

# Former 'Project Runway' contestant creates Detroit fashion event

Ursula Watson / The Detroit News

Detroit is known for designing cars, but clothing?

The proof will be in the ruching when clothing by local and famed designers share the runway during Fashion in Detroit at the Detroit Zoo.

The two-day fashion event, which starts Thursday, will have models hitting the runway wearing clothes by Kid Rock's Made In Detroit, the edgy designs of Betsey Johnson and works from haute couture dress designer Kevan Hall, a native Detroiter. Also showing their designs are Peter Soronen, Carhartt and Detroit-based Familia Couture.



Joe Faris is a co-creator of Fashion in Detroit, a two-day event in which local designers can put their clothing on the runway. (Steve Perez / The Detroit News)

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Event attendees will receive a gift bag, refreshments, souvenir guidebook and high-end giveaways. Fashion in Detroit culminates on Friday with the Afterglow Party at Stage 3 Productions in Warren. The party will feature three bands, appetizers and appearances by designers and celebrities.

Local designer Joe Faris, an event co-creator, got the idea for Fashion in Detroit after speaking to students from local design schools earlier this year. He wanted to provide a venue where young designers could show their work.

"There is a fashion community out there and many are trying to figure out a way to be a part of this community" says Faris, a senior designer for Schott NYC. The husband and father of two daughters divides his time between Birmingham, Mich., and New York.

Fans of the popular TV design competition "Project Runway," now on the Lifetime channel, will remember Faris as a contestant on season five. His fashion ingenuity got him to the top six finalists on the show.

The designer says he began his fashion career in the '80s. "I would show clothes in a warehouse or clubs, working with people like Maurice Malone," Faris, 42, says. A graduate of New York's Parsons The New School for Design, he has held senior design positions with Donna Karen, Ralph Lauren, Perry Ellis, Bugle Boy and Pelle Pelle.

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## More information

### Fashion in Detroit

1-6 p.m. Thursday and Friday  
Detroit Zoo, 8450 W. 10 Mile, Royal Oak  
Tickets \$75 or \$140 for two days

### Afterglow Party

8 p.m.-2 a.m. Friday  
Stage 3 Productions, 27500 Donald Court, Warren  
Tickets \$50; \$185 for two-day fashion event and afterglow party  
Information: [www.fashionindetroit.com](http://www.fashionindetroit.com)

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