

Michael (l.) is wearing a faux alligator motorcycle jacket. Christina is in a shirred steel bodice top. Billy is wearing a rubberized denim bondage jacket with silver maille straps.



Christina's wearing a shirred stainless steel wraparound top; Billy's wearing a "wet" leather jacket.

MICHAEL SCHMIDT

Dario Scardapane
Photographed by Barry King

LOS ANGELES—Designer Michael Schmidt likes to toy with contrasts. Whether it's adapting metal to the human form or high fashion to his hard rock clientele, he keeps things interesting. The unusual materials that make up Michael's line—chain mail constructed of anodized aluminum or brass; crystals linked into a lattice pattern; woven or shirred stainless steel; rubberized denim; and textured leathers—reflect his background in jewelry design and his passion for rock 'n' roll. Once he had reached his creative limits with jewelry, it was time to move to bigger things. "As a fabric, metal intrigues me. The tactile experience of it against the skin is terribly exciting."

A year and a half ago, Michael relocated to LA, where he would be closer to his preferred customers; musicians. His client list currently includes Cher (he recently outfitted the entire cast of her world tour), Tina Turner, Iggy Pop, INXS, the Rolling Stones, Aerosmith and Bon Jovi. As for stores, his work is only available at LA's Maxfield, but he hopes to expand his accessibility soon. (His clothes are available by special order: 213-962-1654.)

Shown here are Michael Schmidt's designs as worn by Billy Wirth, who recently starred in Hemdale's *War Party*, and Christina Applegate, Kelly Bundy of *Married... With Children*. Michael chose these two because "they're brilliant together; they're visually stunning and they embody the spirit of the new generation of young talent."



Christina's wearing a silver aluminum chain maille dress over a gray jersey slip; Billy's wearing a faux alligator moto jacket, black maille harness suspenders and rubberized denim jeans.



Billy's wearing a woven stainless steel moto jacket over a tattered chain maille tank.



Billy is wearing a black suede moto jacket with eyelet-studded sleeves over fuchsia lining and rubberized denim jeans.



Christina's wearing a hematite crystal maille dress; Billy's wearing a woven stainless steel moto jacket.



Christina's wearing a black maille harness dress; Billy's wearing a leather moto jacket with aluminum maille sleeves.



Christina's wearing a black maille bustier with a jet crystal shoulder wrap.



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