

A woman with dark hair is wearing a large, voluminous green shawl or cape. She is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background is a dark, high-angle view of a city skyline at night, with many lights from buildings and the Empire State Building visible in the distance.

EMERGE!®
FASHION RUNWAY SHOW

CELEBRATING YEARS

NEW YORK FASHION WEEK
SEPTEMBER 15, 2026



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FASHION RUNWAY SHOW

15

Dionne Williams

WELCOME TO THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EMERGE! FASHION SHOW.

I want to sincerely thank you for being here with us. For fifteen years, Emerge! has shined a spotlight on extraordinary emerging designers, and your support has allowed this platform to grow into one of the most anticipated showcases of New York Fashion Week.

Our mission has never wavered. New York Fashion Week has not always been inclusive, and Emerge! exists to give a platform to those who wouldn't otherwise have one. Everyone is a part of the fashion industry and makes an impact — and tonight we celebrate everyone: our designers, our models, our hair and makeup artists, and every guest in this room.

This year is packed — in the best way. I am so excited for Ilbert Sanchez and Grammy Award-winning artist October London to showcase their new collections on our runway, alongside designer icon Karl Kani, who was previously honored with our Fashion Innovator Award and now returns to showcase his new collection. And of course, our other wonderful designers who make this night what it is.

Thank you to my sponsors for supporting this mission: our presenting sponsor ORS Haircare; Black Girl Vitamins; Bennett Career Institute, who provided our entire glam team; Disaronno, for providing the spirits and hosting our kickoff reception and private after party; Models Inc.; and Ebony Magazine. Their commitment ensures that our designers have the opportunity to present their work on this stage.

Emerge! is a large production, and I am endlessly grateful to my team, who stick by me and make it all possible year after year.

Over the years, we have been honored to recognize icons and trailblazers who have shaped the fashion industry, and we are proud to continue that tradition tonight.

Enjoy the energy, the creativity, and the passion of this year's Emerge! Fashion Show.

With gratitude,

DIONNE WILLIAMS

Creator & Producer
Emerge! Fashion Show



The Emerge! Fashion Show is a premier platform dedicated to showcasing the work of emerging designers from across the globe. Founded with the mission to bridge the gap between aspiring designers and the fashion industry's forefront, Emerge! offers a unique opportunity for creatives to present their collections to an influential audience, including industry professionals, media, and fashion enthusiasts. The show is known for its commitment to diversity, innovation, and the celebration of new talent, providing a runway that highlights the creativity and vision of designers who might otherwise go unseen.

Over the years, Emerge! has become a springboard for many designers, offering them not only exposure but also the resources and connections necessary to advance their careers. The event has grown in scale and reputation, becoming a key fixture during New York Fashion Week and expanding its reach to include international showcases like Emerge! London & Emerge! Miami. By honoring industry icons and trailblazers, the show also underscores its dedication to recognizing those who have paved the way for the next generation of fashion leaders. Emerge! continues to be a beacon of opportunity, driving the future of fashion by empowering emerging designers to make their mark on the global stage.

BUSINESS OF BEAUTY Award



Danessa Myricks is a makeup artist, photographer, entrepreneur, and educator, and one of the beauty industry's most influential innovators. Over a 25-plus year career, she has redefined how beauty products are created, trained generations of artists worldwide, and helped shape the future of the industry through groundbreaking innovation.

Myricks began creating products in her home basement to fill a void she saw in beauty, later shaping collections for some of the industry's most beloved brands and generating more than \$1 billion in retail sales. In 2015, she launched Danessa Myricks Beauty — a brand built on innovation, artistry, and inclusivity, born from the gaps in shade range and representation she witnessed firsthand.

Known as the "Willy Wonka of Beauty," Myricks has earned more than 110 accolades, including nine Allure Best of Beauty awards, a spot on Fast Company's Most Innovative Companies list, and two appearances on WWD's Most Powerful Beauty Brands list. As CEO, she leads with a mission to build confidence through beauty, powering a global community rooted in love, creativity, and diversity.

**DANESSA
MYRICKS**
FOUNDER & CEO
DANESSA MYRICKS BEAUTY

STYLE Award



Eva Marcille is an award-winning actress, model, entrepreneur and television personality who first captured national attention as the winner of America's Next Top Model, earning a coveted COVERGIRL contract and launching a successful career in fashion and entertainment.

As an actress, Marcille has appeared in Everybody Hates Chris, House of Payne, Smallville and The Young and the Restless, earning two NAACP Image Awards. She currently stars in the hit BET+ series All the Queen's Men, now in its fifth season, and has expanded her work behind the camera as a producer.

Marcille has also co-hosted the nationally syndicated Rickey Smiley Morning Show, contributed to its two Marconi Award wins during her tenure, and hosted The Undressing Room podcast.

Beyond entertainment, Eva is committed to giving back and currently serves on the board of Meals on Wheels Atlanta. A proud mother of three, she continues to build a career defined by style, versatility and longevity across fashion, television and entertainment.

**EVA
MARCILLE**
ACTRESS & MODEL

FASHION INNOVATOR *Award*



HONORING
CHAKA KHAN

FASHION INNOVATOR AWARD
HONOREE

aakofii

While studying electrical engineering at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee aakofii discovered the art of metal-smithing. inspired by friends, family and loving spirits 'aakofii THE DESIGNER' was born.

aakofii's bold, handcrafted designs have been showcased at the Smithsonian Museum, various art galleries, department stores, and specialty boutiques. She opened her first flagship store at Phipps Plaza in Atlanta, alongside luxury brands including Tiffany & Co., Versace, Saks, and Gucci.

Her designs are fabricated using precious metals, gemstones, leather, and an array of upcycled materials. Over the years, aakofii has adorned women around the world, with clients including Anita Baker, Chaka Khan, Cindy Wilson, Floetry, Rashan Ali, Kelly Price, Alfre Woodard, Sheree Whitfield, George Clinton, Tink, Serayah, and Vanessa Williams.

Her work has also made its way to the screen, appearing in STARZ's hit series P-Valley, BET's Kingdom Business, and CBS's The Neighborhood.

After years of creating and fabricating wearable art, Aakofii was commissioned to provide handcrafted jewelry for 44 Belk department stores. Creating thousands of pieces in her studio became a turning point in her career. The experience proved that an artisan could manufacture on a large scale while maintaining a small studio practice.

After successfully completing the Belk order, Aakofii turned her attention to leather fashion design. Her signature designs are created to snatch the waist, accentuate the breasts, and add sex appeal to any basic outfit.

And now, on the horizon: a funky line of one-of-a-kind, handcrafted shoes.



Born in France to Lebanese-Guinean and Tunisian parents, it was natural for self-taught designer Sonia Yaba to pay tribute to her diverse roots. Each piece she creates is an ode to the beauty of cultural diversity — offering a vibrant palette, a taste for elsewhere, and a true invitation to travel.

The designer chose to name her brand LOU AYMÉ, a name that evokes love in French, so that each garment reflects a sense of lightness and a true "joie de vivre". Since its launch in 2024, LOU AYMÉ has been dedicated to those who express their individuality with confidence, through a colorful and consciously crafted wardrobe.



SONIA YABA



THE
LEATHER
DESIGNER





MATTHEW
JOSEPH



MJ
MATTHEW JOSEPH

Matthew Williams is the founder and Creative Director of Matthew Joseph, a luxury fashion house focused on couture craftsmanship, innovative construction, and emotional storytelling.

Originally from the South Side of Chicago and now based in New York City, Williams has built a reputation for creating garments that challenge convention while celebrating individuality, confidence, and self-expression.

A graduate of Kent State University's Fashion Design program, Williams further refined his skills studying couture draping and patternmaking in Paris. His work has been featured on the Tamron Hall Show and showcased at Los Angeles Fashion Week and London Fashion Week.

Throughout his career, he has designed custom pieces for artists and cultural figures including Toni Braxton, Durand Bernarr, and Stevie Wonder.

Known for his meticulous attention to detail and strong technical foundation, Williams approaches fashion as both an art form and a vehicle for storytelling. Through Matthew Joseph, he is committed to pushing fashion forward by creating garments that challenge traditional ideas of menswear and womenswear while empowering people to take up space unapologetically.



ILBERT J.
SANCHEZ
+
OCTOBER
LONDON



Saint London | FEDÚ

Saint London is a made-to-measure fashion collaboration between luxury atelier FEDÚ, founded by designer Ilbert J. Sanchez, and Grammy Award-winning Death Row Records recording artist and entrepreneur October London. Born from a shared commitment to craft, excellence, and cultural resonance, Saint London represents the meeting point of bespoke tailoring and soulful artistry — two creative philosophies united by a singular standard: that the finest things are not purchased, but commissioned.

Every piece in the Saint London collection is made to measure — designed for the individual, built for the moment, and worn with intention. It is fashion that celebrates the person before it celebrates itself.

The Saint London x FEDÚ collection makes its official runway debut as part of Emerge! Fashion Runway's 15th Year Celebration — marking not only the launch of a landmark collaboration, but the 10th anniversary of FEDÚ and a defining chapter in October London's creative legacy.

Excellence in every thread.



KARL KANI

Known as the "Godfather of Streetwear," Karl Kani (born Carl Williams) built one of the most influential names in fashion history at the intersection of hip-hop and style. Kani founded his label in 1989, arriving in Los Angeles determined to bring the energy of Brooklyn street culture to the runway. He pioneered baggy jeans tailored for urban audiences, a design innovation that redefined streetwear. His designs became a staple for hip-hop icons including Tupac Shakur, The Notorious B.I.G., Dr. Dre, and Snoop Dogg, cementing streetwear as a lifestyle rather than just fashion.

Over a three-decade career, Kani has reshaped the fashion industry, earning recognition from major publications, a Lifetime Achievement Award, and global sales reaching nearly half a billion dollars. More than three decades after arriving in L.A. with just \$1,000 and a pocketful of dreams, he remains a defining voice in global fashion. Today, Karl Kani continues to influence a new generation of designers, proving that authenticity born on the streets can build a lasting global brand.



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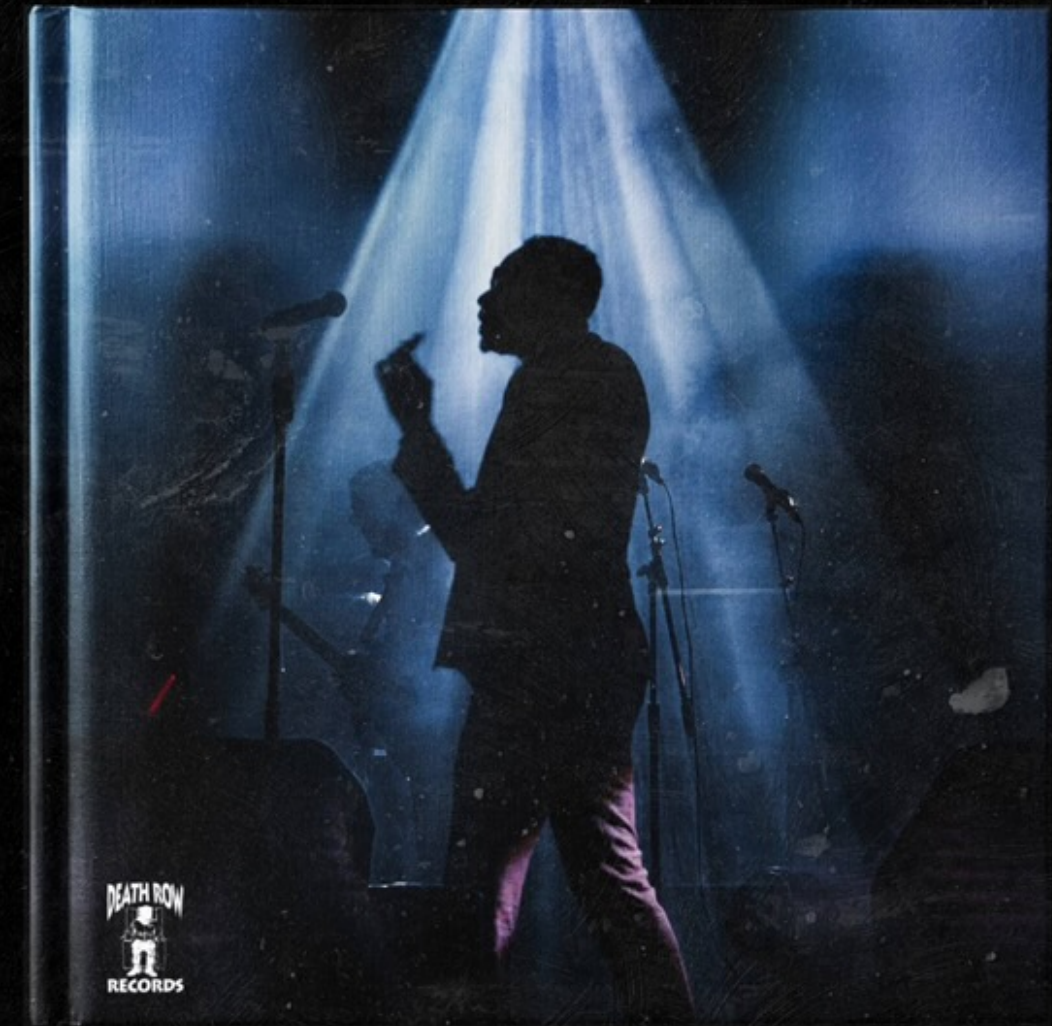
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