

Fashion Under the Flatirons brought out Boulder's style

A night of glamour

By **Marian Rothschild** For the Camera
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A packed house at Boulder Theater was dressed to the nines last week for Fashion Under the Flatirons. As the lights dimmed, electronic music pounded out a beat, and beautiful models paraded the catwalk in gorgeous spring fashions. Right here in Boulder, Colorado! Finally, fashion has come to stay.

Downtown Boulder, a non-profit organization, produced the event as a fund-raiser for Impact on Education, and about a thousand fashion-minded folks came out to support the cause. Wardrobe, shoes, bags, and jewelry from over twenty independently-owned boutiques were worn by both professional models and local volunteers. New spring style was the theme, and the audience was treated to colors, trends, glitter, and glamour.

Before the catwalk was lit, VIP attendees were treated to sushi from Japango, wine, chair massages, and refreshed hairstyles by accommodating stylists from 1313 A Salon and Colors, both local hair salons. "It's wonderful" beamed attendee Linda Mathews, who had just enjoyed a chair massage with her daughter Brittni. "We're here to support Impact on Education and have a fun night."

Stand-out fashions on the runway included a **long, cobalt blue dress with criss-cross bands at the waist** and cut out slits at the side, from Violette, also available in lime green and black, by Jazz and Josh. Holiday and Co. showed a stunning **green tiered knee-length dress with ruffles at the bustline**, by Max and Cleo for BCBG. Barbara and Co. featured a teal blue jacket and brown harem pants both by Aventures de Toiles.

There were even children's fashions modeled by tiny Joe and Gabby Brienza, five and three years old, much to the delight of the moms in the audience. The wee ones wore clothes from Real Baby; a long pink tutu on Gabby, and blue checked fedora, Capri pants, and black lace-up high top sneakers on little Joe.

Other notables were a shiny gold jacket from Morning Star Boutique, shoes, handbags and accessories from Two Sole sisters, and an animal skin print snowboarding jacket from Outdoor Divas. Penny Weights Jewelers, J. Albrecht Designs, and Hurdle's Jewelry showed stunning bling to accessorize whatever you're wearing this season.

Here are some additional spring trends that were shown: bold, bright colors of aqua, coral, plum, and chartreuse, flirty and feminine dresses accentuating the hour-glass figure, floor-length cotton sundresses, multi strand necklaces, and creative accessories like bold sunglasses, platform shoes, and colorful leather bags.

Especially popular was World Cup Freestyle Champion skier **Jeremy Bloom** as master of ceremonies. Bloom was charming, handsome, informative, and entertaining.

A local hero, Bloom attended and played football at CU before skiing in the 2006 Olympics, and then was drafted into the NFL. Nowadays, Bloom lives in Denver, is a sports commentator, and has his own foundation, Wish of a Lifetime, (seniorwish.org) which benefits low-income seniors by granting their lifetime wishes.

"This wonderful generation often times goes un-thanked and un-thought about. This year we'll grant 250 wishes like taking a group of WWII vets on a trip to Washington" Bloom explained. The crowd of both men and women around him after the show was testament to his charm and popularity.

In a town saturated with a focus on health, education, and environment, this first annual fashion event proved to be a welcome change of pace. One young woman, Maggie McInnes, put it this way; "Everybody looks good here tonight, that's the truth. I haven't been around a lot of people in Boulder who look so put-together. Everybody here has style."

Marian Rothschild is a Personal Stylist and Wardrobe Consultant with Look Good Now. Visit marianrothschild.com and contact her at 720 933-9247 or marian@marianrothschild.com.

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