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A Strange And FORMidable Showing

Pre-spring's never been so theatrical

Friday, June 23, 2006

(NEW YORK) At its worst, Form designer Jerry Tam's first pre-spring collection looked like someone had run amuck with a roll of industrial-strength toilet paper. But take away all the dramatics, including the magical makeup by Kabuki and the lifesized white bear that pranced around the venue entertaining guests, and the pieces, on their own, were both fashion-forward and wearable.

The 15 all-white theatrical looks were presented yesterday afternoon in an all-white venue. Each outfit had a genre, be it animal tamer, court jester, gypsy, snake charmer, master of ceremonies, or trapeze artist. And each grouping of tanks, dresses, vests, and shorts were paired with a carnival-appropriate accessory, including a whip, bowling pin, sword, and snake.

A scoop neck crochet tank that should be in every young woman's wardrobe was paired with cotton twill shorts with feather detailing and mink pom pom socks. Dresses highlighted much of the collection—most were striated, pleated, and laid on gently with thick straps of natural fabrics. A sheer bamboo jersey was visible in a chiffon and jersey skeleton top, which was a nice touch. "It's not carnival, it's Formnival," Tam joked.

Let's hope the urban jungle of Manhattan gets the punch line.

JIM SHI



Form pre-spring 2007



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