

The following article is just a sampling of what I did during my few days in NYC at the opening weekend of Fashion Week. It's a wonder that anyone survives with the frenzied pace of the parties, the fashion people, seeing shows, and "being seen" seeing shows!

*Entrance to the tents in Bryant Park at 41st and 6th Avenue.*



I lined up early Friday, February 1 to see Brooke Shields and the cast of NBC's "Lipstick Jungle" up close and personal. They were there to help the grande dame of Fashion Week herself Fern Mallis, cut the ribbon for the Fall 2008 presentations in the tents at Bryant Park. Luckily, I got right in and stood literally 10 feet away from the ceremony. Brooke and company looked photo op perfect, all the while teetering on Christian Louboutin five inch heels!

*Candace Bushnell author of "Sex and the City" and the cast of her new NBC series "Lipstick Jungle" including star Brooke Shields.*



Mercedes Benz Fashion Week consists of three tents all varying in size that feature shows from 9 am—9 pm each day. Nautica, my first show was in one of the smaller tents, the Promenade that seats around 700 people. By confidently mixing traditional menswear, pea coats, slacks, and the like with their outerwear collection in three different ways, they revived the layered aesthetic for men. Next up was an afternoon showing of BCBG Max Azria in the largest tent that seats roughly 1350 people. Just to the right of me in the front row was none other than Nina Garcia from Elle magazine and Project Runway fame. She seemed playful and nice to others around her. The show was elegant and sexy, yet subdued and classy.

Back out to the lobby tent where I spied Nigel Barker, from America's Next Top Model fame, which was kind enough to pose for me. Also seen were NY fashion mavens Lauren Ezersky who has a cable show and Patrick Mc Donald who has crazy drawn on eyebrows! He's always at the shows. After all the morning excitement I decided to go back to the hotel to nap before the evening's mysterious Project Runway Designer show in Chelsea.

*Fashion photographer and popular judge from "America's Next Top Model" Nigel Barker.*



*Lauren Ezersky host of Style Network's "Beyond the Velvet Ropes", and NYC Fashionista extraordinaire Patrick McDonald aka "The Dandy".*



All rested and ready to go, I ventured down to West 18th street. It was abuzz with genuine anticipation, and Season 1 Project Runway winner Jay Mc Carroll gladly posed for photographers from his front row seat. Tailored, menswear inspired separates started the show, with charming little dresses to follow, and guess who took a bow at the end of the show— SURPRISE— Victorya Hong who had been eliminated from Project Runway a few weeks ago! Out on the street I cornered Jay and asked him what he thought about the show. His exact words were "wearable" and "clean". He couldn't have been nicer.

*Bjorn and "Project Runway Season" 1 winner Jay McCarroll.*



Saturday morning dawned bright, sunny and a lot warmer than the previous day. My first show was Lacoste in the big tent. As the lights dimmed and the blue sky backdrop was softly filled with snow all the models trooped out en masse. For the girls, there were jump skirts with flared legs, sweet polo dresses, as well as sweaters in shades of white and grey. For the men there were fitted polos and mountain jackets, with extra long scarves in strong stripes and blocks of black, gold, blood red and green. Lastly, all models appeared in more muted versions of the same outfits in soft pastel blocks of pink, purple, grey and white. I really loved the re-invention of this classic brand, it seemed modern and luxe.

*Lacoste reinvents itself to a sell out crowd in the main tent at fashion week.*



On Sunday, my last day in NYC, I saw the great Herve Leger show. It began with the "bandage dress" an outfit that features strips of fabric sewn together to create a tight fitting silhouette. Worn by Hollywood "A" listers on the red carpet, they are a staple of high fashion. Now, the prolific Max Azria has taken on this line and given it a feminine twist with organza evening gloves and soft floral embellishments, flowing chiffon skirts and feather trimmed evening gowns. They reminded me of movie stars from decades past. A few more shows and it was time to head for Grand Central Station and my express bus to LaGuardia. Farewell Fashion Week, until we meet again next fall for the spring 2009!

*Herve Leger Show*



*Model on the catwalk at the Herve Leger Show.*



*Another look from Herve Leger.*

