



COLOUR & MOVEMENT

Designed to celebrate this year's style movements, the Ozdare collection show is the latest to send fashion pulses racing, writes FRANCESCA CARTER.



(ANDREW O'TOOLE)

It was all glitz, glamour and big hair at the Ozdare collection show on Sunday, February 20 as Melbourne's fashionistas and hairdressing elite gathered to view the latest hair trends for this year. Held at Peninsula at Docklands, the runway event

was a unique collaboration between three innovative hair companies – American Crew, Revlon Professional and Kevin.Murphy. Providing a sea of looks in bright colours, each of the companies has a colossal influence in the Australian hair industry.

Renowned Spanish hairstylist Miguel Garcia kicked off the event with a fantastic show featuring two very different collections. Inspired by what Garcia calls the “soft ’80s” and “hard ’80s”, *Irresistible Women* featured long-legged models dressed in elegant pastel-toned dresses. In beautiful shades of auburn and blonde, the models' hair was ultra-feminine and long. This was successfully complemented by red lips, soft lace and pale complexions.

The second collection was a far cry from grace and femininity. Focusing on a much tougher and confident image, the models were dressed in black mini-dresses, lingerie and studded stiletto boots. Their hairstyles were sharp and dynamic, suggesting a more daring look.

Garcia, who was raised and educated in Paris, is the artistic director of Revlon Professional. His love of hair and make-up has led him to create spectacular hair shows for the Milan and Paris Fashion weeks.

“Right now there is a hair evolution taking place,” says Garcia. “Last year's silhouettes were much more loose and there was more interest in showing curves. Now we are leaning towards a more graphic silhouette. The shoulders and neck are important and the hairstyle has to have more balance. You are starting to see it in fashion magazines, a more specific movement to the '80s.”

For the second show, *New Folk*, the models from American Crew burst onto stage with a series of bold looks and distinctive styles. Artistic director Paul Wilson says the show is an edgy collection of raw styles and textures for the curly-haired man. The hairstyles encourage a natural instinct and freedom of movement, using innovative cuts and products to defy gravity and to structure curls.

“Our collection is aimed to help the industry understand men's head shapes and design,” says Wilson. “On one side of the collection we have the anti-barbering look, which is inspired by Bob Dylan, and on the other end of the spectrum there is this idea of new Hollywood. We are seeing men's hair starting to swell. It is highly textured and embraces the curl.”

With more than 20 models in different costumes, *New Folk* was a highly theatrical and colourful event. There were athletes wearing tight briefs and goggles, baseballers in American-themed jerseys and college graduates in preppy suits and square-rimmed glasses.



The big drawcard of the night was saved for last. The 600 spectators were wowed by a dynamic presentation by Kevin Murphy, who revealed his latest inventions in hair. Known for his flamboyance and skill, Murphy has styled a long list of Hollywood clientele and high-end magazines. He made a name for himself in 2003, when he launched his own successful line of haircare and styling products.

“I don’t cut or colour hair,” says Murphy. “All I really do is push hair around for photos.”

In the presentation, Murphy revealed his “apparatus of choice” – a coathanger wrapped in a stocking. After introducing his model, who was dressed in an aqua all-in-one suit, Murphy accentuated the volume of her already gigantic hair. Using the coathanger as a diffuser, her afro was crafted into a more balanced, bubble shape.

“My inspiration for this evening was the ’70s,” says Murphy. “But I didn’t really want to pay homage to the ’70s, I wanted to do something bit more interesting, more theatrical. So I used the ’70s shape but had a one-length bob and a blunt fringe and edge.”

Murphy’s charismatic show featured three key looks inspired by the fur and stripes prevalent in Prada’s spring/summer collection. Punk androgyny, striking ice-cream cone “up-dos” and a revival of the ’70s rainbow colour palette made up the underlying tones of this eclectic runway collection.

The event was attended by leading players in the Australian hairdressing industry, including Joey Scandizzo, James Razos, Caterina DiBiase and Stavros Tavrou, all eager to be among the first to witness the upcoming trends from the hair masters themselves. \

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