

Runway flair

Fashion In Detroit makes stylish debut

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ROYAL OAK - The glitz and glamour of the **fashion** world will dress the Motor City this weekend when the first-ever **Fashion In Detroit** makes its chic debut at the **Detroit Zoo**. Models will strut the catwalk in never-before-seen designs by local and national clothing designers, including the wellknown Betsey Johnson, in a **fashion** show that promises to bring out the fashionistas in us all.

Tucked inside a tent that includes a 60-foot runway, **Fashion In Detroit** will entertain Oct. 1 and 2 behind the zoo's Butterfly House. Show time is 1-6 p.m.

each day. Those who attend will get a first-hand look at what people will wear this spring and summer, as the show will feature looks from the **fashion** designers'spring/ summer 2010 collections.

And die-hard "Project Runway" fans will recognize the name behind the show's creator. Local designer Joe Faris created **Fashion In Detroit**, which follows in the stiletto-clad footsteps of **fashion** weeks around the country, including New York and Los Angeles.

"My purpose for spearheading this event is to put a **fashion** spotlight on **Detroit** and create a venue that fills the needs of many locally based designers and the **Detroit fashion** community," Faris stated in a press release.

Designs from Johnson, P. S. by Peter Soronen, Familia Couture, MYNT 1792 -Kevin Christiana, Marlaina Stone, Kevan Hall, Carhartt, DivaGroove and Kid Rock's Made **In Detroit** will be featured. Faris also will showcase the North Beach Leather and Schott NYC lines.

Faris recruited several people with strong ties to **fashion** to get the show off the ground. Helping coordinate the event are executive committee members Karen Buscemi, K'Kio Hardin, Lians, Leslie Ann Pilling and Rino. Several businesses have signed as sponsors, and many volunteers have taken on jobs to help with the show. Pilling is the co-creator of **Fashion In Detroit**.

Lians, a Warren resident and photographer who co-founded LM Studios with Michelle Matiyow, didn't hesitate to get on board.

"We're always talking about trying to create something here for Michigan," Lians said. "It just feels like Michigan is in such a downturn right now. It needs color. It needs a needs revival. It needs a little bit of CPR. For us, this comes at the perfect time." Lians said many buyers from clothing stores will be on site to determine what styles they'll likely purchase for their racks.

Actress Selma Blair, designer Anna Sui, actor Jeff Daniels and local star athletes are expected to make the scene. It's anybody's guess at this point if Kid Rock will attend. It's also unclear whether Johnson will be present, but representatives from her company will be.

"We're hoping she shows up," Lians said. "It all depends on her schedule. We would love to work with her." Lians said **Fashion In Detroit** will be held twice a year, "just like any other major **fashion** show." The show is likely to draw 1, 000 spectators over two days.

Buscemi will serve as the event's host. Buscemi is the editor of StyleLine magazine, and has been featured in other publications.

Hardin has been the design director of Clear magazine the past seven years.

Pilling, who is president of Presence II Inc., is a nationally known designer and business entrepreneur. Rino is the founder and owner of FIGO Salon in Birmingham.

A portion of the show proceeds will benefit Danialle Karmanos'Work It Out program, which provides children and their families with information to fight childhood obesity, reduce anxiety, and maintain health in mind, body and spirit.

A grant also will be presented to a local designer.

Tickets for Thursday are \$75 per person, and tickets for Friday are \$75 per person. A two-day pass is \$140.

And there's a party after the party. Organizers invite those 21 and olderto an afterglow party from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Oct. 2 at Stage 3, 27500 Donald Court in Warren. Tickets are \$50 each.

The afterglow will feature Dirty Americans, Tripper and Next Exit.

Also available is a **Fashion In Detroit** pass for \$185 that includes tickets to the two-day show and the afterglow. The **Detroit Zoo** is located at 8450 10 Mile Road.

For further information on **Fashion In Detroit**, visit www.fashionindetroit.com.