

University cast struts its stuff at Showcase '87

By Rob Miles
Of the Emerald

About 250 people attended the third annual Showcase '87 fashion show held Friday night in Carson Dining Hall.

The show, produced by Mari Pelletier and Assistant Producer Benjamin Gerenbes and emceed by Don Rich, included 21 models, sound and light technicians and the University Duck. All cast and crew positions were volunteer.

Work first began on the show in January when the model calls were announced, although Pelletier researched potential retail participants and sought sound and light technicians even further in advance.

"A lot of the research and ar-

rangements with retailers was worked out last so we started later this year than we did last year. The time line went faster and at times it was really scary, but we made it," Pelletier says.

Everyone did their share, Pelletier says. "There could be no show without them."

Prior to the first set, an overloaded circuit breaker cut power to the light and sound board. "The breaker wasn't set to the right power level to run all the lights and sound. We lost power four times, but we were able to run everything at once for the final set," says lighting technician Ming Lau.

The toughest trial for the entire cast came during the fourth set when the power cut out

while the models were on the runway. The models continued the set with no music or lights, drawing a strong round of applause from the supportive audience. The sound and light technicians were able to get power back for the end of the set.

Showcase '87 is the end result of commitment from everyone, even though not every person involved in the show participated for the same reason. Tammy McCollam volunteered as stage manager after she heard Mari could use the help.

"I thought it would be really fun. I really enjoy the behind-the-scenes work," McCollam says. "My friend Holly Hodson modeled in '86, and she inspired me to get involved."

Model Fred Freeman, drummer for Modern Laundry, sought to get better conditioned to the stage.

"It was like a performance and that's what we were doing. It's the performance aspect that plays a large role in the show. Modeling shows you how to present yourself to other people. I'm planning on starting a communications analysis firm and first impressions make lasting impressions," Freeman says.

The time commitment from cast members was "enormous." Rehearsals began about a month before the performance and sometimes ran several hours or several times a week, temporarily forcing those aside to setting

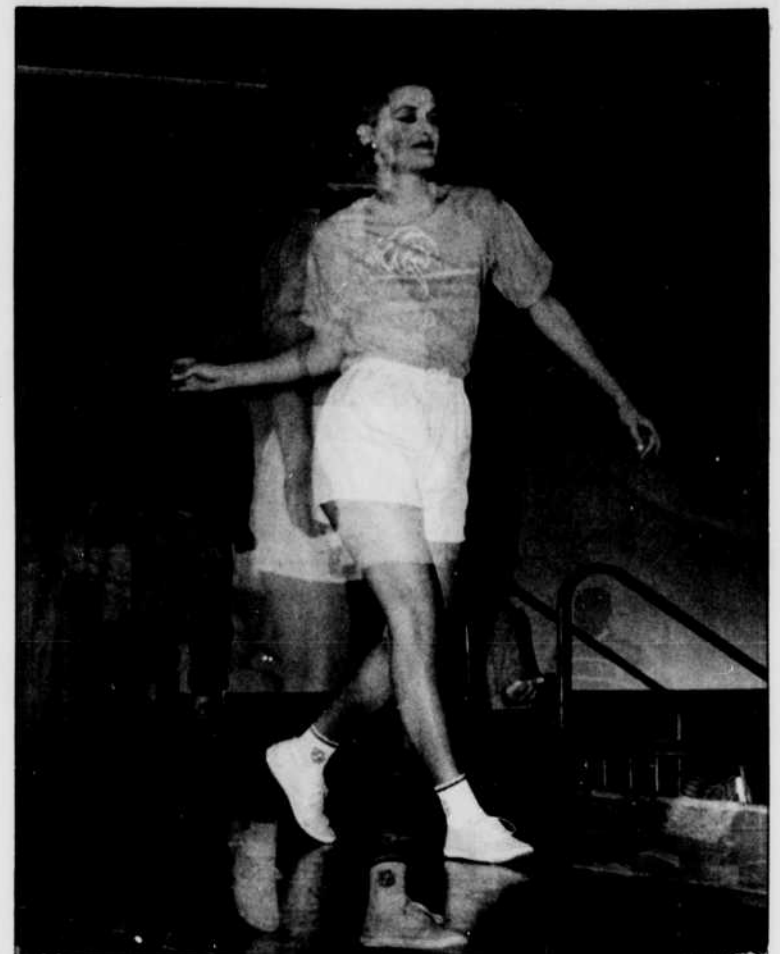


Photo by Derrel Hewitt

University students modeled spring fashions at this year's Showcase '87.

homework aside. Pelletier explained the effort just in scheduling rehearsals convenient for all 21 models can be exhausting. She also pointed out there was extensive planning and directing going on in order to figure out what will be rehearsed in rehearsal.

The overall performance of the models increases every year, Pelletier says. Several of the models have been in the previous shows and their cumulative knowledge helps the other models — many of whom were modeling for the very first time — learn to walk and show the clothing.

Pelletier had hoped to bring in agency representatives to watch and critique the models on their performance as was done for Showcase '86, but this year's workload was too heavy to accommodate any additional scheduling.

With Showcase '87 only three days past, plans are being made for next year's Showcase. Pelletier will be taking a year off from classes and will leave the show in other hands.

"I am going to nanny in either Washington D.C. or California. I won't be doing the show, but I'll give them advice whenever they need it. I am definitely going to fly to the show," she says.

Next year the show will likely be held in the EMU Ballroom. Had schedules coordinated, Showcase '87 would have been held there, Pelletier explains. The stage setup there is more conducive to a better, more professional show. With a new location planned and the inclusion of agency reps, "Showcase '88 promises to be the best show yet."


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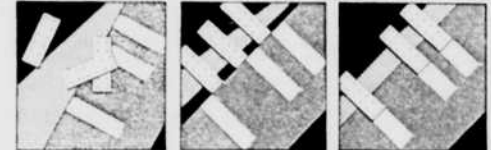
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