

Our Fashions

'Project Runway' alum Kevin Christiana offers update on design career

By MIKE CHAIKEN
EDITIONS EDITOR

After his stint on the fourth cycle of "Project Runway," designer Kevin Christiana barely missed a step in resuming his fashion design career.

In the days following the show's conclusion (which saw Christian Siriano take home the top prize), Christiana was introduced by a friend to some people who were thinking of launching a new clothing line with Christiana at the design helm.

In an interview from New York, Kevin explained he and the money people of the clothing line "chilled" and chatted about a variety of ideas. They came to an agreement and they launched what Kevin called an "American lifestyle"

brand that fit with his own particular fashion aesthetics.

Initially, Kevin said the intent of this new line was to come up with a men's design collection. (Prior to "Project Runway," Kevin had his own denim line K Jeans.) Kevin said the new post-"Runway" line was expanded to include a women's line. In time, Kevin said, the women's collection became more popular than the women's collection.

Kevin said his post-"Runway" collections were inspired by inspired by America. He said as he began his effort he turned to American culture, American music, etc. to infuse his collection. But keeping with his own rock and roll sensibility as a



Kevin Christiana

designer, Kevin made sure that as he hit the tried and true, he kept it edgy as well. Kevin said he brought something rock and roll and something sexy to the fashion stand-bys.

Rather than focus on just gowns or dresses, Kevin said he gears his work toward full collections—

separates as well as dresses. And from these full collections, Kevin said his jackets and pants always sell the best.

As the spring lines begin to bloom in the stores, Kevin asked about the trends he was seeing and creating, Kevin said, he is seeing garments that are

much more tailored and tighter than past seasons. Last year, for instance, you would have seen a loose-fitting boyfriend jacket—as if it were a garment previously worn by your boyfriend. This season things are more fitted.

As for his own preferences for spring, Kevin said, "I love skinny pants."

But as a designer, Kevin said he doesn't like to just hit one note. He said he likes to play with the designs. Yes, he likes skinny pants. But, he said he also has designed a pant with a paperbag waist with pleats that taper at the legs. He also has created a pant with sailor-wide leg.

As for jackets, Kevin said he gravitates toward the basic cuts—blazers, motorcycle jackets, military

jackets, and crop jackets. To make these cuts perfect for spring, Kevin said lighter materials and shorter cuts at the waist are key.

Kevin said he works to design for a variety of women. For instance, he said, tattoo artist Kat Von D from "L.A. Ink" has worn his garments, as well as television talk show host and cooking superstar Rachael Ray. (Kevin has been a frequent guest on Ray's show, offering various fashion tidbits.) "It's pretty much versatile," said Kevin of his designs.

And as a designer, Kevin said whatever he develops he wants to make sure it flatters women of all body types.

Comments? Email mchaiken@BristolObserver.com.

Miss Connecticut Sharalynn Kuziak shares her Miss America fashion choices



Sharalynn's Evening of Dreams cocktail dress from Watertown's Natalie Testa of Ragtime Boutique



At left, Sharalynn Kuziak shows her private interview outfit. At right, Sharalynn in her on-stage interview dress.



A send-off party was held in Waterbury Jan. 14 for Miss Connecticut Sharalynn Kuziak of Southington. At the event, she gave a fashion show of the looks she would wear at the competition in Las Vegas on Saturday. Unfortunately Kuziak did not win the national competition.



Above, Sharalynn's visitation dress from Bristol's Kathy Faber Designs. At left, her main competition gown.

PHOTOS by
TAMMI KNAPIK