

Sky

Growing up, I just really loved art and making things and I guess I just want to make things that people can wear.

I guess I really want to do, kind of like, street wear. Like, I really grew up loving the 80s and, like, how they put everything together everyday.

Like, I grew up all over Australia. On my mother's side it's Wiradjuri and my father's side that's Gunai/Kurnai.

Community and family are a major part of who we are. Everyone would live near each other and everyone would visit each other all the time and we'd all hang out together.

I'd, like, wake up and wake all my cousins up and we'd all go down to, like, the town to buy, like, hot chips and we'd go to the park.

If you'd walk around the shopping centres there would always be that group of people following you to make sure you didn't steal anything or some of the kids would leave the park if you rocked up to it. I guess it's just like them being told that we're probably not good people to hang out with.

There was always a couple of those kids who would be, like, "you can only do this and you're only good for that". Just real nasty things and you think - well where is this coming from?

My mother and father have always taught me if somebody says something you've got to stand up to it.

I was talking to this person one time and they were like "don't you get, like, heaps from Centrelink?" And it's, like, I'm not even part of Centrelink. Why would you even assume that?

I feel that communication and education is the only way that you can actually break down those things.

I'm very proud of who I am. I think it's important to have any kind of culture connections plus I think it's good to have something to pass along.

But it doesn't mean I'm going to go and wear aboriginal patterns all the time or that I'm only capable of this. I don't want things to be a big achievement purely because of my race.

That's why I was really happy to get into fashion because it's like it was just all my efforts and my achievements in what I was doing in textiles.

Like, media-wise, you don't really see anybody Aboriginal that are doing big things unless they're a football player or a rugby player but just because you don't see it on TV doesn't mean it's not happening.

I guess I'd like to make formal wear as well. Like, a lot of aunties have been, like, "oh, so you're doing fashion" and they're, like, "yeah - can you make me a dress?" Because you know, like, how they have NAIDOC ball and everything and when people ask about it they can be, like, "Oh yeah, Sky made it... here's her card".

Sky

Studies fashion design

Loves to play basketball

Practices traditional weaving

Speaks out against racism

Featuring Sky Thomas
Produced and directed by William Head

