



British Master Tailor Kathryn Sargent poses for a photograph during a photo call to promote the launch of her shop on Savile Row in central London.



Kathryn Sargent poses for a photograph. — AFP photos

First female master tailor cuts through on London's Savile Row

Kathryn Sargent made history on Wednesday by becoming the first female master tailor to open her own premises on London's Savile Row—the epicenter of traditional British bespoke tailoring. Sargent, who worked her way up the ranks during 15 years on the prestigious street at Gieves and Hawkes, opened her first tailoring house around the corner in 2012, before seizing the opportunity to move back onto Savile Row in her own right.

"It has always been a dream of mine. It feels fantastic. There's a real sense of achievement," the 41-year-old told AFP. Sargent has started with a six-month residency covering the spring and summer season, with a view to her tailoring house becoming a permanent fixture on the Row. Having become well-known for her skills in the close-knit Savile Row community, she was offered the chance to open her own premises.

"We're always talking and working together on how we can promote our craft nationally and internationally and also preserve our skills and keep the standards high. The landlords here work with us to do that too," Sargent said. "It was discussed whether I would like to be on Savile Row and the answer was 'Yes!' I've always wanted to have my name above the door of a shop here. "The opportunity of having a shop here for the summer to showcase our work and engage with potential new clients, it was too good not to take up."

Sargent discovered her passion for tailoring while studying at fashion college and began her apprenticeship in 1996 at Gieves and Hawkes, which holds the prestigious 1 Savile Row address. Savile Row's tailoring history dates back to 1803 and she became the first woman on the street to be appointed head cutter in 2009, before leaving to create her own Kathryn Sargent

Bespoke tailoring house in 2012. William Skinner, chairman of the Savile Row Bespoke Association, said: "It's fitting that the first woman to be appointed as a head cutter on Savile Row is returning to open a shop of her own and is testament to the continued appeal of Savile Row as the sartorial home of high quality, hand-crafted tailoring." — AFP



Kathryn Sargent poses for a photograph during a photo call to promote the launch of her shop.

Lady Gaga's childhood piano could bring \$200,000 at auction

Lady Gaga was only 5 years old when she wrote her first song on an upright piano that her grandparents bought. Now the instrument that inspired the pop music sensation is going on the auction block at a pre-sale estimate of \$100,000 to \$200,000. The piano is being offered at Julien's Auctions' "Music Icons" memorabilia sale at the Hard Rock Cafe New York on May 21. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the piano will benefit the Born This Way Foundation, launched by Gaga in 2012 to empower youth. The organization also addresses issues of bullying, poor body image, and acceptance and tolerance.

The Everett Piano Co instrument was featured in a 2011-2012 "Women Who Rock" exhibition at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland. Gaga's paternal grandparents purchased the piano for \$780 in 1966 and later gave it to her parents. Little Stefani Germanotta began taking piano lessons when she was 4 and wrote her first composition, "Dollar Bills," a year later, a song inspired by Pink Floyd's "Money." "When Stefani started to crawl, she would use the leg of the piano to pull herself up and stand, and in doing so, her fingers would eventually land on the keys," her mother, Cynthia

Germanotta, recalled once. "She would stay there and just keep pressing the keys to hear the sound. We would then start to hold her up or sit on the bench and let her tinker."

When she turned 13, her parents bought her a baby grand piano. Darren Julien, owner of Julien's Auctions, said investors and collectors are looking for ways to diversify their portfolios and historical artifacts like rock 'n' roll memorabilia that have proven to be great investments. "Values continue to increase due to the collectability of Western pop culture globally," he said. "Rock 'n' roll memorabilia is the new art market." The auction also includes more than 85 Elvis Presley items, including a custom-made 1969 Gibson Dove guitar that Presley's father made for him. It was given to a fan by Presley at a 1975 concert. The guitar has Elvis Presley inland across the fingerboard and a Kenpo Karate decal (Presley was a black belt in karate). It's estimated to bring \$200,000 to \$300,000. Memorabilia from singer-guitarist Stevie Ray Vaughan, Kurt Cobain, the Beatles, Johnny Cash, Michael Jackson and other music icons also are part of the sale. — AP



Photo shows a piano owned by singer Lady Gaga in Culver City, Calif. — AP