



Deepak Perwani



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HSBC-Colombo Fashion Week 2008

Vivid brilliance!

An extravaganza with 15 designers showing over 3 days to packed audiences. Pakistan's Deepak Perwani shines at his game

PRASAD ABU BAKR
WITH PICTURES BY PALITHA GUNASENA

It was 3 days of fashion for Colombo's fashionable elite and the major corporate sector that sponsored the event heavily which made it happen. A lot of hard work and gusto for people like Aja Singh who probably had one seam opening out as he probably was trying to sew up another trying to keep the balloon afloat.

The Roof Top Samudra Ballroom of the Taj Samudra looked ideally converted for the event, with the large pillars which were always thought of as a hampering sight sitting right in the middle of things were sensibly used with the catwalk built around them so that no one in the audience missed the view.

The notable fashion happening opened with Sonali White bringing out a very entertaining line-up of clothes which crossed between costume and flamboyance of an era. Other notable collections were by Yolande Aluvihare with her signature collection which carried along her impeccable style for over a decade now and Dharshi Keerthisena for Buddhi Batiks who has recently evolved as a designer who rescued the dying art of the traditional art form of Handmade batiks. Her collection was at times trendy (the bicycle series) and glamorous with a touch of tinsel (range of saris for evening wear) on another.

Bibi Russel of Bangladesh who has brought to the limelight her poverty alleviation programme through fashion showed a range that focused on texture and brought out more vivid aspects on the subject by styling her garments on basic simple lines, drapes and on a neutral colour palette.

Amongst the younger set of newcomers the range which came out as a strong statement for Sri Lanka was the work of Prabhath (Zoo) who based his creation upon inspirations drawn from the surroundings of Batticaloa. The fabrics he used were also hand woven in the area with a vibrant colour range. The garments were also styled taking into consideration certain aspects of the manner in which those rural folk actually draped their clothes.

The one who really stole all attention at this year's show was Deepak Perwani the 'Naughty Boy' of Pakistan. His collection which featured a large collection of hand crafted table, bed linen and cushion covers converted into swirl skirts, choli tops, shawls and turbans brought out the spirit of Pakistan marketed to the west. It was the most colourful and stunning collection that appeared on this year's Colombo Fashion Week catwalk.

The show which was put together very cleverly by leading promoter and choreographer Prasad Bidapa had hair and make-up on the line-up of models skilfully handled by Ramani Fernando Salons. Wrapping-up of the first day's presentation of events by India's Manoviraj Khosla brought out models dancing on the ramp and the



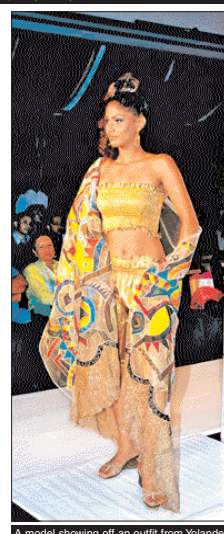
Buddhi Batiks - contemporary Kandyan bride



Dharshi Keerthisena of Buddhi Batiks fame taking her bow



Deepak Perwani



A model showing off an outfit from Yolande Aluvihar's signature collection



Bibi Russel of Bangladesh



Manoviraj Khosla



Paul Michael



Buddhi Batiks

