



RUNWAY FOR HOPE

2009

By Sophia Jie Jun Ling | Photography by Sophia Jie Jun Ling & Kitty Law

With just over one month to prepare a charity fashion show at Cargo Bar that had over 420 attendees, sure, the team at Party4Poverty were a little apprehensive! (Did I mention it was our first foray into the realms of fashion?) Believe me, if we could have sweat blood, I'm sure we'd all be red.

So let me paint you the portrait. There is the Miss World Australia 2009

Sophie Lavers striking a pose with the elegance of a dancer. There is the group of aching glamorous models frantically shimmying out of dresses and fumbling into tops and jeans. There is the frenetic hype from time poor designers and there are the streaks of white flashing from the media across the dark velvety surrounds of Cargo Bar.

The show certainly rejoiced in diversity. Kylie Hawkes of her eponymous label *Kylie Hawkes*, showcased floaty fabric dresses while Lioness28 designer Wendy Lin celebrated spring with some vibrant flirtatious dresses.

While Amy Lea Taylor dressed her models in the Amy Taylor Collection, a few fun flowing dresses in vivid prints, Emily Fleming of *mackenzie mode* sought structure with dresses of heavy cotton and fine silks decorated with graphic designs, a homage to the Australian landscape and US celebrity culture accompanied by Ellen Bartels' contemporary accessories.

If Anastasia Suyanti's *Waste to Waist & The Dark Carnival* aimed to delight, she more than electrified the night with her mix of cultural influences, royal blue silks and metal grey, a union of Indian saris and classic corset designs a representation of a fused east and west.



**Miss World Australia 2009,
Sophie Lavers**

Her masks oozed dark mystery in the children's playground of superficial fun while De Vere Designs by Nerida De Vere sought to bring the fresh chic of the Spring races with her assortment of hats and fascinators. While Mok Theorem's experimental and unpredictable vision was complimented by teaming tailored blazers with high shine three tone figure hugging dresses, the men were not to be outdone.

Many thanks to the dedicated and devoted team from Party4Poverty and our sponsors, including Bhavan Australia, who in sponsoring us for our event, helped our collaboration with The Abhilasha Project and to make Runway for Hope such a success!

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Serene Aguirre showcased *Nouveau Spring/Summer 2009*, born in the stylist art movement in late 19th century Europe, a menswear collection of blue fluid lines and stylised graphics fused with the contemporary. The Illyrian Jeans collection by Olliver Ranck used brooding blue and faded grey denim jeans as an art canvas, perfectly accompanied by the Van der Sloan *face value* collection, designed by Gregor Wilson, featuring snow white t-shirts with intimate portraits drawn from the well of music and literary inspirations.

Of course by the end of the night, the Runway for Hope crowd was buzzing with raw energy and charged excitement.

But this probably has you thinking.

Perhaps this picture seems like the very last thing that could change the lives of handicapped and underprivileged children in the Rajnandgaon province.



Mok Theorem, closing Runway for Hope



“So, behind the glitz and glamorous exterior we mean serious business. We wanted these children to share in the privileges of education, which we as University of Sydney students value so much.”



It is unusual, isn't it, the exploration of emerging designers *and* the theme of alleviating poverty *together*? But here at Party4Poverty we love to unite the diametrically opposed, after all, our motto is that if university student life

‘is one big party while the other lives in absolute poverty, why not bring the two together and make a difference’?

We're supporting The Abhilasha Project, which means 'hope' in Hindi and we combined their aim of giving hope to the underprivileged children of Rajnandgaon, India with our desire to extend this hope to emerging talent in the cutthroat fashion industry, hence the name, *Runway for Hope*. With the Abhilasha Project's firm belief in education as the catalyst for socio-economic change and progress to ultimately foster the independence of these underprivileged, handicapped children, we felt drawn to collaborate with an organisation that echoed our ideals of change, awareness and commitment to alleviating poverty.

So what can we say? After raising more than \$8 500 on the night, we are proud to announce that we might be able to do just that!