

Lorna Holder

Fashion Designer | Producer | Writer | Curator

Lorna Holder is a British fashion designer and cultural producer whose work spans fashion, heritage, film, and storytelling. In 1975, she became the first Black student to graduate with a BA (Hons) in Fashion and Textiles from Nottingham Trent University. She went on to build an international career across London, New York, and the Middle East, including as Head of Young Fashion at Davies & Field.

From 1986 to 1996, she founded and ran Lapaz, a lifestyle retail business in Camden and Notting Hill Gate. In 2002, she was Executive Producer of the first Black Film & Television Awards at Grosvenor House. She founded Tuareg Productions in 2003 and Full Spectrum Productions in 2004, leading a range of creative and heritage projects exploring migration, identity, and multicultural Britain.

Holder has written, produced, directed, and curated numerous films, exhibitions, publications, and installations. Her work has been presented at venues including the V&A, Theatre Royal Nottingham, Gallery@Oxo, and the Bamako African Photography Biennial, and she has collaborated with organisations including the V&A, British Museum, Museum of London, and London Metropolitan Archives.

In 2018, she published *Style in My DNA*, documenting 70 years of British Caribbean fashion. Her business archives are held at the London Metropolitan Archives. Holder served as a Board Member of Nottingham Trent University from 2016–2025 and is currently producing *Dress to Remember*, a project exploring memory, identity, and fashion with Brent Council and Nottingham Trent University, London.