



Show unearths the latest in hair, clothing fashions

*By Franklin Verley
Special to Sentinel-Voice*

Move over Milan. Pass on Paris. Vegas is burning up the catwalk.

The city hosted its First Citywide African-American Hair/Fashion Extravaganza at the Riviera Hotel and Casino on March 15.

The sold-out event was filled with all the fanfare of a Madison Avenue spring launch.

It was promoted by Annual Productions and presented 15 of the premier African-American salons' creations.

The event featured such themes as Isis Salon's Afrocentric sensations and the avant garde creations of

Smooth Operators salon.

"There are no barriers here! It's positive energies that make trends," producer Richard Harvey said.

The catwalk caught fire several times, especially when first-place finishers Ty Hair Tricks salon took center stage.

Their models presented the salon's version of soft-hairtype models who were dressed in dapper suits reminiscent of the crisp James Bond style.

The fantasy competition gave prominence to Tiffany's salon, which took first and third places for the event.

The Dragon Lady, modeled by Shannon Williams, whose blazing colored hair and

headdress created a sexy fantasy stage presence, made the judges take notice.

Local fashion whiz kid designer, 10-year-old Keisha McDaniel, made her presence felt by displaying her Kee Dog line of cool urban colors.

Her reason for coming out: "My desire to express myself in fashion." She credits her mother Joyce McDaniel for inspiring her with the words, "Don't speak about it! Be about it."

Backstage, tension filled the air. Stylists and models rushed to put last minute touches on their creations. Soon, the hubbub was replaced by calm and joy, the audience's applause soothing anxious

egos.

The models' panache and attitude, one male viewer commented, made the catwalk hot. But he did have one question: "Where's Iman?"

New colors like Hawaiian kiwi from Julia's Salon or Guys & Dolls' gold and glitter animal print models brought raves from spectators.

"I loved it! Being out there made it all worthwhile," Geraldine Peoples said.

This event highlighted the multi-styles available to the valley's fashion conscious.

"It's not just braids and twists anymore, you can have what you want," said a stylist from Lola's salon.

*Sentinel-Voice photos by
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and John Broussard*

