

All about that haute *Couture*

Every year, French International School stage a glamorous fashion show, filled with amazing outfits from talented local and international designers. This year, writes **Nicola Chan**, the show's theme was the Roaring Twenties

Couture featured everything from high-fashion (as modelled by Natalia Kasten and Zoé Rousseau) to 1920s-themed outfits (as worn by Sixtine de Beauvais, right). Photos: Camille Benoit & Cloé Zielinsky

If you've watched *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* then you'll know – other than the special effects, acting, and casting of course – one of the best things about the 1926-set film is the fashion. The Roaring Twenties was all about trying new shapes and styles for women – from trousers, to glittering headbands, to flapper dresses.

On March 24, the annual French International School (FIS) charity fashion show *Couture* tried to evoke the same excitement and originality felt by

fashionistas around the world in the decade after the first world war – and boy, did they succeed. Last month's fashion show was packed with collections from local young designers,

as well as the latest French-inspired fashion by high-end and eco-conscious brands alike.

One of the main events of the night was Les Trophées de la Mode – a competition in which students presented 30 original pieces, all made out of recycled materials.

Among the materials used were old textbooks, playing cards, Nespresso coffee capsules, paper clips, and rubber bands – all in the name of raising awareness of sustainability in the fashion world.

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The show went down a treat with the audience – but putting it together was no easy task, said the show's art director, and head of the school's art department, Isabelle Bezaçon. The school's yearly show this year had amongst its sponsors notable names such as Topshop, Hermès, and Emmanuel F, so there was even more pressure for it to look as flawless and as professional as possible.

Bezaçon said the students did that admirably, and were very thorough in their efforts to make this year's show the best yet.

Auréliine Faci, 18, was the team manager of models and performers. She spent a lot of time before the show matching outfits to models.

"I checked each photo from the fittings to see who brought out the beauty out of each outfit," she said. Only then would she be able to create a line-up for the show.

Despite the hard work and stress the show created, Auréliine said she

was glad to have been given the opportunity to take part in the show, and added that she'd never forget the tension and excitement she felt on the big day itself.

Lola Bezaçon, 18, was one of the two young local designers who showcased their own collection of 1920s inspired pieces. Bezaçon's daughter, and an FIS alumni, is another student unlikely to forget the night.

"I was helping Auréliine and the others – we had around 80 outfits in eight collections and 18 models ... I was in charge of coordinating all models in the competition, and I also had my own models and collection to deal with!"

Natalia Kasten, who was one of the models, told *Young Post* that she had never taken a turn down a runway before last month, but doing it had "really boosted her confidence". It was, the 17-year-old added, a moment that she was truly proud of.

Alfred Zanini, the team manager of media and promotion, had been in charge of creating posters, organising photoshoots, posting on social media, and shooting video for *Couture*.

"I enjoyed seeing the event come together," said Alfred, 18, "even with the numerous technical difficulties we had during the evening!"

Meanwhile, 18-year-old Katherine Page, who managed the event and sponsors team, said it had been great seeing everyone work together on the project.

"It wasn't just about showcasing a couple of outfits on the runway, it was about raising awareness of sustainability," she said.

"It was also about allowing students to discover their own skills in event management, design, performing, singing, and dancing.

"It was absolutely amazing," she added, "how we managed to do all of [what we did] in one spectacular night."



Edited by Ginny Wong