



SPECIAL

# NOVEL IDEAS, CLASSY DESIGNS

Understatement, bikini tops and a designer who just keeps getting better and better



Above: Designs by Narendra Kumar  
Right: A Chaitanya Rai creation



Above: Resort wear by Sanchita Ajampur



From left: Models in designs by Seema Khatri; A Nikasha Tawadey creation

## Kuber Sharma

Below we set out describing who sent out the bubble silhouettes against the runway and it would take a long time considering every designer worth his crown has been sent out on the runway of the Lakme Fashion Week—the one show that Day did stand out for—was that designer Wendell Rodericks was reportedly a little hurt about the attention meted out to him thanks to the Tarun Tahsiani show earlier this week. Buz is the only one who was reportedly called and asked to be seated at 8.30 pm while the Wendell Rodericks show was scheduled at 9—the result? A number of his friends ended up missing his show.

That apart, other buzz that surrounded Fashion Week had something to do with FDCI. The buzz is that the FDCI is holding a buyers' forum in Mumbai late next week and has invited a number of designers (the list: Narendra Kumar hasn't been invited for what some in the Lakme camp describe as a "conciliatory" meeting. Also, designer Sauri Gopi's whole collection has been bought by Ensemble).

Anyhow, back to Day 4. The first show of the day was by Chennai designer Chaitanya Rai inspired or rather loosely referencing *Silence of the Lambs* (though we're still disputing whether the metallic fur leopards creatures that he placed on his runway were lambs or dogs (they looked more like a cross). Some of the local buyers were not impressed with the collection, but in Chaitanya's defence some of the pieces of his collection—printed with butterflies on georgette—was well, inspiring. And, yes, he too like every collection this season did

## RUNWAY REVIEW

the balloon dress apart from two pleated skirts. The one thing that was a bit odd though was that the finish that we've come to expect from a Fashion Week, was somewhat lacking. There were long threads hanging down from the hemlines and we think it's the much hyped international stylists who should be taking the blame for this one.

**Nikasha Tawadey's** collection inspired by The Great Eastern Hotel in Kolkata and generally by the English influence on the Kolkata fashion during the six and the '70s though played with the 'Bengali Fashion School' that the friends from Kolkata are going-gaining. That said, though some of her stuff—like a white *broderie anglaise* yoke dress—was ordinary, there were definitely some great separates in the collection like a black jersey belted jacket, and some jersey skirts with extra cotton check pleats attached to the front and back.

If there's one thing that Seema Khan is going to be known for—apart from getting Malika Arora to walk for her (in fact her son too gladly walked or rather stomped on the runway like so many of our other models) before the show, while another lady of the Khan Khandum lay down on the runway as soon as the covers came off on a fabulous silver runway—the one thing that did stand out in her collection apart from a black dress pattern line that she did for partywear at night and passed with flying colours, it did mark the coming of age of designers who have so far only been described as fringe designers. Seema too seemed to have listened to the trend forecasts as she came close to her long skirts in chiffon. Only had she wanted the opportunity to add embroidery, it would have taken her a long way in being done.

Phalnis Vikram is not surprised if she, Sauri and Vikram are going to be more business than others in the Middle East.

Now on to Savio Jai. If there's one thing that must be said about the "underground and anti-establishment" designer is that he's just getting more and more brilliant with time. His jersey (or is it just a crudely done dress) further enhanced by his unseamable layering were a case in point. We don't know how he does it, but he does it good! The other thing that made an appearance on his runway were the yellow that Rajesh Pratap Singh had sent out in Delhi this season at the WFW in a collection that didn't just stop at being stark. The collection also added shimmer to some low-flowing silhouettes.

Even as the best model in Narendra Kumar's show—walked out to the soundtrack of *Wag the Dog* from Guido, other model other model had walked out to verses read from Gurkoo's *Indira's Santarone* among other books. It was evident that here's one designer's work under pressure gets more and more inspiring to see the season.

The collection of browns, khakis and dull blues, shrouded layered patterns, drapes, tulle skirts and fitted jackets—like only he can do—was inspired by a letter that his father (Mamun) had written to his mother (Akinu) in 1954 that was kept in a copy of Pearl S. Buck's *Portrait of a Woman* and called *Love Another Day*. The designer was inspired by his parents' bad courage to do where no one else did. And the applause that he received for his show (it was the strongest that we've heard this Fashion Week seemed to echo this spontaneously).

**Sanchita Ajampur**—the Indian-born Austria-based designer seemed all set to give competition to Rina Dhavan (in terms of the D-T & A bikini she sent out) had some more resortwear to kill her. The prints—including the *Geisha* embroidery and her embellished jersey Tahira—seemed all set to make a cut. Sauri the white printed kimono dresses that she sent out (ditto) and another her all-tempto at menswear. Oh and BTW, we just discovered that the buyers in the front row all got packs of Kamuroshi chocolates too—what sort—what sort?

Photographic: Narash Hemsrajani, Vikramend Gupta, Rishabh Eemchandani and Manoj Paul

A design by Savio Jon

## TRENDTALK



## Downward spiral

Wendell Rodericks, we've heard, was telling someone that he'd done the effort—or simply put, low-profile pants—the street versions of the judgments that the Delhi gang (model Ignatius Cambolis, Delhi designer Arjun Sahaya and Gaurav Gupta have been wearing around the corridors of the LFW) in 1980. While we can't confirm or deny that, what we can say is that they also made an appearance in the form of tapered denim jackets on Narendra Kumar's menswear runway this time and also hit the Delhi runway in Agnel when Ashima and Leena sent out a pair of low-crotch pants. Even the low-profile designer duo of Abraham and Thibault have a couple of pieces in their collection. So, this season—let the boom be—it's the crotch that's spiraling down—and we're not talking about Clint Fernando's low waist denim!

—Kuber Sharma



Gaurav Gupta



Lakme's selected Hair Consultant: Aas Salish & Sophia join up Krist and Rochelle with the season's new look

Anupama Datta's designs catch an impact

Mika Rishabhani's Lakme Fashion Week new hair looks

Shweta & Bhusha creators death the ramp

## LAKME HAIRNEXT

SHAMPOO CONDITIONERS STYLING RANGE

## LAKME FASHION WEEK

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