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BIRTH OF THE
BENGAL NATION

How Paul Brown
Earned His Stripes

by ANDREW O'TOOLE

La Silhouette

1000 WILSON AVE., HAYWARD, CA 94541-2000
WWW.LASILHOUETTE.COM

WALKING INTO La Silhouette is like opening the door to a fine European party shop, vintage-wear Best Crankbank's creations are the lace-and-silk kind. "I love what I like," says Crankbank of her exquisitely detailed lingerie and sleepwear creations. The brands include Chantelle, Casabella, and Simone Perle. She also sells Wildfox's famous lingerie, stockings, and bodysuits and is the area's exclusive dealer of La Perle. Holiday new-arrivals Yoga Girl with La Perle's shirter lace. High-waisted pink pants, with delightful culottes on the interior.

A dress and sweet equestrian nightgown from Helene Johanson (\$40) will feel fresh on stage. Late summer nights here, you could sleep naked, but then you'd have to dress yourself the next morning. **Shirley Mischke's** (in red) apron set in (DPS). You'll also find negligees by Oscar de la Renta and French nightgowns from Hervé. According to Crankbank (she's beautiful), American women "break out" if their lingerie can be seen through their clothes. That may be why the Marie Jo Azore bra (\$104) and set are her best sellers. These light-colored, smooth cup bras come in subtle patterns and feature delicate lace, silk, or tulle appliques on the straps. If your style is more sexy than subtle, try Macpherson's racy pink Victorian dress-up in black and tulle. Should it have the desired effect, nine months later you can come back and get Macpherson's gorgeous La Mer morning bra. **ALYSSA BRADLEY**

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