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Crocheter to meet Hollywood stars at Golden Globes

By Julie Slack
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Karen Vitoria-Miguel went from crocheting clothes for her dolls to warm woolly hats for some of Hollywood's A-listers.

The Milton mompreneur, who has built her year-old business on her love of crochet, is the only Canadian designer featured at the 2015 Golden Globes gifting event with GBK Productions.

Vitoria-Miguel will bring Canada to Hollywood with her hand-crocheted Canada Bliss hats to the January 11 event.

The gifting event is a pre-Golden Globe event that sees some 100 of Hollywood's stars wander through the Celebrity Gift Lounge for two days prior to the big awards night, which kicks off the entertainment awards season. There, they receive gifts, such as Vitoria-Miguel's hand-made hats.

A mother of two youngsters, Vitoria-Miguel said she's super excited about it and a little nervous too. Of all the stars expected to wander through the lounge, she's looking forward to posing for photos with Jennifer Lawrence. "The stars are given a card to go into the



Milton resident Karen Vitoria-Miguel is giving out 100 of her hand-crocheted hats to some of Hollywood's biggest celebrities at the upcoming Golden Globes gifting event. *Michael Miguel / Special to the Champion*

lounge and then they meet the people who are there, like me," she said. "You tell them about your product and they pose for pictures with them."

"I'm excited to see Jennifer Lawrence, Jennifer Aniston and any of the Hemsworth fellas," she laughed.

"Seeing them in general would be awesome, but wearing one of my hats would be even greater."

She started crocheting when she was six years old after her mother taught her the craft. Initially, she crocheted doll clothes and leg warmers, but gradually expanded to creating other items, including her funky, colourful hat designs.

A full-time human resources employee at

Peel Catholic District School Board, she spends her evenings unwinding at home with crochet.

When she has too many requests through her online business, Canada Bliss, she has a few contract crocheters, including her mom, Pilar Vitoria, who lives in Florida.

She was contacted in August to go to the Golden Globes, through her website. Since then, she's been busy crocheting 100 hats to bring to Hollywood as gifts.

She was also invited to promote her line at the 2015 pre-Oscar's celebrity gifting event, but she turned that down because of time constraints.

"I'll see how the Golden Globes go and maybe I'll do the Oscars next year (2016)," she

said. "My kids are super excited. They asked me 'are you famous mommy?'"

"I said, 'no, I'm not' but they love it."

She said she has sold more than 200 hats, which are all made with locally-sourced, high-end yarns. Her hats are available at three boutiques in the GTA, and online at www.canada-bliss.com.

"I always knew I wanted to run my own company," she said.

"If anyone would have told me years ago that it would have involved crocheting, I would never have believed it.

"It's truly a dream."

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