced the appointment of **five new ambassadors** as part of its 20th-anniversary celebrations, aiming to strengthen industry connections and support students pursuing careers in fashion and retail.

The newly appointed ambassadors are:

- **Ian McGarrigle** – Founder and Chairman of the World Retail Congress
- **Martin Newman** – Retail speaker, author, and advisor
- **Hash Ladha** – Former CEO of Jigsaw
- **Rokeya Khanum** – Fashion designer and founder of Khanum's
- **Liam Price** – Global eCommerce Director at AllSaints and John Varvatos

According to FRA, the ambassadorships are **voluntary roles** designed to extend the academy's network of industry partners and support students entering the sector. **CEO and Principal Lee Lucas** emphasized the importance of these appointments, stating, "Our deep connections with industry have always been a core pillar of our success in creating the next generation of fashion and retail leaders."

Founded in **2005** with support from Marks & Spencer, Next, Tesco's F&F, Arcadia, and Experian, the FRA has trained over **13,000 students** for entry-level roles in fashion and retail. Impressively, **94% of its further education graduates** are employed or continue in study within six months of completing their courses. The academy collaborates with more than **250 brands**, ranging from high street labels to luxury fashion houses.

This announcement follows the **appointment of Lord Rose**, former Marks & Spencer CEO, as FRA's first patron in 2024, reinforcing the academy's commitment to bridging education and industry.