



JESSICA VITULLO/VAUGHAN TODAY  
Students from Haute Couture presented a runway show in July.

# Runway reveals talent

BY JESSICA VITULLO

The sewing kits closed, the paintbrushes were put away, and the show went on.

On July 14, the Haute Couture School of Fashion, Arts and Design held its 5th Annual Runway 2010: Masquerade gala. Students at the school worked throughout the year to create pieces of artwork and clothing to be showcased at Le Jardin.

Easels displaying artwork students made in their classes were placed in the hall and foyer.

Throughout dinner, Haute Couture teachers took to the stage to hand out awards in garment construction, art and pattern making. After dinner, students ran backstage to change into their clothing creations for the runway part of the show.

School founder and creative director Joanne Dice said the gala was a great opportunity for her students to show off their talent, especially when walking down the runway.

"They model everything they make," she said. "It's empowering for women because people are not judging them.

"It started with casual wear, went into more dressy, elegant office wear, casual evenings, and evening wear," Dice said.

The nearly 45 models walked down the runway all smiles as photographers snapped photos.

Sadly, the show was Ellisha Moses' first and last.

"It was kind of a bittersweet occasion," she said.

Moses took corsetry, blouse and draping classes, which teach students the proper way of making a garment and how to work with different material. She modeled several of her own designs and took home an award.

Moses said Dice got her to the next step in the industry: being

accepted to Ryerson's fashion program.

"I couldn't believe I actually got in," she said. "I couldn't have done it without Joanne's school and her personal help."

Danielle Manza wasn't new to the fashion show circuit. She was enrolled in three classes at the school this year alone.

"This year was my third show with the school and I was overly excited," she said. "I began taking classes in 2007 when I was in grade 9 and have loved it ever since."

Manza said the fashion show is a great opportunity for students to take pride in their accomplishments, especially because it involves a lot of hard work.

"I worked on a corset with a matching floor-length evening skirt and a knee-length semiformal dress," she said. "I also made a casual chiffon skirt on my own time and modeled it in the show."

This was also Serena Giancola's third show.

Giancola also had two of her pieces displayed, one of which was 3-D art.

"You use random objects to create a picture and I used forks in mine," she said. "For the fashion pieces, I showed a corset with a huge overskirt, a mini skirt, plaid dress and a shirt."

It was a thrilling night for everyone, said Dice.

"It's a very exciting thing that we do," she said. "I don't know who inspires who because they inspire me." 

