



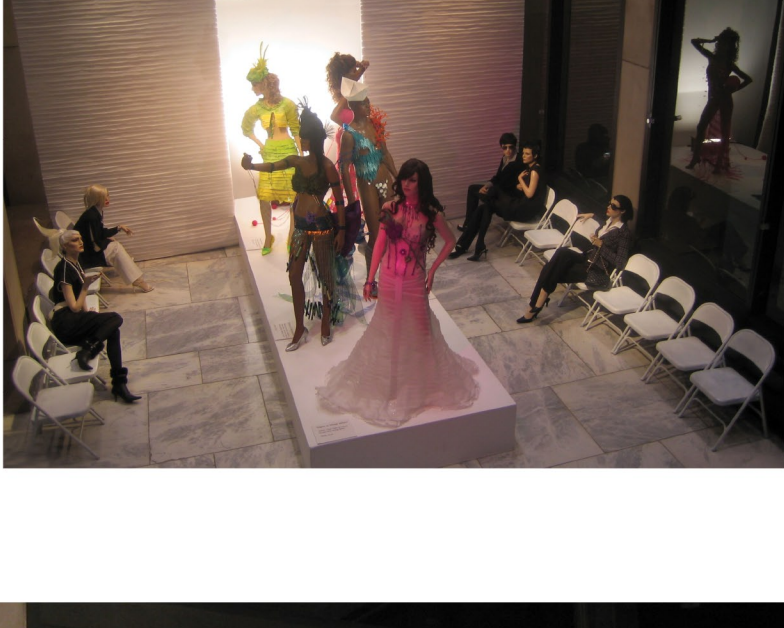
Editorial – Martin M. Pegler

LET'S PUT ON A SHOW



I doubt if anyone reading this is old enough to remember the old Mickey Rooney/Judy Garland MGM movies of the late 1930s to early '40s. The plot was almost always the same but the characters names were different and so were the tunes. Simply stated—the plot: a group of young talented people with no where to show off their special musical talents get together to put on a show. There was always the unsuspecting “angel” waiting off in the wings for the right time in the script to enter and offer moral and money support. And, in the hour or so that it took to unfold this story, the youngsters wrote the music and book for their musical, designed and made the costumes and the scenery and even found the place and filled the house with adoring relatives. In the last reel of the movie fable they put on this spectacular production that would have filled three stages to produce. It was all fluff—the fluff that dreams are made of.

I got the same feeling—déjà vu—when I walked into the lobby at the Fashion Institute of Technology—a State University in the center of New



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York City—and saw the “spectacular” fashion show created over the summer by some talented young display and fashion design students. This was not an “assignment.” This was not “homework.” This was the result of the “Let’s put on a show” syndrome. Let’s show them what we can do!

The “angel” behind this show was Design Partners, an art and craft supply house just down the street from the school on Seventh Avenue. They not only provided the “capital” (limited as it was) but also made available the myriad materials available in the store. This was to finance the creation and “manufacture” of the fabulous, theatrical costumes worn by the mannequins on the catwalk that dominated the lobby space in the school

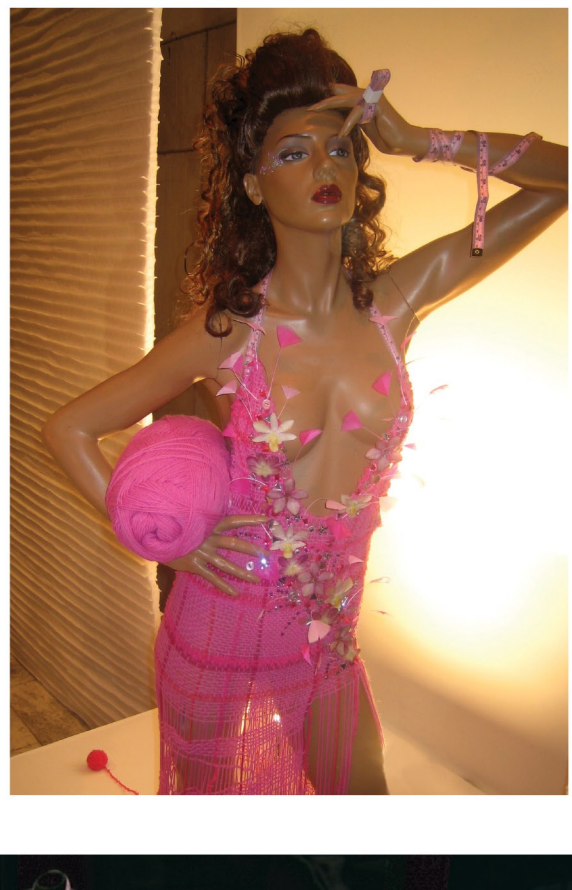
building. To create these unique designs the young designers used all sorts of paper, paper clips, stickums, yarn, thread, trimming materials and all the wonderful things one finds while rummaging through a well equipped art/craft supply house. Wesley Nault, Joshua Cook and Pollawat “Polare” Buranasatit designed these imaginative showgirl/showboy, show-stopping outfits. To show them off to their full advantage, the display team—Bill Di Benedetto, Natalya Mayrena and Jennifer Dolland—lined either side of the runway with black and white folding chairs and dressed the fashion-conscious “audience” in black, white and gray outfits.

Spotlights and strobe lights added

to the atmosphere—and the suggestion that the paparazzi was already there.

Walking into this exhibition space which could also be viewed through the giant windows from the street outside, it looked like “the real thing.” Jessica Franzel played the Judy Garland role and Mickey’s part was shared by Polar Buranasatit and Edward J. Sajovic. Jessica and Polar served as Creative Directors while Edward not only was a Creative Director, he also designed one of the outfits and served as the runway hair stylist. This threesome as well as all the others mentioned above are either part of the Exhibit and Display department or, like Wesley and Joshua, are studying in the Fashion

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Design area of F. I. T.

But, since this was a “display” set up as well as a showcase for the fashion design students, the installing team created a little “fantasy” up near the entrance. Here the installers created a vignette setting featuring a young F.I.T. student—represented by a sleeping beauty mannequin borrowed from Bergdorf Goodman—dreaming of what lies before her when she returns to school. A cot, a few bookcases, and some student room paraphernalia created the illusion of a dorm room. Piled around the “sleeping student” were bags of supplies, books and things that will be part of her school life. According to the “press release” prepared by the students who created this show, “In

the midst of the hustle and bustle of going back to school, she has exerted herself and fallen asleep the night before school begins. Being surrounded by all her materials and supplies she thinks of them in her dreams not only as supplies but as the garments and fashion accessories they could become and how they might appear in a real fashion show.” The sleeping student and her “room” and “supplies” are all in shades of gray but standing out from the neutral setting are the fashion sketches—in full color—and they appear in full size and in dimension in the fashion show that appears just beyond her. Her dream becomes true and there is a sophisticated audience and the paparazzi to applaud her efforts.

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It is really wonderful to see what young talent—and driving ambition—can produce given the opportunity and the wherewithal to make their dreams come true. The chairperson of the Display & Exhibit department, Elisabeth Jacobsen, and Anne Kong, the studio professor, assisted but never “directed” this production. This was a great learning experience for this bright, energetic, self-starting and “full steam ahead” young people. They are to be applauded and congratulated for their professionalism and their talent.

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