

Created by: Debra C. Argen

Vintage Fashions



Fashion is all about choices, or it should be anyway; fashion can be elegant, it can be contemporary, it can be flirty and sexy, but most of all, fashion should always be your choice.



As each season approaches, the designers are out in full force, as their models walk the runways showcasing the latest styles. On February 1, 2006, I went to the Freewill Vintage Fashion Show held at St. Mark's Church in New York. This very interesting fashion show, produced and presented by Monkey Queen, yes, that is her name, was to "show how beautiful vintage clothing is, buying treasures from the past." She created [Freewill Fashions](#) in an effort to "promote an alternative life style and alternative fashions", and to get people to "explore new ways of enjoying what we already have." Monkey Queen captivated the audience, a mixed group of ages that encompassed uptown elegance and downtown chic, as she said to "fashion your seatbelts..."

Vintage clothing is red hot; just look at any of the "red carpet" or social events and you will see that celebrities and socialites alike are turning up at many fashionable events wearing vintage clothes and vintage jewelry.

The clothing at the show included a wide range of fashions, from Victorian undergarments worn as outer garments, to clothing from the 1980s, with much excitement in between. The models walked the runways with clothing that playfully mixed decades; a circa 1950s Debutante Dress was paired with 1970s C. Jordan shoes, a 1950s Lily Pulitzer summer dress was paired with a 1960's straw bag, and a Spring walking outfit combined pieces from the 1940s to the 1960s.

The show was all about individual choices, showing a ladylike 1930s Floral gown for formal afternoon tea, a 1960s 3-piece paisley swimsuit, a classic 1960s travel outfit complete with the model strolling the runway with vintage luggage, custom made 1950s cocktail dresses, a 1960s Pucci-esque jumpsuit and a 1960s floral hostess dress.

The 1970s firmly had their place on the runway, as did the 1980s purple strapless dress with ruffles with gold boxes printed all over, as well as sexy 1920s silk lingerie, and clothing from the 1940s. Accessories

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included hats, belts, dainty gloves, 1940s platform shoes, T-strap shoes, and all types of boots.



The male models walked the runway showcasing a wide variety of styles from the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, again mixing decades to create new looks. 1970s white pants were paired with a 1960s seersucker blazer, and a men's short-sleeve jumpsuit evoked images of a Gene Kelly musical.

For this Spring, whether you choose to wear the latest fashions, get inspiration as a designer for new creations with an eye on the past, look in your parents' or grandparents' closets, or search the vintage shops, remember, fashion is all about choices – look great and wear what you want!

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