

By Christopher London

OLYMPUS FASHION WEEK

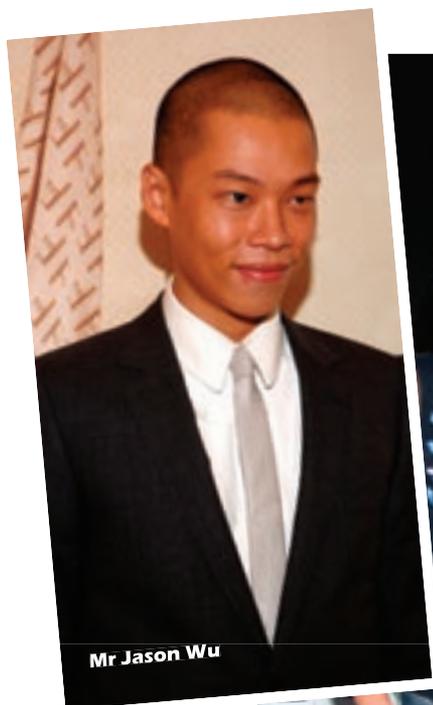
THIS IS THE first year I have truly covered, in a traditional sense, Fashion Week in New York City. The celebration of design, designers and beautiful people is very much a part of the fabric of society here.

I entered Bryant Park's tents for the show for Nicole Miller's Spring/Summer 2007 collection to witness a standing-room-only crowd. While Nicole Miller finished her showcase, I left the coliseum of fashion and headed downtown to the lower east side where her protégé — similarly schooled at the famous Rhode Island School of Design — pulled off a show illustrating the talent and expertise of a longstanding industry professional. Much like her mentor Nicole Miller, Nicole Romano's designs reflect an earthy sophistication, style and glamour mirroring the persona of the designer herself.

Inspiration nurtures the talent of many a designer. A muse can offer the canvas that serves as a platform or motivation for another designer. After all, who is this body of work for? This is the case of *society bon vivant*, one of Manhattan Society's best dressed men, designer Douglas Hannant, whose own personal style is a marriage of classic and chic. His latest muse, socialite Valesca Guerrand Hermes — herself affiliated with one of the world's premier fashion brands — serves as the face (and the body) of Hannant's modern classics which have made him the darling of the Park Avenue set.

To do justice to Fashion Week would be impossible without mentioning one of my favourite ladies in New York City — Vivienne Tam. Vivienne is far from being the only Asian designer or Asian designer of significance in New York City, but she is as well received for her unique ability to create harmonious clothing that enhances one's personality while at the same time providing fashionable clothing for modern women that is beautifully designed, superior in quality, wearable, easy to travel with and affordable. She is also an active member of Asia Society in New York City, where she is very much a preferred designer among a fair number of its gala chairs and committee members. Many ladies of New York Asian Society attended her show including Susan Shin, Irina Pantaeva, Ling, Lucia Hwong Gordon, Payal Chaudhri and Jennifer Suh. Others in attendance included Bebe Neuwirth, Tracy Stern, Patrick McDonald and Hollywood fashion stylist to the stars Phillip Bloch, who came to pay homage and also shop for his clients.

In the midst of the weekly Fashion extravaganza, I attended the opening of the new Nokia store on 57th street off 5th Avenue to celebrate the upcoming New Yorkers for Children Gala, which was sponsored by the mobile phone brand. Among the more significant charities in New York City, New Yorkers For Children is notorious for bringing out the high-fashion socialites, some of which I ran into at this event launch. They included Tinsley Mortimer, Daysi Olarte de Kanavos, Vanessa Wiener von Bismarck, Tracy Stern, Kelly Behun Sugarman, Arden Hess and Zani Gugelmann. While hardly comprehensive, the photos here can perhaps offer you a brief glimpse at the personal style of some of the people I perceive to be among the more talented and soulful folk on New York City's society circuit during Fashion Week. **▮**



Mr Jason Wu



Ms Irina Pantaeva and Ms Ling



Ms Amanda Hearst with Mr Luigi Tadini



Designer Ms Nicole Romano and Ms Laura Rubin



Ms Debbie Bancroft, Ms Serena Bancroft, Ms Caleigh Perelman, Ms Patricia Duff, Ms Marcia Mishaan and Ms Nicole Miller



Ms Gillian Hearst-Shaw



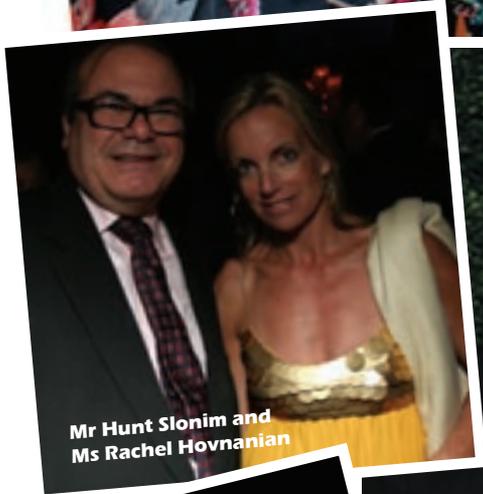
Ms Tracy Stern, Mr Patrick McDonald and Mistress Chloe Stern



Ms Dayssi Olarte de Kanavos, Ms Susan Shin & Ms Vanessa Weiner von Bismarck



Ms Tracy Paul and Ms Mira Sorvino



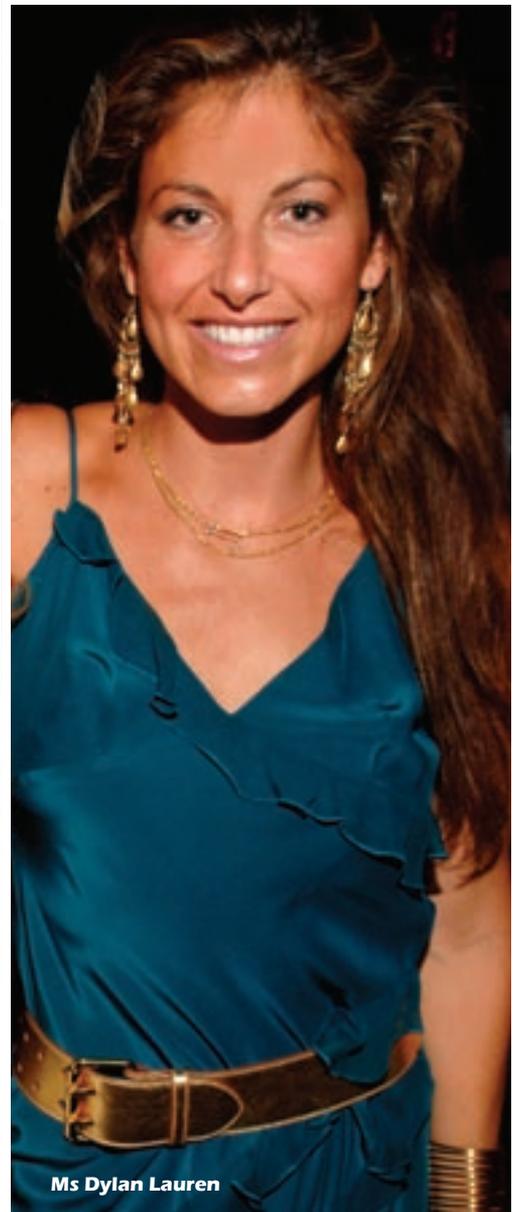
Mr Hunt Slonim and Ms Rachel Hovnanian



Mr Douglas Hannant and Ms Valesca Guerrand Hermes



Ms Vivienne Tam and Ms Bebe Neuwirth



Ms Dylan Lauren