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fashion

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Wear in the World!

L'Oréal Toronto Fashion Week goes global

By Sarah B. Hood

Wear in the World! The slogan for the Fall/Winter 2008 edition of L'Oréal Toronto Fashion Week speaks to the increasingly global atmosphere of Toronto's biggest fashion showcase. This season's sensational stylistia schmooze-fest runs from March 17 to 22 under the big white tents at Nathan Phillips Square. Partly because organizers restrained themselves from scheduling on Good Friday, and partly because there are more shows than ever, the event is spreading to take up more and more of each day, with nonstop catwalk action from 2 p.m. (or even earlier) until at least 10 p.m. on most days.



The international flavour of this season's Fashion Week will be heightened by the presence of more international media and buyers than ever before, from the U.S., France, Germany and beyond. There are also several special shows highlighting designers from other countries. For instance, on Monday at 3 p.m., Russian Fashion Week presents Max Chernitsov, a Moscow-based designer of sporty, sexy, fun men's and women's wear.

On Tuesday at 4 p.m., it's Talenti Moda Milano with work from the top four fashion schools in Milan: IED Moda Lab, Domus Academy, The Institute Carlo Secoli and Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti Milano - NABA. The Milan Fashion School of IED Moda Lab is showing the work of two graduates: Marta Forghieri, whose collection is named Psycho Candy, and Alessandro Vigilante, whose collection, Motus, is inspired by his love of both dance and fashion. From Domus Academy come Shih Wen Liao, whose collection is fetchingly entitled "The world is a mess, but I am pretty," and Alessia Xocato, showing a collection called "Extra Life," partly inspired by the visual presentation of video games.

The Institute Carlo Secoli presents Marta Griso with "Whirling in a dancing dream...", which also takes inspiration from the dance world, and in particular the movements of the circle and the spiral. Finally, NABA offers the inspirations of its A-Lab, a group of young fashion designers who seek to mix and mingle art and style with extremely limited, numbered editions (10 items or less) of original garments. The A-Lab participants are Alessandro Biasi, Simona Costa, Andrea Orazi and Marcello Valtellino, and for Fall/Winter 2008-2009, they have been inspired by the concept of "Resistance".



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