

Jacobs' post-pandemic runway: Parading puffers in patterns

NEW YORK, June 29, (AP) — Theaters are dusting off the cobwebs and coming to life, the streets of midtown Manhattan are bustling, Bruce Springsteen is back on Broadway. And on Monday, the fashion world gathered to join another New York fixture, designer Marc Jacobs, and celebrate a return to live runway shows.

"Through the physicality of this shared experience, I hope to offer a moment of inspiration, curiosity, wonder and possibility," Jacobs wrote in the program notes for his fall collection, an eye-popping parade of op-art-inspired puffers and glistening space-age sequins, held under the grand arches of the main branch of the New York Public Library.

Jacobs, whose inventive shows usually close out New York Fashion Week with a jolt of creative energy, chose not to wait for the next edition, which returns in September; he decided to launch this, his first collection after skipping two seasons during the pandemic, in the heat of a Manhattan summer. On a sweltering evening, he gave fans and passers-by a treat: The show was simultaneously projected onto the facade of Bergdorf Goodman, the luxury department store about 15 blocks up Fifth Avenue, where the collection will be sold exclusively.

The clothes themselves were an enticing mix of puffer jackets and coats in undulating stripes of black and white, some swishing along the floor like glamorous ballgowns on a ski slope — and huge, bright round sequins emblazoned on long dresses and skirts, sometimes with pants underneath. It felt like winter wonderland meets glitzy red carpet, with a refueling stop in another galaxy.

The models, who included Gigi Hadid and Kaia Gerber, often wore knit hoods or caps with brims, with braids coming out the back. And

they wore chunky black platform shoes, one of which fell off its owner early in the show. (A resourceful model finally gave it a healthy kick to the side of the runway.)

The puffer theme got wildly inventive, with puffer collars to wrap around the neck (and reach up to the ear), or puffer stoles to wrap around the shoulders. The show closed with a series of brightly colored garments in orange, pink, purple or sunshine yellow. One could imagine they were a nod to the designer's mood: His program notes began with the word "Happiness."

Uncertainty

"On the journey back to doing what we love most, in the wake of immeasurable loss, loneliness, fear, anxiety and uncertainty, I am reminded of why creativity is so vital to our existence, to life," Jacobs wrote.

He explained that his company's decision to skip the pandemic seasons, when many labels featured digital presentations, "allowed us to slow down, reflect, ruminate, reevaluate, grieve and take a thorough inventory of what works, what doesn't work, what we love, what we are willing to let go of and what has value, importance and meaning." What does work, Jacobs made clear, is in-person shows. "While the world continues to change with unimaginable speed, my love for fashion, the desire to create and share collections through this delivery system — the runway — endures," he wrote.

Some of the outfits were so unabashedly voluminous, they brushed against the feet of the spectators — a vital sign if any that this was real, and not a digital presentation.

Also:

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.: Disney Cruise Line is postponing its first test cruise since the pandemic brought the cruise industry to a standstill after a handful of participants had inconsistent test results for COVID-19, the company said Monday.

The Disney Dream had been scheduled to set sail Tuesday from **Port Canaveral, Florida**, with 300 employees who had volunteered for the "simulation" cruise. But the trip was postponed until next month, pending approvals, because a small number of employees had inconsistent results for COVID-19, "which is considered positive by the CDC," Disney said in a statement.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC, had approved the cruise line's request to conduct a two-night test cruise.

The federal government is starting to allow cruises to sail again, but only if nearly all passengers and crew are vaccinated against the virus. Republican Florida Gov. **Ron DeSantis** signed a bill banning business from requiring proof of vaccination, so cruise lines must prove the effectiveness of their COVID-19 safety protocols on test cruises.

Last weekend, Celebrity Edge departed **Fort Lauderdale, Florida**, becoming the first cruise ship to leave a US port in 15 months. Saturday's sailing kicked off the cruise lines' return to business with Carnival vessels already scheduled to depart from other ports next month.

Celebrity Cruises, one of Royal Caribbean Cruise's brands, said 99% of the passengers were vaccinated, well over the 95% requirement imposed by the CDC.

Events

Variety



This image released by Netflix shows Iliza Shlesinger, (from left), Margaret Cho and Kimia Behpoornia in a scene from 'Good On Paper.' (AP)

Film

"Good on Paper" is personal

Shlesinger becomes a leading lady

By Lindsey Bahr

Even when she's technically off, comedian Iliza Shlesinger is always working.

During quarantine she did a full tour of drive-in stand-up shows, refined a new hour of material, launched an online cooking show with her husband and secured a book deal. And on a recent "down day" in Nashville before presenting at the CMT Awards the next evening, she's not relaxing: She's doing interviews for her new movie, "Good on Paper," which is streaming on Netflix.

"I've just always been very driven," Shlesinger said. "And it was never about being driven in any particular direction other than up."

That means for her, the answer is always yes. To the meeting. To the audition. To the gig. To the tour.

"Have act. Will travel," she laughs. Shlesinger is on a forever quest for the elusive Hollywood "yes" and said everything she's gotten she's either created for herself or has been hard fought. It's not that she hasn't had successes already. In 2008, she became the youngest person ever (and first and only woman) to win NBC's "Last Comic Standing." Since then she's written a book, hosted five Netflix stand-up specials, a Freeform late-night talk show and created and starred in a sketch series in addition to regularly touring.

She also auditions constantly and despite a few breaks in films like "Instant Family," "Spenser Confidential" and "Pieces of a Woman," is no stranger to rejection. (It's just a coincidence that two of them starred Mark Wahlberg.) She is, she likes to say, the queen of the general meeting.

So she didn't take it for granted when she clicked with a producer who wanted to make "Good on Paper," which is her first produced screenplay and

first leading role in a film. The project is as personal as they come: it's based on something that really happened to her.

Years ago, Shlesinger met a guy on a plane. Something seemed a little off, but she fell hard. Then it all started to unravel. She realized he'd been lying about everything from day one, from his college to his job on down. The experience was awful, she said, until she started putting it down on the page.

"It was cathartic, you know? It was a way to make something funny out of something truly horrific," she said. "The screenplay really became a sort of respite. I was constantly auditioning, constantly getting rejected, always on the road, always doing stand-up. I would turn to this screenplay it would always remind me, you're in control of your own destiny as an artist."

Surprise

In 2018 she met producer Paul Bernon and much to her surprise, when he said he wanted to make the movie, he meant it. They enlisted Kimmy Gatewood to direct. She suggested "Veronica Mars" veteran Ryan Hansen for the role of the lying suitor. Shlesinger hadn't heard of him but liked that he wanted to "play a liar and a narcissist."

"A lot of leading men don't," she said. "They want to be Captain America."

Hansen said he was a fan going in, having known her from the stand-up specials. Although he didn't even meet her until the table reads, he quickly realized, "How incredible she really is and what a good writer and actress and standup (she is)."

"She's everything," he said. Shlesinger called on Margaret Cho to be the best friend and then she and Gatewood had a bit of

a free-for-all casting many of their funny friends in other roles. All the parts were just offered. She didn't want to make anyone jump through hoops.

"We really wanted to be generous with this movie. Like, you know your friend is funny, you can trust them with two lines," she said. "I was doing that because nobody ever did that for me. We have a guy who plays the director in the movie who is an actor who is also my favorite bartender at our favorite restaurant in L.A. I knew he was an actor. I thought, why not give it to him?"

And on set she took her role as the top person on the call sheet seriously, wanting to make a happy, fun work environment for everyone. Now, she's just preparing for the world to discover the film.

"This story is actually about an incredibly normal girl who wasn't hurting anyone and didn't need to learn a lesson or be taken down a peg," she said. "I think a lot of women will relate to that."

And she hopes this might be a new chapter in her career.

"I hope people see this movie. I hope people want me to write movies for them. I hope people want me to star in their movies. Everything I do, I do with the intention of opening a door to get to do bigger and better things on my own creative terms," she said. "Sky's the limit. I'll put on a play on Mars, I don't care!"

Over quarantine Shlesinger saw a lot of her peers using the lack of a stage as an opportunity to take a break. She kept working. She wanted to stay sharp.

"I do have a lot of energy naturally, but there are some nights where I'm just like, 'What are you doing? Stay home! Have a pizza, watch 'Frasier' and go to bed.'" she said.

But it's just not her nature. And unsurprisingly on her night off in Nashville she wasn't sitting in the hotel room. She was out finding a stage. (AP)

HANOVER, NH: Dartmouth College is selling its FM radio station, meaning that for the first time since at least 1958 the college will not broadcast on either AM or FM frequencies.

The sale of the school's FM radio show that goes by the name 99Rock on WFRD-FM could take up to a year to complete, the Valley News reported on Saturday.

WFRD-FM had been operating at a loss, Dartmouth spokesperson **Diana Lawrence** told the newspaper, and the school decided that it was not, "fiscally prudent or sustainable to continue to operate the station."

The sale of the FM station will also mean the elimination of the station's one remaining employee.

The Federal Communications Commission first granted Dartmouth a commercial license for its AM frequency in 1958, and that station, WDCR-AM, stopped broadcasting and moved online in 2008. Students will continue to produce radio programming online after the FM station's sale, the college has said.

Proceeds from the sale will support the ongoing work of Dartmouth Broadcasting, which is the student umbrella organization that had overseen both AM and FM stations, the school has said.

Former NBC News correspondent **Bob Hager** was a student who got his start working on WFRD-FM where he remembered broadcasting a Dartmouth basketball game from **Madison Square Garden in New York City**.

"I learned to write and to write fast under deadline," he told the newspaper, crediting the experience with shaping his career.

Dartmouth College is a private Ivy League research university in **Hanover, New Hampshire, United States**. Established in 1769 by **Eliezer Wheelock**, it is the ninth-oldest institution of higher education in the **United States** and one of the nine colonial colleges chartered before the American Revolution. (Agencies)

HILLSBOROUGH, Calif.: Fred Flintstone fought the law — and he won.

Technically, the owner of the fanciful Flintstones house in a posh **San Francisco** suburb settled a lawsuit with the town of Hillsborough. But the agreement will allow Fred and his friends to remain.

In a yabba dabba dispute that pitted property rights against

government rules that played out in international media, retired publishing mogul **Florence Fang** defended her colorful, bulbous-shaped house and its elaborate homage to "The Flintstones" family, featuring Stone Age sculptures inspired by the 1960s cartoon, along with aliens and other oddities.

The town, however, called the



Hager



Fang

towering dinosaurs and life-size sculptures "a highly visible eyesore" and sued Fang, alleging she violated local codes when she put dinosaur sculptures in the backyard and made other landscaping changes that caused local officials to declare it a public nuisance.

An attorney for the town previously said residents are required to

get a permit before installing such sculptures, regardless of the theme.

Hillsborough went to court in 2019 after Fang failed to comply with multiple stop-work orders, as well as an order to remove the features around the multimillion-dollar property with its 2,730-square-foot (254-square-meter) home.

Fang counter-sued. The Daily Post

in **Palo Alto** first reported news of the settlement on Thursday.

Mark Hudak, an attorney for Hillsborough, previously said the town prides itself on its rural, woody feel, and rules are in place "so neighbors don't have to look at your version of what you would like to have, and you don't have to look at theirs." (AP)