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Close-Up

Fashion Fair 'creme de la creme' of shows

By SUSAN HUNT
Chronicle Staff Writer

The creme de la creme of the fashion world came to Winston-Salem Friday night as the 27th annual Ebony Fashion Fair, described as the largest traveling fashion show of its kind, was presented at the M.C. Benton Convention Center.

Producing and staging a professional fashion show which travels from town to town is no simple task, as its organizers are quick to point out. The shows are staged and produced by Mrs. John H. Johnson and her daughter, Linda. The Johnsons, along with Shayla Simpson, the show's attractive commentator, are careful to select the most superb -- and expensive -- designs from Europe and New York, designs which audiences usually only dream about.

One might wonder just what goes into the making of such an exciting show.

The sights backstage are almost as exciting as those before the audience: Cluttered racks of fabulous clothes line the corridors; row on row of fluffy boas of mink, fox and ostrich feathers in every imaginable color; designer dresses by Oscar de La Renta, Lavin, Yves Saint Laurent, Louis Feraud, Nina Ricci and Emanuel Ungaro, just to mention a few; dazzling rhinestones, beads and sequins under the stage lights; and gloves, hats, jewelry and shoes to match each outfit -- every woman's dream.

At first glance, the average person might think that such a show would take many, many hours of preparation. "Not so," says the stage manager. "This is a very fast-paced show which is precisely

coordinated. Contrary to what an audience thinks, this show is a fairly simple show compared to other shows, such as musical concerts. It only takes about 20 to 30 minutes to do what I need to do to set up the show.

Known around the set as the "Fall Guy," the stage manager is in charge of all scenery, lights and sound.

While the stage is being set, wardrobe assistants are busy backstage preparing the garments to be modeled.

"The models couldn't get out there without us," says Maxine Scott, a wardrobe assistant who has traveled with the Fashion Fair for the last year. "We all have to work together to get a lot of work

"Sometimes we are busy snapping snaps and tying bows two seconds before a model goes onto the stage."

-- Maxine Clark

done in a short amount of time."

The wardrobe assistants arrive about three hours ahead of the models. Each garment must be steamed individually to get out even the tiniest of wrinkles. Accessories -- like shoes, hats, bags, scarves, bows and jewelry -- are placed with the corresponding outfit to make it easier for the model to dress in the two minutes allowed.

"There's no time to look for jewelry," Scott says. "Sometimes we are busy snapping snaps and tying bows two seconds before a model goes onto the stage. It sometimes gets hectic and nerve-racking, but I love it."

Usually, there are between 12 to 14 models in each show. The models usually arrive about an hour before the show just to be ready and on the set. When they arrive, they already have all their make-up on and their hair is done. There are no early make-up calls or sessions with a hairdresser, because each girl applies her own makeup and does her own hair.

"These girls are very expert makeup artists," says Scott, the wardrobe helper. "And it's all Fashion Fair makeup. They are used to doing their makeup and hair so that it can withstand many very fast changes and not look mused."

The calm, sophisticated model who strolls down the runway betrays the actual backstage image of one who hurriedly gets into an outfit and gets out on stage looking cool and calm. "We have anywhere from two to two and one-half minutes to change between outfits," says Janice Hall of Little Rock, Ark. "We have a few seconds to wait before going on. During that time, we are pulling on gloves, putting on jewelry or shoes; then we emerge, with a calm, glamorous smile."

Ron Fuller, one of the twin male models who has been with the Fashion Fair for two years, says, "We are all one big, happy family. I have to be a gentleman, not just a model. There are times when the girls need a helping hand with necklaces or zippers. We work out our own little skits before we go out to model, so we have to be creative too."

This year's Fashion Fair was called "Color Fantasy" because of the many electrifying colors included in the collection. The theme of the show was color -- big, bold, beautiful and alive as never before.

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Ebony Fashion Fair Models compose their own skits (photo by James Parker).



Eddie Jackson Jr.

Helping needy people is his most important task

"The most important things about this department are saving lives and helping people who need help. The most important person is the patient."

So says Eddie Jackson Jr., a nurse assistant in the operating room at Forsyth Memorial Hospital.

"When I have problems I try to leave them at home," says Jackson. "There's no need to have your problems and the patient's problem in the OR."

Last year, 13,702 hours of surgery were performed in the hospital's operating room. There were 6,721 major operations and 2,665 minor operations, as well as 1,894 outpatient procedures.

"I usually bring the patients down from the floors between 7 and 7:30 in the morning," Jackson explains.

"Sometimes I bring children down in the little red wagon. They're crazy about that. They bring their Teddy bears or other favorite animals with them."

Jackson admits that sometimes children are frightened in the operating room. "I try to comfort them, ask if they go to

school, what's their favorite pet, etc. I've even rocked some of them to sleep. Sometimes it does them good, but sometimes they're still afraid," he says.

There are operations where patients have to be positioned on the table. Jackson holds them so the doctor can do his work, such as turning the patient on his side for a spinal shot.

Occasionally, patients may get rowdy and attempt to get loose. Jackson says he tells them to relax and it will be easier on them.

"When I went to Forsyth Memorial from City Hospital 21 years ago," remembers Jackson, "I wanted to be an orderly. They offered me a job in the OR. I wasn't used to seeing a whole lot of blood, but it didn't bother me. Still doesn't."

"I like helping sick people. Sometimes I see former patients out on the street. I ask, 'How you doing?' They say, 'Fine.'"

"That's the best way to describe it."

Incidentally, Nov. 14 is National Operating Room Nurses' Day.

Social Notes

Garden Club meets

Along the Garden Path Garden Club met recently in the home of Mrs. Julia Johnson at 2054 N. Cherry St.

The president, Mrs. Ellsworth Banner, presided. After devotions, the secretary, Mrs. Emmaline Goodwin, read the minutes of the last meeting.

The agenda for the meeting included reading of the club's constitution, the need to organize a youth group, the purpose for youth groups, the Christmas House, what flowers have you dried this fall, show and tell how you dried your flowers.

Each topic was discussed at length. Mrs. Johnson served a delicious dinner and Mrs. Gwendolyn Ashly was Mrs. Johnson's guest.

The following members were present: Mrs. Ellsworth Banner, Mrs. Roberta Cook, Mrs. Sinclair Crowder, Mrs. Bonnie Daniels, Mrs. Emmaline Goodwin, Mrs. Verna Grier, Mrs. Louise Hamilton, Mrs. Julia Johnson, Mrs. Annie McClennon, Meta McClennon, Mrs. Catherine McLean, Mrs. Ruth Shoaf, Mrs. Eliza Williams and Mrs. Savilla Wilson.

Urban League banquet set

The Winston-Salem Urban League will host its annual Equal Opportunity Dinner Celebration on Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. in the M.C. Benton Convention Center.

This year, Mayor Wayne Corpening has proclaimed the month of November as "Urban League Month."

Thomas J. Elijah Jr., president of the local affiliate, says this year's affair will be a "celebration" of the agency's outstanding accomplishments in program service delivery and the overwhelming success of its Challenge to Achieve Campaign, which raised over \$600,000. Elijah also announced that J. Paul Sticht, executive committee chairman of R.J. Reynolds Industries, will be the recipient of the League's Outstanding Leadership Award for 1984.

The program will feature the internationally famous poet Maya Angelou and comedian Irwin C. Watson of New York City. Proceeds will go toward the Urban League and its new home currently under renovation.

Ticket information and table reservations can be obtained by calling the Urban League office between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at 725-5614.

About Town

Models, local ladies dazzling at recent Ebony Fashion Fair

By SUSAN HUNT
Chronicle Staff Writer

The mood was electric at Benton Convention Center on Friday night as the dazzling Ebony Fashion Show brought us a sneak preview of the top designers' fall lines.

As I waited for the show to begin, I enjoyed a fashion fair of a different kind as the audience arrived. I am happy to report that those models had quite a bit of competition from the ladies in Winston-Salem.

At this annual charity event, one usually sees every fashion-conscious lady in town present and Friday night was no excep-

tion.

The ladies of the Urban League Guild were especially elegant as they escorted the guest to their seats. They were all dressed in black, after-five dresses. Urban League President Thomas Elijah was quite dashing in his black tuxedo. I really enjoyed the parade of so many different outfits. I saw everything from



Hunt

business suits to sequined after-five dresses to formal gowns.

Denise Hill, one of the beauty consultants for the Fashion Fair contestants, was quite a fashion plate herself in a black leather dress which was quite appropriate for the occasion.

Anne Simmons looked good when she arrived, but she looked even better as she left in a beautiful light-colored mink hat and boa, the main door prize. It was presented by Robert J. Smitherman, Team Manager of Moore Cigarettes. Congratulations to Anne.

This year's winner of the Miss Ebony Fashion Fair Contest,

Cassandra Stroud, was lovely as she strolled down the runway to begin her reign as Miss Ebony Fashion Fair 1984-85.

Saturday night at Benton Convention Center, the Black Political Awareness League presented a very dynamic speaker, Harvey Gantt, the mayor of Charlotte. Over 300 local officials attending the event enjoyed an elegant dinner and a very inspiring speech.

As the BPAL hosted a lovely dinner at Benton Convention Center, the J.H. Young Memorial Lodge No. 670 enjoyed an equally impressive Homecom-

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8

* The Winston-Salem State University coaching staff will sponsor a basketball clinic for boys ages 6-18 at 5:30 p.m. at 1922 Stadium Drive in the Boys' Club.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

* Come taste, see, and learn about unusual herbs from the world over from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. at the Nature Science Center. World renowned authors Arnold and Connie Krochmal will give a slide presentation on "Plants and People from the USA to the USSR." Delectable nibbles will also be available at this time for discriminating taste buds. Admission is free to members and \$1 for others.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11

* The Winston-Triad Lupus Chapter will meet at 2:30 p.m. in the Highland Presbyterian Church Activity Building on Cloverdale Avenue. For more information, call 768-1493 or 724-6303.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

* There will be a Diabetes Association meeting at 7:30 p.m. in First Christian Church at 2320 Country Club Road. Dr. Mark Browning will present a program about "Hyperglycemia and Hypoglycemia." Admission is free.

The Chronicle welcomes Community Calendar notices. Announcements should be concise and typed or neatly printed. They should include the day, time, place and sponsors of the event, plus a number to call for additional information. Announcements should be addressed to the Winston-Salem Chronicle Community Calendar, P.O. Box 3154, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102. The deadline for announcements is Monday at 5:30 p.m.