

EBONY FASHION FAIR

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SYNOPSIS of The 51st Annual Ebony Fashion Fair

THE RUNWAY REPORT: What's Hip. What's Hot. What's Now!

By Eunice W. Johnson, Producer & Director, Ebony Fashion Fair

The famed runways of Paris, New York, London and Milan are once again sparking fashion bulletins and sounding style alerts as there is plenty of exciting news to be reported from the new world of fashion, featuring a new generation of models and designers forecasting what's hip, what hot, and what's now!

One of the biggest trends making fashion headlines this season is the posh reinvention of a fashion flash from the past known as the Grunge or Boho look. The popular 1980s trend of wearing layers of grungy mix-matched colors, patterns and textures re-emerged on runways around the world in hip, new remixed versions designed from layers of plush luxurious fabrics worn with sensationally-styled footwear and street-cool head gear.

All of the newly reinvigorated runway excitement was briefly interrupted by a scandalous, tabloid-type report of some well-known designers having a crush on velvet. That report was indeed true as an array of velvet-clad models sashayed down the runways adorned in gorgeous, color-rich velvet goddess gowns, dramatic velvet caped suits, and short but simple velvet cocktail dresses.

However, runways filled with glamorous and awe-inspiring high-fashion always provokes reports of the working woman being fashionably forgotten. But to the contrary, professional working women were well-represented on the runway this season with a slew of man-tailored looks executed with chic feminine flair and stylized with a variety of unusually shaped pants, jackets and skirts.

On the accessory front the report is daring and exotic. Sightings of shoes and boots lavishly embellished with exotic plumes and shiny beads were seen on both domestic and international runways. Big and brightly-colored jewelry and handbags also made accessorizing appearances on the runway in a countless number of fabulous must-have, must-wear ways. But the very best looks to catwalk down the runway this season were always the ensembles topped off with either a fantastical or practical hat.

The fashion stories for this season have been written. The trendsetting news is set to be told, and in an entertaining and informative presentation of haute couture and ready-to-wear, the 2008-2009 tour of the Ebony Fashion Fair will give all an up-close and detailed view of what's hip, what's hot and what's now!

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