

Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week Spring 2010 Runway Rundown

By **CHRISTINE BEAL DUNST**

With all its glamor, glitz, and gloss, Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week (MBFW) in New York City (Sept. 10-17) has come to the end. The iconic tents in Bryant Park featured more than 63 shows and over 100,000 visitors.

The rain couldn't keep away the five-inch stiletto heeled celebrities, paparazzi, socialites, industry moguls, and, yes, the blogging/Twitter crowd getting its first glimpse of the Spring 2010 collections.

The theme of this season's event was fashion's intersection with travel, symbolizing the future 2010 move of MBFW to Lincoln Center, where fashion will have its notable place among arts and culture.

Inside the tents, nostalgic displays of luxury luggage from Louis Vuitton and Gucci were the centerpieces. Also, a retrospective exhibit depicted classic Mercedes-Benz vehicles and fashion trends from the 1940s through 2010, curated by Dayle Haddon and Narciso Rodriguez, who hand-picked wardrobe samples from his past collections over two decades.

In New York, fashion is the second largest industry behind finance. The city is headquarters to more than 800 fashion companies, employing 175,000 people, and generating \$10 billion in total wages. With U.S. unemployment at a 26-year high, consumers have pulled back dramatically on spending. However, savvy executives—namely Anna Wintour, U.S. Vogue magazine editor, and the Council of Fashion and Design—spearheaded the international event to make style-conscious consumers spend, spend, and spend; hence the creation of "Fashion Night Out" to kick off the festivities on Sept. 10.

It was a New York minute to see frenzied crowds in full force from Barneys to Bergdorf Goodman, all trying to rub elbows while "shopping" with celebrities like Charlize Theron, who performed a monologue at Giorgio Armani, and the Olsen twins at Bergdorf, filling their glasses with Veuve Clicquot to toast their new, upscale clothing line, "The Row." And what would Fashion Week be like without Sarah Jessica Parker cocktailting with her longtime bud Oscar de la Renta at his Madison Avenue boutique.

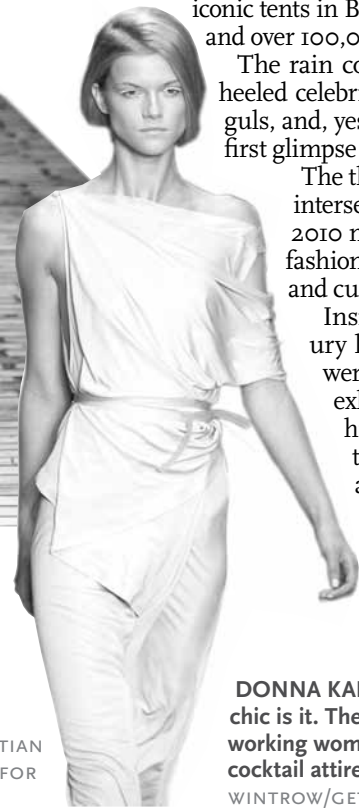
No rest for the weary, as MBFW will be followed by fashion weeks in London, Milan, and Paris.

Christine Beal Dunst writes on entertainment and fashion and lives and works in New York City.

TRACY REESE: Romantic, elegant evening wear; classic separates rich in colour, floral prints, and luxurious fabrics. Bold yellows were a hit. PHOTO BY FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY IMAGES FOR MERCEDES-BENZ



MONARCHY COLLECTION: Wearable looks dominated by cool steel blue, which looked great in silky fabrics. Neutral tones with bows were also abundant. KRISTIAN DOWLING/GETTY IMAGES FOR MERCEDES-BENZ



DONNA KARAN: Stone, nude, and bold red classic chic is it. The symbiotic relationship between city working women's lifestyles merging with elegant cocktail attire has again been achieved. SCOTT WINTROW/GETTY IMAGES FOR IMG



OSCAR DE LA RENTA: Boasted eclectic embroideries that were visible in vibrant multi-coloured coats and jackets. Evening gowns in navy tulle and coral made a statement. All had a vibrant, ultra-feminine and elegant feel. FERNANDA CALFAT/GETTY IMAGES

NARCISO RODRIGUEZ: Designs were elegant and sexy, full of silk and linen with clean shapes, but many with hems longer in back, shorter in front. The occasional bubble dress also added flair. A single red classic-cut cocktail dress stole the show. FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY IMAGES FOR IMG

DIANE VON FURSTENBERG: A regular wrap-work staple for the new generation. Romantic, flattering, bold, and intensely coloured pieces from the queen of fashion that fashionistas would embrace. FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY IMAGES FOR MERCEDES-BENZ

Speaking of Fashion

MIRIAM SILVERBERG



My First Report on NY Fashion Week

I recently saw the collection of Lebanese Designer Amal Sarieddine during New York Fashion Week. Her clothes are very wearable if you happen to be a Las Vegas showgirl in search of a new costume. Otherwise, no.

These were all costumes, not dresses. Everything was beaded, spangled with rhinestones and other bling hanging everywhere. The colours were neon-bright. And talk about southern exposure, one dress was cut so low in the back that I half expected someone to rush up with a blanket and cover the model wearing it.

To be fair, there were one or two short white dresses that were not half bad. The hems were threaded with wire, and the excess fabric of the skirts stood away from the body in various designs. Without

all the spangles, these dresses might have been rather pretty. Of course, how you could sit down in them, I'm not sure. Am I the only one who thinks of these things? Some of the costumes were spangled in strategic places, and heaven help you if the dress shifted while wearing it.

The models wore 6-inch heels or higher and one poor girl almost fell, righting herself just in time.

Doesn't this designer realize women go to work, go to dinner, go to the movies? Why doesn't she design clothes a woman can wear? I fully understand that many of the clothes shown on the runway are purposely made to shock and are changed before being shipped to the stores. But I can't see how you can change these costumes. They're simply cheap.

Miriam Silverberg is a freelance journalist and owner of Miriam Silverberg Associates, a boutique publicity firm in Manhattan. She can be reached at silverbergm@mindspring.com.

Flowers for Fall weddings

By **DIANA MATHIAS**
Epoch Times Staff

If you want your wedding to truly be your perfect day, you want it to reflect your look, your personality, your values, and your favorite colours. And you might be thinking that the June Bride with pink flowers all around is not the image for you. Choosing a fall wedding brings you a lot of planning options.

According to floral designer and author Sharon McGukin in Georgia, sunflowers are a big hit in their area for fall. Just think how that changes the whole look of the celebration. She says that in designing the flower arrangements and bouquets, she uses texture and vibrant colour. Pods, pine cones, and twigs add a visual richness to a bouquet with their variety of textures as does the celosia flower with its velvety feel.

Flowers that she recommends for providing colour are mums and the traditional roses and lilies in colours that match the local season's palette. McGukin says to choose colours so that you have a unified look.

In her book "Flowers of the Heart: A Bride's Guide to Choosing Flowers for Her Wedding," she advises using flowers grown locally, not imported, or placing natural elements around the cake stand or a hurricane globe. In colder climates, you can use berries, too. In many regions, people are outdoors more at this time of year, so why not bring in materials from nature. And there's a trend toward edible decorations,

for example, scattering nuts around on the tables for guests to snack on.

To save money on the floral part of your event, she has these suggestions. Cut down the number of bridesmaids and you will need fewer bouquets, as well as all the other related expenses. Reusing bouquets and baskets as decorations on the tables at the reception, and using local flowers instead of imported ones, will also save you money.

Some of the trends she sees now are based on the bride's desire to save money yet still have the wedding of her dreams. Choosing a location close to home is considerate for your guests, saving them money and time in not having to fly to a distant city. Even "destination weddings," based on a location that adds charm and romance, can be set close to home—find a historic or scenic spot, an old inn, or a beautiful garden. Also people are returning to the Sunday afternoon ceremony, which was popular in the past. This saves money because facilities are usually cheaper on Sunday than on Saturday.

In addition, more people are planning October weddings. This time of year is getting very popular, as McGukin states. The advantages are less demand for facilities, good weather, and

this time of year often fits people's schedules better.

Sharon Reinking, the floral designer at Armstrong Flowers Inc. in Fort Wayne, Indiana, says that in the Midwest there is interest at both ends of the design spectrum. Some brides want European-type tight, hand-tied bouquets while others want a natural, botanical, open look.

The colours she is seeing also range widely, from black and chocolate brown to sages, into medium and azure blues, to teals and finally lime green! Flowers to go with these black dresses are vibrant or bright—raspberry, orange, and lime. With others, the brides are choosing rusts, corals, and many green flowers. This season, Reinking is using green Fuji mums and dendrobium orchids, green cymbidiums with a rust throat, and hacara spray orchids. There are also Gerber daisies, ranunculus, calla lilies, mini calla lilies in rust, raspberry, plum, and old gold, as well as Asiatic lilies, and hydrangeas in all colours.

She is weaving bear grass and lily grass into bouquets and adding seeded eucalyptus, and there is a renewed interest in foliage, which gives a collar-effect at the base of the bouquets. In other decorations, she is often getting requests for the very traditional cascades. Many of the weddings now are being held outdoors in her area, too.

In Southern California, Bev Ireland of Jasmine Creek Florists says that for fall weddings the colours for fabric and flowers are intense, vibrant colours—fuchsia, turquoise, deep plum and purple, and chocolate as well as



AUTUMN BOUQUET: Using rudbeckia and curly willow, Sharon McGukin creates an appealing bouquet. SHARON MCGUKIN

intense yellow, lime green, and tangerine. Both Ireland and Reinking talk about how a touch of lime green makes the colour scheme pop!

Ireland uses mums, mango-coloured mini callas, green hydrangeas, and orchids, and adds contrast with dried wheat, rye, peppers, oak leaves, and fresh hypericum berries. Southern Californians are going back to using produce in decorations, she says, such as vases filled with lemons, and centerpieces with small red crabapples or bright green Granny Smith apples and purple eggplant in regular and miniature sizes.

Since weather is not usually a problem, many weddings are held outside, providing a good opportunity to use garlands and decorated arches. There is interest in eco-friendly, green celebrations and a growing trend in using succulents in the arrangements.

'BEAUTY BOX'

Seasonal hair care with celebrity stylist Federico

By **CHRISTINE LIN**
Epoch Times Staff

NEW YORK—The summer is almost over, which means among other things, fading tans, retrieving coats from storage, and steeling the mind for the holidays. Changing seasons also require proper adaptation in personal upkeep. While intuition tells us when to upgrade to a thicker face cream, how the seasons affect our haircare routine might not be very clear.

Having seen plenty of sun- and surf-damaged tresses in his career, celebrity stylist Federico has plenty of advice for seasonal hair care. He has worked with Eva Longoria, Nicole Richie, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Michael Douglas, Katie Couric, and many others. His studio will be the official stylist for the New York Couture Fashion Week.

SUMMER HAIR WOES

"A common mistake is to take the summer lightly and neglect proper hair care," Federico says. "Sun changes the colour and texture of the hair, and causes a lot of damage, especially if the hair has been treated." The heat of the sun opens up the cuticle of the hair shaft to allow in pollutants and drying agents such as salt water and chlorine in the pool.

For the summer, use a good shampoo. Before heading to the beach, condition well and apply hair sunscreen with UVA/UVB protection and an SPF of about 25. Don't forget to cover the scalp as well. Two brands he recommends are Phyto and Frederic Fekkai.

After the beach, use a clarifying shampoo to remove salt.

When the summer ends, go to the salon for a deep conditioning session. "Throughout the summer you lose a lot of protein through sun, pool chlorine, and pollution," Federico said.

WINTER HAIR WOES

Dry air, wind, static, and tangling are common problems associated with winter time. All of these are symptoms of dry hair. "People tend to over-rinse when they condition," he says. So, leave some conditioner in the hair, or add some leave-in conditioner after you towel dry.

The way the hair is cut may also contribute to tangling. Softer layers and avoiding blunt cuts is one of the ways to prevent little birds' nests from tangling, because when there are fewer hairs of the same length, they can't fight with each other.

Proper headgear in severe weather is a good idea.

Rule of thumb: Always keep your hair protected and moisturized.

Crossword

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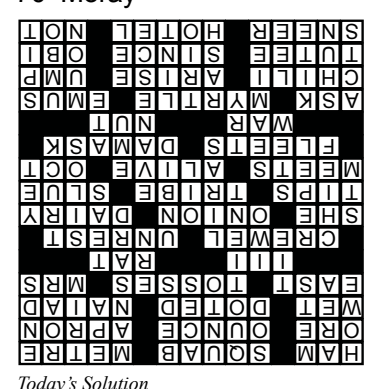
- 1 Meat
- 4 Young pigeon
- 9 Metric linear unit
- 14 Miner's goal
- 15 Weight measurement
- 16 Cook's garb
- 17 Misty
- 18 Adored
- 19 Mythological water nymph
- 20 Orient

Down

- 22 Stirs up
- 24 Married woman
- 25 Caesar's three
- 27 Gnawer
- 29 Embroidery yarn
- 32 Commotion
- 35 That girl
- 36 Purple vegetable
- 38 Food group
- 40 Slants
- 42 Social group
- 44 Veer

- 45 Greet
- 47 Extant
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- 50 Groups of ships
- 52 Table linen
- 54 Battle of nations
- 55 Acorn
- 56 Query
- 59 Shiny evergreen
- 63 Flightless birds
- 67 Texas stew
- 69 Mutiny
- 71 Arbiter
- 72 Scholar
- 73 After that
- 74 Kimono sash
- 75 Grimace
- 76 Spa
- 77 Negative

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- 29 Main
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- 31 Italian "dollars"
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- 33 Grain storage towers
- 34 Van
- 35 Short-term memory
- 37 Cooking fat
- 39 Still
- 41 Brood
- 43 Disappear slowly
- 46 More sordid
- 48 Flightless bird
- 51 Sample
- 53 Dined
- 56 Doings
- 57 Banish
- 58 Soaring plaything
- 60 Irresponsible
- 61 Triad
- 62 Fuzz
- 64 Electron, for example
- 65 Convex shape
- 66 Skewer
- 68 Downwind
- 70 Moray



Today's Solution