



scene and herd

## Seaplane's smooth takeoff

Long before models carrying hot lunch trays and passing notes cavorted down the runway in *Birds of Prey*'s vibrant, bottom-baring numbers, it was clear that last weekend's Seaplane fashion was going to be more spectacular than the average local clothes-and-catwalk affair.

For one, the venue — a cathedral-like warehouse in Southeast Portland — was packed with enthusiastic onlookers from all factions of Portland's hipsters by 8 p.m. Painstaking planning, attention to detail and style were evident in everything from the tickets

(complete with a pair of metal scissors provided to cut out the program's paper doll and garments representing the designers) to the clothes, to the well-paced show itself.

Stunning models sporting pieces by 15 local designers, who sell their creations at indie fashion outpost Seaplane, expertly worked the runway to a soundtrack provided by experimental electronic acts Nudge and Strategy. Styles ranged from whimsical to racy, with several echoing the return to pretty, feminine fabrics and styles seen on major runways this spring (claire la faye's satiny corsets and gauzy,

vintage-inspired skirts; Holly Stalder's gossamer ensembles). Others put a fresh spin on sportswear (Adam Arnold's football-worthy shoulder pads, stretch uniform pants and mud splatters; Liza Rietz's reinvented royal down vest paired with a snug, bubble-gum-pink skirt). But beyond showcasing local designers' work, the show signaled that Portland's fashion community has reached a point where the execution of concepts is on par with the ideas themselves. One can only imagine what they have in mind for fall.

— Liz Brown  
Special to *The Oregonian*



PHOTOS BY TIM LABARGE/SPECIAL TO THE OREGONIAN

TOP: Model Kristy Muniz gets her makeup done before the start of the Seaplane Fashion Show.

BOTTOM: Models work the Seaplane runway before a packed house.