

## Siriano champions 10 years of diversity on NY runway

12 February 2018

Christian Siriano, a plus-size diversity advocate and red carpet designer who has dressed leading Hollywood ladies and Michelle Obama, celebrated 10 years in the business Saturday with a masterclass in the art of dressing women of all shapes and colors.



Ashley

*Graham in a faux fur coat from Siriano - AFP*

Actresses Whoopi Goldberg and Meg Ryan sat in the front row for a fall/winter 2018 collection that showcased diversity in all shapes, sizes and colors under a theme dubbed the "ultimate royal dinner party."

Men, women and trans models walked the red carpeted runway at the hallowed environs of New York's Masonic Hall for the London-trained designer's collection inspired by late 18th century British art.

Curve poster model Ashley Graham opened the show dressed in a floor length red faux fur coat. Trans model Evie Acosta also walked.

There was plenty of black -- Siriano dressed 10 women for the Golden Globe awards when Hollywood wore black to protest sexual harassment in the workplace -- and plenty of bright red.

There were hints of leopard print and male models in iridescent shorts and blazers. Red, yellow and blue dresses shimmered and sparkled.

"We've been dressing women of shape since day one," Siriano told US media, in an interview ahead of his show.

"Some of my early red carpet moments were Whoopi and Oprah (Winfrey), and we were always getting requests for all these different types of people."

He says his client base is global, with a "huge" business in the Middle East and a lot of Orthodox Jewish customers, and spoke of the importance of representing those with clothing restrictions as well.

Siriano, who studied under Vivienne Westwood and the late Alexander McQueen, has also championed cross-gender dressing "to show that it really doesn't matter if you're shopping men's or women's anymore.

"It should just matter if you like your outfit... clothes and fashion shows and all of that, it isn't such a serious thing. Getting dressed should be a fun thing in the morning."

Alexander Wang, the wunderkid whose fashions effortlessly embody downtown New York cool and off-duty supermodels, is still to come on day three of Fashion Week -- his swansong before going off piste and choosing to show in June-December outside the traditional calendar.

His departure follows the exit of top talent such as Proenza Schouler and Rodarte for couture week in Paris on the same schedule and there is widespread speculation that the new timetable could catch on.

"Why do something that's not working?" Stephanie Horton, chief strategy officer at Alexander Wang told a recent industry event. "The business model needs to change because the consumer has changed."

German-born fashion bad boy Philipp Plein is throwing the mother of all parties at the Duggal Greenhouse in the Brooklyn Naval Yard -- an enormous venue

favoured in the past by the likes of Lady Gaga and Hillary Clinton -- for his own late-night show Saturday.

*Copyright © 2018 AFP-Relaxnews. All rights reserved.*