



Rock & Republic
New York Fashion Week



Diane von Furstenberg
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By Guest Writer: Jennifer Hermes

Full, billowing skirts. Pirates and petticoats. Handcuffs and corseted tops. Silk, organza and swag. All of this can only mean one thing: Fashion Week! And these few phrases don't even begin to cover all of the varied looks featured at New York's Fall Fashion Week.

New York's Bryant Park was expertly transformed into the fashion affair that fashionistas wait anxiously for twice a year. To know upcoming trends in fashion before they hit the stores is like having your own crystal fashion ball. The Spring/Summer 2009 collection debut was a hit for designers and a treat for the eyes.

Inside the tents, while waiting for the first show to begin, the music pumped loudly from hidden speakers, people scrambled to snag a seat rather than be banished to the standing-room only areas, and I suddenly forgot my mini-van-mommy life and was transported to this temporary world of fashion, celebrity spotting and style.

Kicking off the week and consequently setting the bar quite high was Australian native, Michael Angel. His use of soft, silk organza fabrics gave a sense that a celebration of the feminine look was ahead. The fabric prints were works of art, and many featured his hand-drawn reflections of his visual interpretation of the vibration, energy and movement of 1970's classic rock. However, rather than looking like a psychedelic splatter of paint, the patterns were soft, flowing and rhythmic. Added to the looks were amazingly high platform shoes from the Albright fashion library.

Next it was BCBGMasazria, Perry Ellis, quick break for a bite of food, then off to another show. And as one must always be on the lookout for celebrities at Fashion Week, I was ready and watching. Then suddenly to what do my weary eyes appear? A fabulous set of biceps belonging to one of my favorite Project Runway contestants, Jack Mackenroth. I motioned him over and he was more than gracious in giving me a photo-op moment. Later inside I somehow snagged a better seat than Jack, so I scooted

back and chatted with my new friend during the Duckie Brown show. To be honest, the Duckie Brown line was a bit odd to me. I don't know what to say about a young man wearing shorts and a pair of tights.

The queen of prints was next to display and she did not disappoint. Diane von Furstenberg's collection started a bit bland but quickly turned into a showing of the colorful fabrics we all love. Subtle spring colors and gorgeous flowing fabrics were abundant. Dresses were both long and short, many belted. Missing in a few beautiful hats and clutches left one wishing Spring

Photos by J. Robert Schreiber



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2009 was now.

Rock & Republic is an impossibly difficult show to attend, but if you turn on the Midwest charm, it's amazing how you can jump ahead in the line. The R&R show called Redemption, featured music so loud your bones vibrated, an Olsen twin, and pants with names that would get your mouth washed out with soap if you uttered such words. Although the show was all black and white, and didn't include the live orchestra as featured in last season's runway, it was still quite impressive and sexy.

There were many more shows in between and I couldn't stay the entire week. So my last show before heading back to pack



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Miss Betty
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and catch a plane was Monique Lhuillier. What a beautiful grand finale of my stay. Her inspiration was luxurious tropical-island chic and incorporated straw braiding techniques, basket patterns, fitted denim jackets and skinny pants. For evening it was layers of sheer, flowing fabrics. Absolutely stunning and very feminine

New York's Fall Fashion Week assured that Spring 2009 will be a definite return to the feminine side of fashion, rather than the stiff structuring of the fall looks. Soft fabrics expertly draped to show the figure will be the style. Vibrant colors and ultra-luxurious fabrics, such as silk organza, will be layered for dramatic effect. Paired with colorful clutches and interesting platform heels, Spring looks are sure to brighten your outlook and wardrobe. **11**