



Vineyard fashion show a fundraiser

Vineyard designer, performing arts company collaborate on fundraising fashion show... with opera

By **CAROLINE HUGHES**

chughes90@gmail.com

July 09, 2010 2:00 AM

It's a fashion fusion of Amelia Earhart and Coco Chanel: windswept hair tucked behind aviator goggles and cap, gently flowing linen jackets topping earth-toned skirts.

That's the intent of Stina Sayre, whose Aug. 12 fashion show, "Runways Merge," will take place on a real runway at Martha's Vineyard Airport and feature aviation-inspired creations.

A designer of high-end clothing, Sayre has a boutique in Vineyard Haven, where she sells her clean, classic looks, geared mainly at a clientele comprising professional women. She also offers custom-made designs to fit any shape and size.

The event is co-organized by Wendy Taucher, artistic director of The Yard Dance Colony of Performing Arts, a Martha's Vineyard-based performing arts center that offers residencies for professional dancers and dance performances. Under Taucher's leadership, The Yard has expanded to include musical, theater and operatic events.

Taucher and Sayre worked together last year to create a fashion show at a restaurant in Oak Bluffs, but decided to expand to a bigger location for this year's fundraising event.

Proceeds from the show will benefit The Yard, based in Chilmark, and the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research. Fox, an actor diagnosed with young-onset Parkinson's disease in 1991, has a house on the Vineyard and is a well-liked member of the community, according to Sayre.

The designer purposefully chose the atypical airport location for the fashion show to better showcase her clothes.

"My clothing have sort of an edge to them," she says. "They are not cute clothing, they are more powerful, I would say. There is an industrial-elegance element to them, to me. So I feel like my clothing needs to be in an industrial space."

Sayre has created a line of aviation-inspired clothing for the show, including crisp blazers and skirts with flowing accents. Models will walk in a traditional fashion show setting with a stage and runway, although the unusual addition of airplanes in the hangar will complete the scene.

Besides the airport location, other nontraditional aspects will transform the show into an edgy experience.

Opera singers who are performing at The Yard in August will lend their voices to the event, singing aviation-themed tunes. The singers hail from world-class opera houses, several from New York City's Metropolitan Opera.

"It was ... because we do these operas that we thought, 'OK, we can ask some of them to be in the fashion show,'" says Taucher.

Similarly, many of the models in the show are professional dancers who perform with The Yard.

Sayre relishes the opportunity to showcase her clothing in a unique way.

"Being a clothing designer, you're an artist ... a fashion show is more of a display of your artwork," she says, as opposed to merely setting the clothing out in her store.

Taucher also appreciates the combination of different art forms in this event.

"Often benefits and galas take on a little life of their own, where you can do things that are really 'entertainment' based on using the artists that you have. ... It's a way of combining our resources for a couple of good causes."

What's Happening

AT the yard

As part of this summer's YardArts! Festival, The Yard is offering new dance, music, theater and opera performances throughout the season. Here is a sampling of the Chilmark company's program:

Today-July 11: "Mouth Wide Open: A Journey Through Hollywood, Hospitals and Holy Hotspots," performed and written by Amy Brenneman.

A one-woman show about Brenneman's own travels and what she learned about herself along the way.

July 16, 18: "Moving Pictures: Bridgman/Packer Dance."

This performance combines dance and strength.

July 17: "Moving Pictures: Lois Greenfield Photography."

A display of her photography and a discussion about the intricacies of snapping a picture of dancers in motion.

July 23-24: "Asking For It," starring Joanna Rush.

Directed by Tony nominee Lynne Taylor-Corbett, a one-woman play about a young, innocent Catholic girl who must adjust to the Big Apple.

July 25: "Dancing Across Borders": a film by Anne Bass.

This documentary travels across the world and follows the story of one boy who has an innate talent for dance.

July 30-Aug. 1: "London's Balletboyz."

This group of eight talented young dancers hails from England.

Aug. 6-8, Aug. 13-15: "The Impresario."

YardArts! Opera presents Mozart's "The Impresario" in a new translation featuring opera singers from all over the world.

Aug. 28-29: "Carson Talks about Love," starring Suzanne Vega.

A music theater piece based on the life of author Carson McCullers ("The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter").

Sept. 3-6: "Walking With Pearl," performed by the Urban Bush Women Company.

A dance performance created by Jawole Willa Jo Zollar based on the diaries of famed choreographer-anthropologist Pearl Primus.

Full schedule, tickets and information: www.dancetheyard.org

Copyright © Cape Cod Media Group, a division of Ottaway Newspapers, Inc. All Rights Reserved.