

# Nigel Barker emcees prom fashion show

America's Next Top Model judge and celebrity fashion photographer takes part in Fremd tradition

Christine Chen  
Managing Editor

Hundreds of students screaming, taking pictures and leaning out of their seats for a glimpse of a celebrity sounds more like a concert than a school day, but that was just the scene last Friday in the auditorium.

What sparked the uproar? The arrival of Nigel Barker, celebrity photographer and judge of the popular modeling TV show *America's Next Top Model*, who hosted the prom fashion show.

Although Barker was the main attraction for some students, the annual fashion show, entitled A Black Tie Affair after this year's prom theme, enticed others with a myriad of student-made dresses modeled runway-style on the stage.

The show displayed student creations and dresses provided by David's Bridal and Marinella's Boutique, as well as tuxes from Men's Wearhouse.

The makeup and hairstyles were provided by The Look Salon, Salon Elite and Aquarius Salon and Spa.

This year, the show ushered in overwhelming audiences because of Barker's special appearance as the host during sixth and seventh hour.

"Nigel definitely brought in a larger crowd. When I first saw him, I was completely star-struck," sophomore Mercedes Herrera said.

The prom fashion show's student-oriented nature meant that 66 of the 97 garments featured were created by fashion students, who also choreographed each scene, according to the show's coordinator, fashion teacher Courtney Gatsos.

"The kids pretty much do everything from designing the dresses to creating the scenes," Gatsos said. "There is so much commitment that goes into it, and it's the commitment that drives the show."

Barker was impressed with the fashion talent put forth by the students.

"This was incredible. There were so many inspirational designs. The dresses were very telling of the tremendous talent in the show," said Barker. "The young, raw talent seen today could very well be designing the fashion of the future."

Student designers and models felt that Barker's presence enhanced their deliv-



Logue photo by Amy Liu

**STAR-STUDED STYLE.** Fashion students model dresses from David's Bridal and Marinella's Boutique. Of the 97 dresses featured in the prom fashion show, 66 were created by students and 31 came from David's Bridal and Marinella's Boutique. The makeup and hairstyles were provided by The Look Salon, Salon Elite and Aquarius Salon and Spa.

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"It definitely pushed us harder, and he was inspiring. It was interesting to hear about the real world of the fashion business and learn how Nigel made it to the top," junior Jill Prejna said.

The talent displayed by students in the fashion show led Barker to consider sending a student's design to run into full production. Near the end of the show, he mentioned this could be a possibility in the future.

"The famous names in fashion got where they are by being innovative," Barker said. "They've got guts, vision and inspirational charm. All of that was seen in abundance today."

Barker's personal assistant, Ali Azios, agrees that the talent of the student designers was impressive.

"I think their work can actually compete with some of the dresses that have been seen live on the red carpet," Azios said.

Yet despite the impressive number of student creations, all garments must meet certain criteria before being shown on the stage.

"The evaluation is based on creativity, construction, technique, fit of the garment and work ethic," Gatsos explained.

"In order to be in the show, it has to be a runway-ready garment."

Each year, parents, students and teachers alike look forward to the event.

"I love going to see the fashion show. The dresses are always gorgeous, and it's nice to see my friends have fun on the stage in their own creations," junior Vanessa Caro said.

Joette Brown, mother of senior Michelle Brown, has seen the show for three consecutive years and enjoys watching students show off their creations.

"It's always exuberant and entertaining. It's a nice surprise each year," Brown said.

Many of the aspiring designers take advantage of the fashion show as a way to showcase their design skills.

"It's great to start from scratch and create a wearable garment and then have your peers see your hard work and design," senior Emily Ohlrich said.

Barker hopes his involvement encouraged the student designers.

"I hope that I can let people know that you really can do anything in the world of fashion," Barker said. "If I can be a supporter or one who inspires young fashion students, then my day is well spent."



Logue photo by Amy Liu

**BARKER'S BEAUTIES.** Celebrity photographer and *America's Next Top Model* judge Nigel Barker hosts the prom fashion show with senior Julianne Johnson.

# Spring play highlights the 'ups and downs' of teaching

Nicole Gut  
A&E Editor

With troubled students, scandalous teacher-student relations and attempted suicide, this year's spring play, *Up the Down Staircase* has all the drama of *The O.C.* or *Gossip Girl*.

The play features Sylvia Barrett, a first-year English teacher (played by senior Elodie Senetra) who moves to New York. The city school is the opposite of what she expected.

"Barrett is very young and inexperienced," Senetra explained. "She has so many hopes and expectations and then realizes that the students are not what she expected. Some are lower-level thinkers. She takes that and, instead of just teaching, she really tries to understand her students."

Barrett's previous experience leaves her unequipped to deal with the rigors of teaching at an inner-city school, according to spring play director Marilyn Berdick, an English teacher.

"She really wants to reach out to the kids and make a difference in their lives, but it's really hard because it's

not a good school. She has to deal with a lot of things that she wasn't prepared to deal with and have nothing to do with teaching English," Berdick said.

Playing a teacher will be a change of pace for Senetra.

"I think it will be a challenge to be on the other side of the desk," Senetra said. "It'll definitely be different."

The set will feature Barrett's classroom and a platform for individual characters.

"There are parts in the play where the students, and even the adults at the school, are talking, but they're not in the classroom. They're up on this platform that's going to be in the back where they just kind of pop out and say what they're thinking," Berdick said. "It's a little more abstract back there."

According to senior Claire Stone, who plays a teacher who befriends Barrett, this makes the atmosphere of the show different from other plays.

"There's an element of the subconscious," Stone said. "There are characters on stage that aren't really in the scene."

Unlike last year's *The Dining Room*, *Up the Down Staircase* will be a traditional play.

"This year, it's more like a regular play where you have a plot that starts and builds to a climax. It goes somewhere. It tells a story from beginning to end," Berdick said.

Because the play is set in modern times, the cast will be able to wear normal, everyday clothes.

"It's kind of nice because we don't have to find anything weird or strange," Berdick said.

Berdick says everyone has experienced sitting in a classroom, so all audience members can identify with the characters.

"One of the reasons I chose this play is that people at Fremd can relate to the story, whether you're a student, or a teacher," Berdick said. "Even the teachers can relate to it because they've all been first year teachers, and they've had to go through that time of their life."

Junior Meghan Shanahan looks forward to working with the cast.

"Everyone's great. The talent at Fremd is awesome," Shanahan said. "I think that we put on a lot of good shows that are different from other schools."

*Up the Down Staircase* will be performed on May 15-17 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium.