

Millennium fever: Even jewelry has been struck



Minimalism is dead
Fashion predictions forecast the end of minimalism and the rise of romanticism for earrings. Specifically, dramatic drop earrings will come into vogue.

Detailed with colored gemstones and open filigree metal work, these earrings are anything but minimal. And, fashion mavens advise coupling these earrings with clean, stark clothing in solid colors. The idea is, simple clothing only increases the spotlight on such incredible jewelry.

Men's pearls get more press
Why is Rob Lowe on the cover of the September issue of George magazine grasping a luscious strand of freshwater pearls? Men and pearls? What's going on?

Apparently, the Cultured Pearl Information Center - yes, there is such an organization - has been promoting men wearing pearls. And now, men, other than Dennis Rodman, are comfortable wearing the real pearly whites. Perhaps pearl solitaire earrings for men will be the next millennium craze?

Big hoops return
Where big hoops went during the past 20 years is a mystery to me. The Jewelry Lady still has several pairs from the 70s in her jewelry box; and they look as groovy as ever. But, according to fashion authorities, the big round things are newly hot.

To update your hoops of yore, add a set of earring charms (your earrings will dangle longer yet). Or, if you're feeling daring, slide out your credit card and invest in a pair of hoops with built-in metal detailing. They're what's hip for the 21st century. Out with the woman of the 90s; it's time to be a woman of the new millennium.

A new odd couple
Stainless steel and diamonds, forecasters say, are the odd couple for the new millennium. It's a timely look, especially when you consider the combination is primarily found on watches.

"Everyday" stainless steel watches speckled with diamonds were, for example, featured in the August edition of Vogue magazine. Nonetheless, the combination will go well with your platinum or white gold jewelry. Besides, it's suitable for wear when digging in your garden or sitting at the opera.

Diamonds at midnight
Apparently, many Americans think the upcoming New Year marks a time for major gift giving.

According to a survey by J. Walter Thompson, the ad agency who handles those romantic De Beers diamond commercials, 72 percent of people believe the turn of the century is a once-in-a-lifetime event worthy of commemorating in a big way. Of the more than 1,000 adults surveyed, 40% of all women - and 61% of women ages 18-24 - would like to receive a diamond when the clock strikes midnight.

Also, only 35% of the men surveyed intend to go diamond shopping for the occasion. Obviously, major hint-dropping is in order, so the Jewelry Lady suggests some window-shopping between now and December.

By the way, the world's largest internally and externally flawless diamond will be shown to the world for the first time. The event is slated for the dawn of the new millennium at the Dome in London. Appropriately named the Millennium Star, the pear-shaped diamond weighs in at a whopping 203 carats. The gem was purchased many years ago by De Beers on the open market and will be displayed with other millennium jewels.

Send questions and topics of interest to the Jewelry Lady by e-mail, rogers@nich.com, fax (248) 552-9223 or mail, c/o The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 806 E. Maple, Birmingham, Mich. 48009.

Spectacular style



Styles for everybody: Oversized, vertical sweaters and ankh-length skirts in off-beat colors from Birmingham retailer Lilith recalled 80s fashion style at the 10th annual Fall Spectacular fashion show on Wednesday in Birmingham.

With so many downtown apparel retailers showcasing their latest pieces, the formal runway show paid a visit to just about every notable look of the fall fashion season, from modern prep to millennium style.

STAFF PHOTO BY JERRY ZIMMERT

Annual fashion show notes fall's important looks

BY NICOLE STAFFORD
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Spectators at Birmingham's annual Fall Spectacular fashion show just about witnessed the gamut of what fall style has to offer this season.

Held Wednesday evening under tents near Shain Park, Fall Spectacular showcases Birmingham merchants' goods and services through a fashion show, strolling dinner buffet and auction. Proceeds from the event, in its 10th year, benefit William Beaumont Hospital's Pediatric Cancer Survivors Scholarship program.

Apparel came from close to all of downtown Birmingham's clothing shops, including Jacobson's, Fittiges, Banana Republic, Tender, Lilith, Fibres and Imelda's Closet.

The Claymore Shop and Maxwell showed off fall digs for men. Even bridal salon Roma Spous, eye wear store Shades and Birmingham's new golf wear shop Sugar Mag provided clothing for the show. Other retailers shown were Roots, Hansel n Gretel, Ceresnie & Offen, Harp's, and It's the Ritz.

Several downtown Birmingham beauty salons presented hair and make-up looks for fall, as well.

With such a range of retailers participating, attendees experienced the full scope of fall fashion.

Currently popular with children and young adults, the sporty, athletic look, complete with a plethora of hooded sweatshirts and jersey stripes, came from Roots.

Banana Republic showed modern-prep in shades of camel, black and charcoal.

Dresses and skirts embellished by high-tech fabrics, multiple pockets and belts from Tender gave the audience a taste of millennium style.

During several segments, clear plastic headbands on several models kept hair in place. Even a quilted, black outer wear coat equivalent in size to a sleeping bag showed up on the runway.

While It's the Ritz offered up colorful cowboy and cowgirl duds, Lilith gave the audience their take on 80s revisionism, simple, vertical oversized sweaters with translucent skirts.

Making numerous appearances, both on the runway and off, were pashmina scarves. Patrons of the event used the cashmere scarves to keep warm on

the rainy night and update classic apparel. On the runway, the trendy scarves were tied underneath winter coats, paired with formal wear and draped over simple sweaters.



Sport as style: Athletic wear, popular among youth, was shown on couples.

Children's resale shop offers safety information

BY NICOLE STAFFORD
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Retailers in the information age are offering consumers more than just goods for sale; they're passing along knowledge related to products they sell.

Once Upon A Child, a national children's resale chain with local stores in Troy and Canton is one such retailer.

Located on Rochester Road at Square Lake, the Troy store recently installed an information station to help inform and educate parents about children's safety. The centrally-located information center is packed with literature on product recalls and safe product use.

"Once Upon A Child is a natural resource for children's product safety," said Chris Muehner, co-owner of the Troy location.

Once Upon A Child stores sell new and gently used children's clothing, furniture, equipment, toys, books and accessories. Recycled items are sold at a fraction of the original retail price. And, used merchandise is purchased from consumers for cash, rather than on consignment.

Literature safety points cover use of car seats, strollers, cribs, high chairs, play yards and other commonly used children's merchandise.

The Canton store, on North Sheldon Road at Ford, is displaying a similar amount of safety information at their

counter area, given limited wall space.

Since many parents buy or are given used children's equipment and products, both the Troy and Canton stores have a large binder listing federal government product recalls from the past 10 years.

"A lot of people have products that they might have at home and want to make sure they are safe to use," said Cheryl Shamsher, co-owner of Once Upon a Child in Canton. Parents are most concerned about larger equipment used in child-rearing, particularly car seats, Shamsher said. The information includes recalled product models, manufacturing dates and where to call to obtain corrective parts.

At the Troy store, a bulletin board

posts current product safety notices. Free brochures and other literature from such organizations as the Consumer Product Safety Commission, National Safe Kids Campaign, National Highway Transportation Safety Association and Health Canada are also on hand at the Troy store.

A resource catalog lists additional materials of interest to individuals and groups wishing to learn more about children's safety.

The Once Upon A Child retail chain has more than 200 stores in 42 states and four Canadian provinces.

To learn more about the Troy store's information center, call (248) 828-7474. To reach the Once Upon A Child in Canton, call (734) 459-5669.

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

labels visit Saks Fifth Avenue, the Somerset Collection in Troy, to help shoppers expand and update their fall wardrobes with favorite designer pieces through Oct. 7. Please call to schedule an appointment: Anne Klein, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Oct. 6-7, Designer Bridge Sportswear, second floor, and Special Sizes, third floor, call (248) 614-3339; Calvin Klein, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Oct. 6-7, Designer Bridge Sportswear, second floor, call (248) 614-3348; DKNY, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Oct. 7, Casual Sportswear and Petties, both on third floor, call (248) 614-3348.

LOCAL JEWELRY DESIGNER VISITS
Neiman Marcus, the Somerset Collection in Troy, hosts local jewelry designer Sharon Meyer and her jewelry collection through Oct. 7, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Designer Jewelry, first floor.

JEWELRY SHOWS AT NEWMAN'S
Neiman Marcus, the Somerset Collection in Troy, holds several jewelry trunk shows including collections by Steven Lagos, Linda Bergman (who will make an appearance) and David Yurman, all in Designer Jewelry, first floor. Leslie Greenberg and

Penny Previlla personally present their pieces. Precious Jewels Salon, first floor. For show schedules and additional information, call (248) 643-3300.

ANSIBLE SHOW
Arlin's Bride, 249 Pierce Street in downtown Birmingham, hosts a show of the Annual Collection with a company representative through Oct. 9, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. For information, call (248) 644-7200.

SILHOUETTE ARTIST VISITS
Silhouette artist Joyce Redman creates children's portraits for shoppers at Jacobson's, Lauri Park Place in Livonia, through Oct. 9, 1-8 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday. Children's Department.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8
ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW
Wonderland Mall in Livonia hosts an arts and crafts show through Oct. 10, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. on Sunday.

COLLECTIBLES SHOW
Livonia Mall, 29514 Seven Mile Road in Livonia, holds a sports card, coin and collectibles show through Oct. 11, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Monday, noon-5 p.m. on Sunday. Former University of Michigan football team stars pose for photographs and sign autographs on Oct. 11. For details about football player appearances, call (248) 476-1160.

Retail, style and special store events are listed in this calendar. Please send information to: Malls & Mainstreets, c/o Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 806 East Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Fax: (248) 644-1314. Information must be received by 5 p.m. Monday for publication the following Sunday.
MONDAY, OCTOBER 4

TV SHOP SALE
The QVC cable shopping channel presents its sixth annual Shoes on Sale, a televised, live sale of designer and brand name footwear at half-price to benefit breast cancer research and education programs, 7-10 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5
ALEXANDRA FERRETTI VISITS SOMERSET
Saks Fifth Avenue, the Somerset Collection in Troy, hosts a representative from clothing label Philosophy by Alberta Ferretti to help shoppers make wardrobe decisions, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Casual Sportswear, second floor. To make an appointment, call (248) 643-9000, ext. 485.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6
JACK'S SHOES SHOW
Jacobson's, Laurel Park Place in Livonia, shows Cole Haan's fall shoe collection for men, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Shoes Department.

WOMEN'S APPROPRIATE AT SAKS
Representatives from several women's clothing