

American Designer in Paris Adds Spunk to Fall shows

by Jill Gerston

Knight-Ridder News Service

PARIS—A young American designer from Vicksburg, Miss., and a French couturier whose name is synonymous with Parisian chic gave a rousing finish to the fall ready-to-wear shows that ended here recently.

Patrick Kelly, whose clothes are young and spunky, and Yves Saint Laurent, whose clothes are calm and elegant, put the fizz back into the collections, which until Wednesday had been rather ho-hum.

To send the tired, wet — it has rained here continually — fashion troops home on a happy note, Kelly let loose a shower of red tissue hearts on the runway in the finale of his happy, sassy show, which was held in a rock theatre in the city's Pigalle section.

The confetti hearts were a fitting touch for a fall collection whose theme was "More Love."

Kelly, whose signature button-and-bow-trimmed dresses put him on the map, is now backed by Warnaco Inc., the U.S. manufacturing giant. Fans who worried that the corporate alliance would blunt Kelly's colorful, zippy style will be delighted to know that he is in top form.

His fall collection, which is saturated in black and red, is filled with snug little jersey tube dresses, skimpy suits and a truckload of au courant accessories, including ostrich boas and bow-trimmed suede boots.

Everything is very short — hemlines hover several inches above the knee — and for those of you who think that the mini craze is over, think again. Kelly's short skirts look terrific.

His signature body-hugging tube dresses are festooned with bright taffeta bows or his new buttons — plastic hearts with little rhinestone centers. For variation, the jerseys are decorated with marble-size pearls or bright billiard balls racked up across the front.

A series of tweedy plaid suits, with cropped cardigans or little motorcycle-style jackets, is a send-up of the famed Chanel classics. They're gussied up with buttons rimmed with gold chains and lots of button-and-chain jewelry.

Evening clothes run the gamut from sleek black velvet suits embroidered with



FINAL TOUCH—Kelly assists model with wedding ensemble.

silver nails (and worn, naturally, with dangly nail earrings) to bright satin dresses overlaid with re-embroidered black lace. A cropped black-lace top, paired with high-waisted black satin pants, is Kelly at his most elegant.

Before Kelly's show, Saint Laurent unveiled his fall ready-to-wear collection under a tent in the Louvre that reverberated with applause five minutes after the show got under way.

Even with the first few models striding down the runway in the designer's superbly cut jackets and trousers and his thick, substantial coats, the audience knew that the magic was back in his collection.

After an unfortunate flirtation with harlequin outfits and tulle tutus last spring, Saint Laurent has returned to the calm, elegant classics that his fans collect by the season.

For day, he sticks to slim, above-the-knee skirts or perfectly proportioned pants — no wide, flowing numbers in this house — topped by neatly tailored jackets. Regardless of whether the jackets graze the rib cage or reach the hips, they aren't the snug, suck-in-your-stomach styles that dominated other collections.

Saint Laurent's favorite jacket is divided into large, colorful triangles bordered in black, resembling a stained-glass window. For day, the jackets are shown in wool, while the evening ones are

more elaborate, in satin and velvet touched with sequins.

There are lots of suede suits, often with whipcord trim, as well as long, flowing capes and shawls. Colors are dark and serious — lots of gray, camel, black and brown, with some flashes of yellow and violet.

Although there was lots to like in the show, a series of Saint Laurent's signature "le smoking" numbers, which he has been doing for more than 20 years, is a knockout. These simple, impeccably tailored little black suits, with satin lapels and jet buttons, are guaranteed to steal the spotlight from a roomful of glitzy production numbers.

In fact, Saint Laurent's evening clothes tend to be very subdued, especially a series of floor-length jersey capes worn over long jersey skirts and silk blouses, all in shades of beige and cream. His dressier items run to taffeta puffs or filmy chiffon trousers topped by sexy corset tops in velvet or lace.

Comtesse Jacqueline de Ribes also made a stunning contribution to the evening scene with a sinuous black velvet and organza gown inset with a strategically placed panel across the front. Her slinky black velvet gown with a sheer black lace back is another knockout.

For day, de Ribes shows short, snappy knits, the prettiest being a group of blouson sweater dresses in candy mint shades of pink and blue.

What's That You Say? . . . Las Vegas Area Hearing Screening Test By Telephone!

Las Vegas area residents are learning about the importance of hearing health awareness thanks to a free local telephone hearing screening test.

By calling 735-HEAR, callers are able to test their own hearing from the privacy of their home. "Dial A Hearing Screening Test" (DAHST), sponsored by a local hearing specialist, is a brief recording which introduces four technically tested tones for each ear. The message also provides valuable information about medical problems associated with hearing loss.

"We hope the community has benefited from our efforts to educate about the dangers of noise on hearing," said Barry D. Finlay,

Her novel solution to the hemline controversy was a slim, calf-length skirt with two provocative slits running up the back. It's the sort of elegant peek-a-boo look that men adore.

HOMECLUB INC. SPONSORS FREE PLANT CARE DEMONSTRATION SATURDAY, APRIL 9

In the spirit of spring, HomeClub, Inc., one of the West Coast's leading discount home improvement chains, announces their free home improvement program with a continuous demonstration on plant care for all do-it-yourselfers on Saturday, April 9 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Many ambitious home improvers are marveling at the warmth of spring and start-
director of the program. "Hearing loss is a graduate process and sometimes goes unnoticed."

For best results, place the call from a quiet room using a quality telephone. For service outside a 40 mile radius of Las Vegas, call the DAHST National Information Center at 1-800-222-EARS, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST or write OHS, PO Box 1880, Media, PA 19063.

By offering the hearing screening test free to the community, Finlay hopes to increase hearing health awareness.

ing new projects. With that in mind, HomeClub is lending a helping hand. This demonstration will include "What Type of Plant Grows Best Under What Conditions and Proper Care of Your Plants" by Bordiers.

Trained HomeClub personnel will be available to assist shoppers. The HomeClub warehouse is located at 1720 East Charleston Blvd, Las Vegas. HomeClub business hours are 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday; 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday.



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