

Capriccio Designs By Denise Capers

By Lora Vanderhall
Post Staff Writer

Capriccio. Remember that name because you will probably see it again...soon.

Capriccio is the label used by designer, seamstress Denise Capers. She has an extraordinary talent. Denise has the God-given ability to make fabric come alive.

She is originally from Harts-ville, S.C., where her mother taught her how to sew at age 12. Her mother says she taught all of her daughters to sew and if they made a garment wrong she

made them do it over.

Denise graduated Friendship college in 1973 where she majored in sociology. Her ability to sew helped her to pay for college. After college she went to New York and she worked with the department of social services for three years.

She moved back to Charlotte in 1976 and she continued to pursue her designing career. Denise knows the importance of proper training so she enrolled at the American Business and Fashion Institution located in Charlotte. In May of this year

she will graduate from North Carolina Textile School in Belmont, N.C. North Carolina Textile School is a four year, state supported school.

Capriccio Designs were worn in the 1983 N.C. Miss Black Teenage Pageant. Some of her designs are currently in mass production. "I especially enjoy working with the african prints and ruffles," she added.

Over the past few years she has presented fashion shows for social and civic organizations. In April she will do a fashion show for herself. "It takes a lot

of organization to get ready for a fashion show but I enjoy it. I usually design and make about 35 garments for a show. On a good day and depending on the complexity of the design I can make up to eight garments a day," she said.

Denise wants to become a top designer and to own a boutique.

Denise Capers designed and made all of the garments on this page. If you would like to contact her for a fashion show write her manager: Melvin Poole, P. O. Box 1911, Lancaster, S.C. or call 803-328-0487.



Chanel Rawlinson



Barbara Mack



Designer Denise Capers



Michele Spear



Chanel Rawlinson



Chanel Rawlinson



Other examples of Capriccio Designs

Culture Fusion Magazine Features African Batik

African batik has never been exposed in the West as a contemporary fashion. It is worn mostly at traditional and cultural occasions. CULTURE FUSION would like to present African batik along a different perspective. We have taken the vibrant colors and bold patterns of Africa and made them into outfits that are simple and classically styled -- the colors and prints are left to make its own statement. Attractive on any body size and flattering to young and older women alike, they can be dressed up or down to suit any occasion. These outfits are now available by mail order.

Thirty-year old Jamaican-born, British-raised Patricia Jarrett, who has lived in the United States for several years now, is President of CULTURE FUSION, Inc., a mail-order company. She is also the designer of the outfits carried in the catalogue. Ms. Jarrett's attraction to African wax prints stemmed from a deep interest in her African ancestry and while working at the United Nations, she was exposed to many African diplomats and officials who wore the vibrant prints and colors of

their particular regions. Fascinated at how real and dynamic these prints looked on the persons who wore them, she began making her own dresses using similar African fabrics. However, in the designing process, she chose to experiment with more contemporary styles, for it was her initial desire that African batik be worn in an everyday setting. The results were beyond her expectations as requests from friends and friends of friends began requesting her to make the same dresses for them. Consequently, she started selling her dresses at street fairs and later out of Culture Fusion Boutique in Brooklyn, New York, which she operates with her husband, singer/musician Lenval Jarrett. The mail order concept naturally emerged when requests began arriving from throughout the United States from people of all walks of life who had spotted her outfits and wanted to own one.

A third partner, Lenore Price, also a former United Nations colleague and herself with an international upbringing, brings a finance-related background to round out this ambitious and

entrepreneurial team who wants everyone to own an African print to be worn not only on special occasions but as an everyday garb.

If you are interested in receiving a copy of CULTURE FUSION's catalogue, please send a check or money order for \$2 to Culture Fusion, P.O. Box 20107, New York, N.Y. 10017.

