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FINAL SAY: Frenetic Fashion

Back-to-back shows, exclusive after-parties, off-duty models everywhere you look—there's a certain energy in the air during New York Fashion Week. **Suzanne Rogers** recounts her experience at Zac Posen's latest runway presentation.

A gust of frigid February air greeted me as I emerged from the warmth and comfort of my car and onto New York's East 42nd Street. The instant my heels touched the concrete, I could feel the excitement in the air. The who's who of fashion were flocking in droves to Grand Central Station's historic Vanderbilt Hall, all to show support for Zac Posen, my friend and also one of my favourite designers. Guests sauntered into the magnificent venue; sweeping ceilings dotted with antique chandeliers, stone pillars with ornate detailing and taupe marble floors had been transformed into an intimate runway venue. Antique wooden chairs topped with cream-coloured cushions lined the catwalk. Invitation in hand, I located my seat amidst the buzzing room.

Rihanna looked phenomenal as she arrived in a body-hugging burgundy Zac Posen dress paired with strappy sandals and took her place front row. Katie Holmes sat a few seats away, hair pulled back, wearing a black scoop-neck dress and coral-painted lips. Also spotted front row were Mary J. Blige, Lee Daniels, Christina Hendricks and (the pregnant and glowing) Coco Rocha.

From the street style to the models to the lineups of limos, there is an indescribable energy at every fashion week, no matter which city, season or designer. Fully packed schedules guide industry insiders from one runway to the next, and showroom appointments followed by exclusive after-parties cap off the whirlwind days.

Once everyone at Vanderbilt Hall was in place, the lights were dimmed, the music turned up, and the show began.

Zac's fall 2015 presentation began with an expertly crafted combination of

tailored-yet-sleek daytime silhouettes. Jackets, pants and skirts were complemented with sunglasses and mink neck scarves—his signature touch. The young designer, known for his princess-worthy ball gowns, did not disappoint. Some of the gowns had sexy waist cutouts which I loved, and the lush, jewel-toned fabrics looked amazing as they breezed down the catwalk. Zac certainly hit a home run with this collection.

Model Naomi Campbell closed the presentation in a show-stopping look: a strapless, ruby gown made from metallic material that brushed against the granite floor as she sashayed along. The room erupted with cheers and a standing ovation as Zac, smiling, made a brief appearance on the runway, hand-in-hand with the supermodel.

Backstage everyone was taking photos with Zac and the energy was just as electric as it was when I first arrived earlier that evening. Watching friends and colleagues share their enthusiasm with the designer was truly touching, and the perfect end to a fashionable New York City night.

Until next time... ✦

