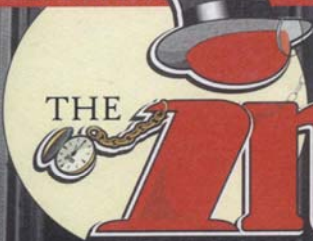


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Color Me Neutral

At Fashion Week LA, Pastels Rule

Editor's note: In this episode, our intrepid fashion designer/writer Esther Nash heads west for Fashion Week 2006 in Los Angeles. As always, she finds that getting there is half the fun.

THE DRAMA: Everything seemed perfect; the weather was good, check in was fast, and our plane left on time. Then the babies (three total) started crying and did not stop until seven hours later. Someone became deathly ill and our pilot had to make an emergency landing in Las Vegas so paramedics could rush the passenger to a hospital.

We finally arrived in LA, but our hotel shuttle bus (I can't drive!) was twenty minutes late. Shelly, my photographer, sister and secret weapon, got on the phone non-stop with the hotel until it located our driver. Upon arriving at the hotel, it began to pour rain. We were miserable but determined

Designer: Juan Carlos Obando



to attend the 2BFree fashion show at Paramount Studios with our dates and have a great time.

When we arrived, security said the event was closed. That's when Shelly went NYC on security. She called PR Honcho **Melissa Rappaport**, of Spinshoppe Public Relations, who notified security that they were misinformed. We were escorted into the event, and everything was California sunny thereafter.

THE TRENDS: Neutral colors, luxury fabrics like linen, silk, chiffon and high quality cotton, subtle embellishment, crochet and knit, riding boots, wedges, stilettos, emphasis on a high, small waist, full skirts, pencil skirts, capris and shorts with heels as the new mini-skirt. **Judith Ripka** revealed high-end, pastel-colored, semi-precious bulky bracelets and rings. Chandeliers are still hip, and necklaces that end in your bosom, also, necklaces with wood, silver, coral, jade, and pearl with gold.

The brothers **Cedric** and **Yves Benaroch** of 2BFree are back with a palette of 36 colors and sportswear that can be worn anywhere. **Kevan Hall** displayed a spring season of elegance and red carpet glamour. The designer and the garments are both feminine and lovely. The crocheted looks and Kimono signature dress were sell out pieces.

The **Sephora Smashbox** show was standing room only. Unbelievable make-up artistry, body paint chic looks and Brazilian sounds made for a very "hot" show. **Louis Verdad's** amazing black tie event was a beautiful movement in styles. In the front row were fans like actress **Rachel Leigh Cook** and **Kimberly Stewart** (daughter of Rockin' Rod). **Nick Smith**, the exciting and inviting **Milliner** who proposed to yours truly on bent knee, made an unforgettable debut.

Karanina definitely was the right designer for her front row admirer, the singer Jewel. The look was casual, layered, and loose in neutrals and pastels. **Juan Carlos Obando**, (I love his name!) started with designs in white, then black and ended with fiery red form-fitting dresses for Tango. Save me a dance Juan! **Shay Todd** showed very Hawaiian inspired shades of coral, sandstone, and turquoise beach wear for day and evening. **Pegah Anvarian** relaxed us with Jamaican music and loose fitting relaxed monotone styles. **Ya Ya's** looks were trendy and chic with an edge. **Ghost's** spring looks are light green, crocheted, and layered dresses with a plunge neckline.

— Esther Nash



Designer: Shay Todd

