

6. TROVATA

It's not good when the soundtrack outshines the clothes. The audience was so busy watching Perry Farrell sing onstage at the Brazilian-themed show/party that they mostly missed the small collection of white super-mini dresses, shorts and skirts coming down the runway. The women's collection was remarkably safe, a preppier version of the white outfits the capoeira dancers were wearing. Minus the still-inventive backstory (this time an aristocratic family searches for a lost cocker spaniel), the former collective's remaining member, John Whitledge, has yet to live up to its past work.

KENYA HUNT

7. ERIN FETHERSTON

Fetherston's still in her fairyland, with doe-like models in white mascara. But overall, she widened her range with sophisticated, womanly clothes without making them matronly. Working women will love the gray silk sleeveless double-breasted shirt and matching shorts (and go ga-ga over the mother-of-pearl buttons). Delicate oyster grays suited the long and lean silhouette. Touches of the sea added a mermaid element — coral headbands and large shell clutches added her classic ethereal touch.

MAISIE WILHELM

8. VENA CAVA

These are the girls you hope come to your party to jack up the cool quotient. Bohemian elegance — the casual, unpretentious kind — coursed through the colorful and eclectic Vena Cava presentation, as in a cheeky alphabet print on a flowing silk gown or casual shorts in chartreuse or ultraviolet with luxurious silk blouses.

MAISIE WILHELM

9. JASON WU

Fierce and 1950s-ish, the Wu woman channeled a flirty housewife vibe with sexy takes on belted waists, trench coats, dresses and pencil skirts. Softer poodle skirts were modernized again with hand-painted brush strokes fading from black to vibrant yellow. Pleating and draping were well executed throughout, but feathered tulle was less successful covering an entire gown. It recalled desert army camp netting.

MAISIE WILHELM



At Rag & Bone, **Selita Ebanks**, in a pleated Zara top and Dolce & Gabbana skirt said she "loved Alexandre Herchcovitch's tuxedo dresses," while **Nick Cannon**, in an Armani suit and Ralph Lauren Purple Label shirt, said he preferred "the stilettos." How does the couple fight off Fashion Week fatigue? "We had McDonald's Egg McMuffins for breakfast!"

What the retail experts say

**STEPHANIE SOLOMON, FASHION DIRECTOR, BLOOMINGDALE'S**

"BCBG did an organza trench coat, which was lovely. I also liked the modern safari suits with beaded trim. It was very elegant, very jet set. And I loved the maxi dresses and little printed shirtdress at Abaete."



**ANN WATSON, VICE PRESIDENT AND FASHION DIRECTOR, HENRI BENDEL**

"Color will be big for spring. Items like Y&Kei's yellow trench and hot pink shift dress and Yigal Azrouël's gold sequin pencil skirt will be big sellers."



**TOM JULIAN, DIRECTOR OF TRENDS, McCANN ERICKSON**

"The dresses at BCBG were ladylike done right. The pockets on the skirts and dresses and waist-cinching leather belts and satin sashes are a hit."



Our panel of buyers and consultants predict which items you'll be buying in stores

People and parties

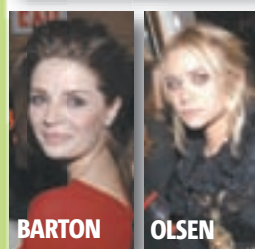


ELBAZ AND MOORE

Bling was the word of the night as a throng of guests including **DEMI MOORE, ASHLEY OLSEN, MISCHA BARTON AND EVE** kicked off Fashion Week decked out in massive jewels at the Van Cleef & Arpels bash celebrating the brand's new collection. Celebrity stylist **RACHEL ZOE**, fingering her large gold and diamond necklace, gushed, "This is vintage Van Cleef. I want to sleep with this." In addition to



PIVEN & SPRINGSTEEN



BARTON OLSEN

precious stones, Paris was on the mind of guests like **ALBER ELBAZ** of Lanvin and **KATE AND LAURA MULLEAVY** of Rodarte. Co-host **SARAH MICHELLE GELLAR** said Paris may be for lovers, but her last trip there was with girlfriends. "We went shopping and drank champagne, and I discovered Serge Lutens perfumes." Meanwhile, farther uptown, **JEREMY PIVEN, BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN** and **TOM FORD** celebrated **MARILYN MINTER** and her new monograph at the Tom Ford store.

MAISIE WILHELM

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