

Our Fashions

Bristol teen walks the runway at NY fashion week

By MIKE CHAIKEN
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In the front of the Metropolitan Pavilion on 18th Street in New York last Wednesday, the photographers and videographers were lining up their equipment on the risers.

The public relations staff, all dressed in black, were labeling the chairs, figuring out who got front row status and who would all line up behind them.

The scene makers, fashionistas, and celebrities were stepping in to the space, waiting to be seen and photographed.

It was the night of the big Indashio fashion show during fashion week. The flamboyant designer and stylist was set to unveil his Fall 2011 collection.

And backstage, a Bristol teen was getting ready to make her debut on the New York Fashion Week catwalk.

Marisa Barnard, 18, was recently selected ELLEGirl New Faces Model Search finalist.

Mindy DiCrosta, CEO of Cynamin Olive Productions and co founder of ELLEGirl Model Search said the program "is so much more than just a model search. It was designed to empower and inspire young women to be all they can be in any career and in life. It's girls like Marissa who have an excellent work ethic and are truly beautiful inside and out that make this such a pleasure."

As part of her prize for reaching the finals, Marisa was given the chance to walk in the Indashio show, which featured celebrity appearances from Olympics swimmer Johnny Weir and reality television star (and ex-member of Danity Kane) Aubrey O'Brien. Marisa also met with the designer and agents, and received tips from a runway coach.

Backstage, Marisa was immersed in the process of getting ready for a New York Fashion show. She sat as make-up artists and hair stylists prepped her and transformed her.

If you weren't told Marisa was an ELLEGirl New Faces winner, you wouldn't have been able to tell she was any different from the rest of the talent back stage.

"It was amazing," said Marisa of the experience in the Indashio show. "It's hard to believe that my dream of walking down the runway during fashion

week actually came true."

Being a part of the experience last Wednesday gave the teen some perspective about the industry. "I did not realize all of the hard work and preparation that goes into having a fashion show. I certainly respect all who helped Indashio's show be a huge success."

As part of her day in NYC, Marisa was able to sit down with the designer himself. "I had such a great time with Indashio. He was very fun and such a sweet man. Throughout the day, he continuously gave the models tips on how to walk down the runway. He told us to be fierce, show attitude and have fun."

Besides Indashio's advice, Marisa said, the runway coach's tips were "very helpful. This was one of my first fashion shows and walking on the catwalk is extremely different than walking in everyday life. Believe it or not, it's much more complex."

Before she stepped out on the runway, Marisa's biggest concern was tripping. "I was very nervous... (However) when it was my turn to walk the nerves went away and I told myself to just have fun."

The models she met also were helpful, "friendly and outgoing," said Marisa. "They gave me advice on how to walk and what expressions to make on the runway. I definitely made a few new friends."

As part of the day, Marisa also met with a few modeling agents. "I may be signing with a couple of agencies," said Marisa. As part of their advice, Marisa said, "They let me know that this industry is tough. But to never give up. They also told me to stay in school."

As for meeting the celebrities in the show, "I didn't even know that they were in the show until I started getting my hair and make up done. I couldn't believe it. They were all very nice and it was a great experience meeting them."

For more information on the ELLEGirl Model Search go to modelingtherightway.com and look for new 2011 promotions and the new 2011 spokesperson, Disney star Tiffany Thornton from "Sonny with a Chance."



From the top left clockwise, Marisa Barnard of Bristol sits with a makeup artist at the Indashio fashion show in New York last Wednesday; Marisa walks the runway and pauses for the fashion press; Marisa has her hair prepped for the show; Olympic swimmer Johnny Weir, left, designer Indashio, and singer Aubrey O'Brien step up for the finale at the fashion show at the Metropolitan Pavilion.

PHOTOS by MIKE CHAIKEN

