



FASHION IN DETROIT

When: Thursday, Oct. 1 and Friday, Oct. 2

Where: Detroit Zoo, 10 Mile and Woodward, Royal Oak

What: Fashion shows 1-6 p.m. both days; AfterGlow Bash 8 p.m. Friday

Who: Schott NYC and North Beach Leather by Joe Faris; P.S. by Peter Soronen; DivaGroove by Dana Keaton; Marlaina Stone; Kevan Hall; Betsey Johnson; MYNT 1792 by Kevin Christiana; Carhartt; Familia Couture; and Kid Rock's Made in Detroit.

Tickets: \$75 per day; \$50 for AfterGlow Bash; \$185 for all events

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By Wensdy Von Buskirk

CORRESPONDENT

Peter Soronen's clothing has been spotted on Sarah Jessica Parker, First Lady Michelle Obama, and most recently singer Jennifer Hudson during VH1's Divas 2009. Next Thursday, it will appear on the catwalk at [Fashion In Detroit](#) (FID).

Soronen, who grew up in Farmington Hills, is among designers taking part in the premiere fashion event Oct. 1-2 at the Detroit Zoo.

FID includes two days of runway shows, 1-6 p.m. Thursday and Friday, along with a blowout AfterGlow Bash at a local [movie](#) studio.

Designers include Schott NYC and North Beach Leather by Joe Faris; DivaGroove by Dana Keaton; Marlaina Stone; Kevan Hall; Betsey Johnson; MYNT 1792 by Kevin Christiana; Carhartt; Familia Couture; and Kid Rock's Made in Detroit.

Soronen will present his P.S. by Peter Soronen label, which debuted at New York Fashion Week earlier this year. He said he designed the lower-priced P.S. label to "hit a larger clientele with the same structure I put into the main collection." It's available at Tender in Birmingham and Bloomingdale's in New York.

Soronen credits his late mother, Judy, who served as mayor of Farmington Hills in the early 1980s, for inspiring him to find success.

"I think it did put the idea in our head that if you wanted something and you had your heart set on it you could achieve it," he said. "She was always very supportive of what I do today and I guess in that way she helped me achieve the dream."

She also exposed him to the practical side of his craft.

"She always sewed, even some of her own suits, so having a sewing machine around in the house and fabric on the table was very common," Soronen said.

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After graduating from North Farmington High School, Soronen designed clothing for friends and took night classes in pattern making at Oakland Community College. In 1990 he moved to Chicago and founded an upscale design house making wedding and evening gowns based on vintage corset patterns. Eight years later, his designs were so popular he relocated to New York where he was discovered by stylists, fashion media and A-list celebrities. He said he's excited to return to his hometown and take part in FID.