

## Fabulosity: Fashion's Next Generation

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Too often when I go to a local fashion show, I'm shown garbage. Lacking in talent, passion and an obvious need for education. This was not the case when I attended the East Valley Institute of Technology's annual fashion show last week. I assessed the collections of the second year students. I was in good company as I sat next to Robert Black, Duc Liao, Joy Li and Jill Laine as well as other industry pros who acted as judges during the show. With a mind-blowing runway of about 130 feet and an audience of 680 zealous guests, the 15- to 18-year-old students showed incredible garments.



*Design by Josh Soberanes*

Robert Black, local fashion-titan intensely said "It's all about the youth--I love supporting them" while reviewing the collections. Duc Liao in a thick-as-brie French accent murmured "This is wonderful!" and Joy Li gave repeated nods of approval throughout the evening. Needless to say, we were all captivated by the talent these young designers possessed.

Obviously some collections were sure stand-outs; unquestionable red-flags of talent. **Landry Low**, a student I've had my eye on since she began the fashion merchandising program at EVIT, produced a stunning collection with velvet leggings, impeccably designed tops and surely the most "marketable" collection of them all.

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**Rama Mishra**, a student at Mesquite High School, referenced her roots from India. She showed insanely decadent gowns with a youthful format and fit and she gave citation to the late Alexander McQueen throughout her collection. Rama's extraordinary collection will be featured in a photo shoot on AZFoothills.com in the coming month.

Finally, the last and winning designer of an undisclosed scholarship amount, **Josh Soberanes**, showed a marvelous collection. Josh decisively dismissed any extra embellishments from his clothes, offering a modern, sexy and sleek look. I was surprised to see how such a young individual could know exactly what he wanted with a taste-level that is beyond his peers. The option of glossy, hot-glued and over processed design was an option for Josh but he chose the contrary. Effortless gowns and ready-to-wear that seemed to nod at the designs of Yohji Yamamoto, Gareth Pugh and Rick Owens were what were highlighted on the runway.

I applaud the students and give a standing ovation to the instructor and their curator of talent, **Kristen Johnson**. My eyes are wide open and focused on these three designers, surely they will go on to do wonderful things.