

Fashionista!

Miss America bags

Miss Universe crown

Women from around the world squared off Wednesday night for the right to be called Miss Universe, as celebrity judges descended on the red carpet and brought some extra sparkle to the Las Vegas Strip.

20-year-old USA beauty queen Olivia Culpo walked away with the crown as Miss Universe 2012. Representing her home state of Rhode Island, Culpo previously won the 2012 Miss Rhode Island USA competition, which was the first pageant she entered. She currently attends Boston University.

Beauty queens from 89 countries prepared to don evening gowns, show their interview skills and strut in swimsuits as the two-hour competition at the Planet Hollywood casino got under way.

The women wore tight, pleated mini-dresses with glittering sequin bodices and sky high platform shoes as they strutted the stage to the hit *Live While We're Young*, by English-Irish boy band One Direction. The 61st annual Miss Universe show featured performances by the band Train and Australian singer Timomatic. Andy Cohen and Giuliana Rancic returned to host the pageant, which is back in Las Vegas after being held in Sao Paulo last year.

Here are some of the highlights of the pageant and the national costume round which was a hit at the event.

Pictures: AFP



Miss Universe contestants stand on stage during the Miss Universe Pageant. Miss Sri Lanka Sabrina Herft is also in the picture



Miss Germany: Alicia Endemann



Miss Spain: Andrea Huisgen



Miss Japan: Ayako Hara



Miss USA, Olivia Culpo walks on stage after being named Miss Universe



Miss Malaysia: Kimberley Leggett

Miss Vietnam: Diem Huong Luu

Miss Brazil: Gabriela Markus