

5. Elizabeth Hurley & Hugh Grant at Versus. 6. Michael Bolton & Ashley Judd do Dolce & Gabbana's D&G. 7. Kirstie Alley eyes the runway at Versus. 8. Demi Moore with Laura Dern at D&G.



On with the Show

The spring collections had Naomi, Demi and, of course, fashion



Salma Hayek loved the long, floaty caftans layered over bikini tops at Cynthia Rowley; Annabella Sciorra had to have the pale peignoir-style dresses at Dolce & Gabbana's D&G; and Bernadette Peters said she wanted something "ethereal and otherworldly" from Donna Karan. This fall's fashion week

found the clothing crowd and a coterie of Hollywood stars jostling to catch a first glimpse of (and then lusting after) what designers have dreamed up for the spring season.

Set in New York City's Bryant Park, in Tribeca and East Village lofts, and in designers' Seventh Avenue showrooms, the festivities included both daytime shows and evening parties. Celebrities and black-clad press and photographers dashed between venues, attempting to catch collections scheduled back-to-back—beginning at 9 and ending as late as 10 on some nights.

BY MARYELLEN GORDON



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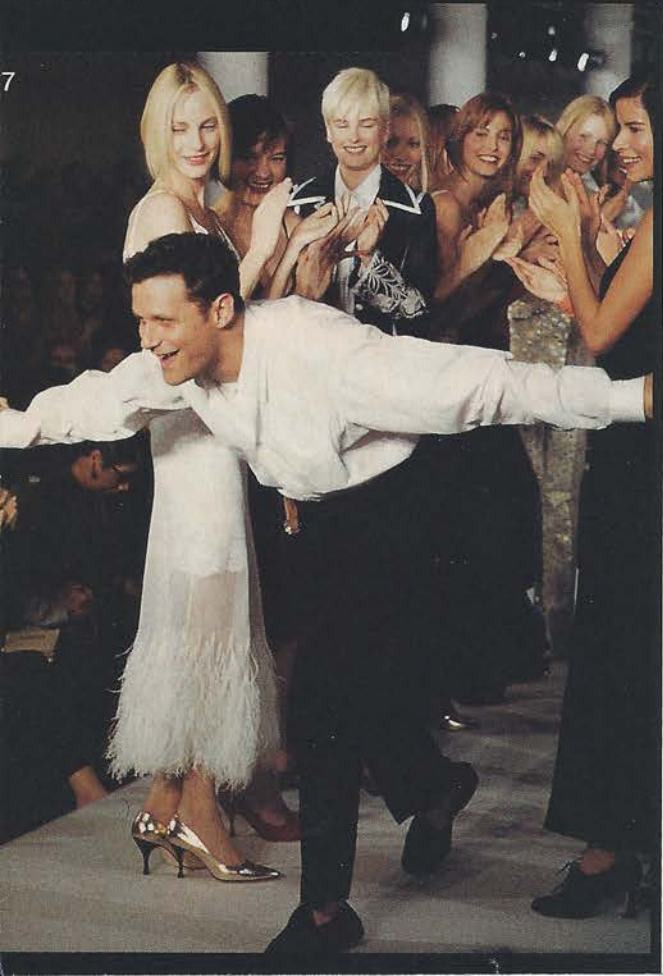


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7. Mizrahi, who showed his designs on Halloween, takes a bow.
8. Ivana Trump and Barbara Walters at the Bill Blass show. 9. Actress Kyra Sedgwick views Versus. 10. Susan Sarandon watches the Donna Karan Collection; later she raves, "Karan did a magnificent job. It was modern, original and elegant."



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The week began when Italian designers Gianni Versace and sister Donatella delivered a star-spangled crowd. Kirstie Alley, Elton John, Jon Bon Jovi, Mira Sorvino, Kyra Sedgwick, Elizabeth Hurley, Hugh Grant and Woody Allen all rubbed shoulders at Versus, a collection that offered a hip mix of racy chevron stripes paired with satin floral pants and skirts. For Alley, the shopping list was a simple one: "I decided I want the legs—those on the models," she quipped. "Really though, I did love an empire-waist dress Linda Evangelista wore. But I don't know if it would look anything like that on me!"

Designers showed enough sheer tops to make a preacher blush, enough wrap skirts to make a seventies disco queen swoon, and enough colliding prints to make a whirling dervish dizzy.

"I'm just trying to absorb it all," said a somewhat overwhelmed Demi Moore, whose first show experience came courtesy of friend Donna Karan. Moore attended D by DKNY dressed in an all-black mix of Donna Karan and Dolce & Gabbana (whose show she also viewed, as well as Ralph Lauren's). After D by DKNY, the neophyte fashion critic noted, "The clothes were great—some really wearable things with an interesting edge. But I wouldn't know where to begin in terms of what I'd want to buy."

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Trends to Watch

1. *Oriental touches: Mandarin collars, bamboo prints*
2. *Layering sheer fabrics and colors (sheer navy, say, over pink)*
3. *Handkerchief hems and sleeves*
4. *Sandals all the time*
5. *Clashing colors (such as orange and fuchsia)*
6. *Oversize bracelets*
7. *Mixed patterns (stripes with florals)*
8. *Midriff-length wrap tops*
9. *One-shoulder shirts and dresses*
10. *Opalescent makeup*

(She needn't worry: A phone call to a designer's public relations director brings most stars a videotape and an outfit-by-outfit description of the show.)

Laura Dern also made a first venture to the New York collections, taking in D&G, Richard Tyler and Ralph Lauren. "I love their stuff," she said of D&G. And though Dern has been a Richard Tyler

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Must-Haves

1. A *sharkskin suit*
2. A *one-shoulder shirt*
3. A *chiffon column dress*
4. *Gold hoop earrings*
5. A *white pique shirt*
6. *Cork platform sandals*
7. A *nude body stocking*
8. A *seventies wide leather belt to sling around hips*
9. *Mandarin-collar jacket*
10. *Rose nail polish*
11. *Wood combs for updos*
12. A *metallic-and-silk stole*
13. A *midriff-baring halter*
14. *Leather ponytail tie*
15. *Pearl eye shadow*
16. A *floral print skirt*
17. *Purse with long strap to wear slung across the body*
18. *Sheer pastel and bright T-shirts to layer (light blue with navy)*
19. *White frame sunglasses*
20. *Pants in ethnic patterns*
21. *White cotton anklets*
22. *Matte jersey slit skirt*
23. *Dress with strappy back*
24. *Chunky necklace*
25. *Sheer pink lip gloss*

client since 1988, she was struck by his exquisitely crafted, ethereal designs this season such as the chiffon and satin dresses fit for any Hollywood awards ceremony. "The clothes are so delicate and beautiful," she remarked.

Susan Sarandon, whose devotion to the fashion world is obvious from her wardrobe, attends her friend Todd Oldham's show every season. After Donna Karan's collection (rated by critics as one of Karan's best), Sarandon said, "It was modern and original and elegant. That earth brown satin suit ... just incredible."

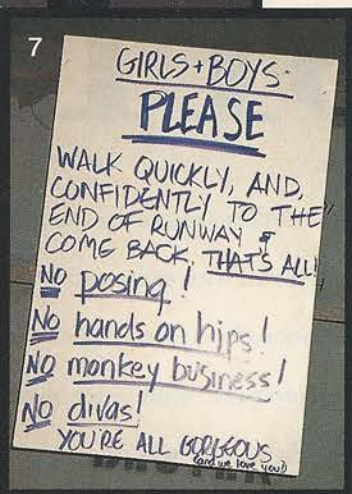
Runway browsing was not limited to females. Michael Bolton rushed to a few venues, including D&G and Jill Stuart; actor Vincent Gallo and musician Dave Navarro of the Red Hot Chili Peppers both walked the runway for rock and roll's favorite designer, Anna Sui. Navarro described the leather and lace looks he modeled as "tremendous," adding, "I've always said that all you need is a cool pair of leather pants."

And perhaps a lace touch or two.

As for the designers, what do they think about the celebrities with whom they share the spotlight at these shows? Says Donna Karan, whose collection ended the week: "I am always looking to those people who are modern and expressive and creative; to me, that's what 'celebrity' is about." ©



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6. Behind the scenes at Anna Sui. 7. Model behavior for Marc Jacobs. 8. Salma Hayek & Parker Posey at Matsuda. 9. A pair of sandals from the Sui show. 10. Sheryl Crow at the Versace party.



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