



By appointment  
to H.M. The Queen  
motor car manufacturers  
Bentley Motors Limited  
Crewe Cheshire



By appointment  
to H.M. The Prince of Wales  
motor car manufacturers  
Bentley Motors Limited  
Crewe Cheshire



**BENTLEY**

# **BENTLEY x SAVILE ROW**

## **BENTLEY MOTORS COMMISSIONS REINTERPRETATION OF THE DRIVING JACKET FROM FOUR SAVILE ROW HOUSES**

For the 'Savile Row and America: a Sartorial Special Relationship' exhibition taking place in Washington D.C. on May 14, 2015, four leading Savile Row houses have been commissioned by Bentley Motors to create their own interpretation of the iconic driving jacket. Acknowledging the historical association between motoring and fashion, Bentley and Savile Row – the home of British Bespoke tailoring – will present four original designs in a capsule collection which will appeal to discerning drivers who appreciate the best of British luxury.

### **Bentley Motors**

In celebration of the art of craftsmanship, Bentley Motors partnered with Savile Row Bespoke for 'Savile Row and America: a Sartorial Special Relationship', an exhibition that promotes and celebrates the tradition of Savile Row bespoke tailoring and gentlemen's requisites makers. Curated by Nick Foulkes, esteemed fashion and luxury journalist and author of *The Bentley Era: The Fast and Furious Story of the Fabulous Bentley Boys*, the exhibition honours the tailors' relationship with America, and showcases garments from notable customers such as Gregory Peck, Andy Warhol, Michael Jackson and Kevin Spacey, among others. Four renowned houses from Savile Row, namely Dege & Skinner, Gieves & Hawkes, Henry Poole, and Huntsman, were commissioned to design and craft modern interpretations of the classic driving jacket, taking inspiration from the spirit of the Bentley Boys both past and present. In bringing Bentley and Savile Row together, the collection of jackets will showcase the best of British luxury, performance, and craftsmanship today and the rich heritage, storied history, spirit and persona of patrons past and present.

Since 1919, Bentley Motors has created some of the finest automobiles on the road. Hand-finished by expert craftspeople, these cars have attracted sophisticated collectors from around the world for generations. The partnership highlights two luxury businesses that share a history of handcrafted detail, and who both continue this tradition of uncompromising quality into the twenty-first century.

### **Savile Row**

Each of the four houses approached the project differently, drawing from both their extensive archives, along with more modern influences to develop their jacket designs. Unique experiences with Bentley, such as visiting their factory in Crewe, England, and driving the bespoke cars, provided the context for each house to create their jacket. Following the exhibition, the jackets will return to the respective houses in London and will be available for private commission. They will also be on display during the British Fashion Council's London Collections: Men show in June 2015 on Savile Row.

The four houses involved in the project are as follows:

## **Dege & Skinner**

Established in 1865, Dege & Skinner has been dressing royalty, heads of State, officers of the British Army, and a wonderful array of business leaders for exactly a century and a half. The fifth generation of his family to join the bespoke tailoring trade, Managing Director William Skinner has seen business grow significantly since his father's first trip to see customers in the USA in 1964. Dege & Skinner's team of bespoke tailors and shirt-makers now travels extensively across Great Britain, Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Russia to meet, measure, and fit customers.

Drawing influence from the structure and powerful silhouettes of both the Bentley motorcars and Dege & Skinner's military uniforms, the collaboration struck a balance between sharp angles and softer curves, using the most luxurious materials and highest quality craftsmanship through each stage of construction. Looking at founder W.O. Bentley's heritage, his work on airplanes and railroads, along with his preference for the 'Old Number 2' – an 8 litre, Bentley speed 6 from the 1930s – Dege & Skinner crafted a suit using luxurious Scottish cashmere and a breathable, lightweight shirt. Elements of the car are referenced in the design, from the enlarged chest patch pockets representing the headlights, to the geometric pattern of the shirt's weave that indicate Bentley's iconic grill. One final homage is found on the internal label of the jacket, which reads 'HM 2868': the original chassis number of the 'Old Number 2'.

## **Gieves & Hawkes**

Originally two prestigious tailoring houses, Gieves & Hawkes can trace its history back to the late 18th century and the fortunes of the British Empire. Ledgers that remain in the company archive to this day show the firms' patrons include important aristocratic and noble gentlemen from both the UK and abroad. To this day Gieves & Hawkes proudly holds all three Royal Warrants to the Court of St James', dressing three generations of the British Royal family. Despite having been amongst the first to launch both Made to Measure and Ready to Wear collections and with a retail network now spanning the globe, it is bespoke tailoring that is at the heart of the business.

Gieves & Hawkes has designed a single-breasted dark olive flannel bespoke driving jacket with angled semi-bellows pocket on the left breast, vertical zipped pocket on the right breast, quilted front shoulders and top of sleeves. A quilted inlaid half-belt, fly buttoned cuffs, and crescent action pleats behind the arms add form and function. A detachable quilted dark olive brushed cotton 'bib' with stand collar and zipped front has been included.

## **Henry Poole**

Henry Poole & Co was the first bespoke tailoring house to open premises with an entrance on Savile Row in 1846. Established by military tailor James Poole in 1806, the company was inherited by James's son Henry. A Henry Poole & Co suit is pure bespoke: measured, cut, fitted, sewn and finished entirely by hand in a process that involves over 60 hours of expertise. Every suit is made in the workshops below No 15 and No 16 Savile Row.

The Henry Poole team has designed a single breasted, two high button driving jacket, waistcoat, and plus twos. Made from a luxury 12oz grey Donegal in pure cashmere, the driving coat features a belt style waist, French pleats and Alcantara detailing. For functionality as a driving jacket, there is a built in outside pockets, for both gloves and spark plugs.

## Huntsman

At Huntsman, a team of experienced bespoke cutters, tailors, finishers and presser spend an average of 80 hours hand-cutting and hand tailoring each individual order of clothing, ensuring that the highest standards are maintained at every stage. The signature Huntsman one button house style with its firm shoulder, defined waist and longer skirt is as distinctive to No.11 Savile Row as the winged B is to Bentley.

Working with Bentley has flagged up a broad spectrum of synergies between the two brands that highlights a shared, rich heritage and meticulous attention to craft and detail as well as keen design flair, paramount to exceeding the expectations of Huntsman's discerning customers today.

The Huntsman commission consists of a man's three piece and lady's two piece suit, both in a matching navy, textured cloth by Dormeuil. The former is inspired by the lifestyle of the notorious Bentley boys whilst the latter, by the Hon Mrs Victor Bruce; the intrepid female racing driver. Her suit represents her fearless, no holds barred approach in an absolutely male dominated arena. The masculinity of the trouser suit is counterbalanced by flattering lines and an ultra sheer Bentley emblazoned blouse. Huntsman's Creative Director, Roubi L'Roubi has designed and printed an exclusive Bentley lining and silk specially for the Bentley/Savile Row collaboration.

## About The Exhibition

'Savile Row and America, a Sartorial, Special Relationship' offers the past, present and future of Savile Row as a historical narrative. The British Ambassador's residence in D.C. serves as the perfect backdrop for the event. Designed by Sir Edward Lutyens in 1928, the stately Queen Anne is modeled after a home that might be found in the English countryside, with extensive gardens and rooms literally fit for a Queen.

The sole criteria for all the exhibitors are that every piece in the show is purely bespoke. With Bentley's participation, the exhibition will embrace and showcase the best in British handmade, a true celebration of craftsmanship that spans industries and ages.

*Savile Row and America: A Sartorial, Special Relationship*

The British Ambassador's Residence

Washington D.C.

May 14, 2015

By Invitation Only

Intelligent Details: The Bespoke Driving Jacket

Intelligent Details: The Bespoke Driving Jacket is the second documentary film commissioned by Bentley Motors in the Intelligent Details series. The film features the four houses from Savile Row, the internationally renowned home of bespoke tailoring, as they each create a Bespoke Driving Jacket, commissioned by Bentley Motors to mark the occasion of the Savile Row Bespoke exhibition in Washington, D.C.

YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/WFxo27NXOwM>

YouTube embed code: <iframe width="560" height="315"

src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/WFxo27NXOwM" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>

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<http://www.bentleymedia.com/>  
Facebook: @bentleymotors  
Twitter: @wobentley @bentleymotors

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<http://dege-skinner.co.uk>  
Instagram: @degeandskinnerofficial  
Twitter: @degeandskinner

Gieves & Hawkes  
<http://www.gievesandhawkes.com>  
Instagram + Twitter: @gieveslondon

Henry Poole  
<https://henrypoole.com>  
Instagram + Twitter: @HenryPooleCo

Huntsman  
<http://www.h-huntsman.com>  
Instagram + Twitter: @HuntsmanRow

British Ambassador  
Peter Westmacott  
Twitter - @peterwestmacott  
Instagram + Twitter: @UKinUSA

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

### **About Bentley Motors**

Bentley Motors is a company at the pinnacle of British handmade performance; a marque with a storied history and a stridently modern outlook. The ultimate pairing of craftsmanship and technology, each Bentley is a driver's car with a resolutely human touch. Exuding quiet confidence and strength, the Bentley brand embodies a powerful spirit, an innovative mind and a culture of dedication to excellence. [www.bentleymotors.com](http://www.bentleymotors.com)

### **About the Exhibition**

Originally titled The London Cut, this was the first major retrospective of Savile Row bespoke tailoring in the Row's history that included all of the great historic houses. Curator James Sherwood was given unlimited access to the archives kept by all the houses included and researched extensively in customer ledgers never previously studied. The London Cut debuted in the Duke of Aosta's private apartments in the Palazzo Pitti in January 2007. The London Cut subsequently travelled to the British Ambassador's Residence in Paris in June 2007 and moved on to the British Ambassador's Residence in Tokyo in 2008. The invitation to Washington came courtesy of Ambassador Westmacott who was the British Ambassador to Paris when the exhibition was shown.

### **About Savile Row Bespoke**

The Savile Row Bespoke Association is dedicated to protecting and promoting the practices and traditions that have made Savile Row the acknowledged home of the best bespoke tailoring and a byword for unequalled quality around the world.

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For further information, please contact  
Amanda Kasper, Camron PR: [amanda.kasper@camronpr.com](mailto:amanda.kasper@camronpr.com) / +1 415 316 3273  
Lauren Busto, Camron PR : [lauren.busto@camronpr.com](mailto:lauren.busto@camronpr.com) / +1 415 815 7568  
Graeme Russell, Bentley Motors: [graeme.russell@bentley-usa.com](mailto:graeme.russell@bentley-usa.com) / +1 248 464 9100

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