

GLOBAL WARNING



Baron Levon Siamantø's violin/bustier dress.

Miami Beach International Fashion Week has always been a great event to cover, simply because I never have a clue what type of fashions I'll be seeing. Every year, it gets weirder. On March 4, at the **Men's Showcase and International Eveningwear Showcase** at the Miami Beach Convention Center, designers from places such as the Dominican Republic and Dubai showed how looks differ around the world. Some of the menswear styles would work well in Miami, such as **Mauricio Alberino's** line.

The Dominican designer Alberino showed a bevy of tropical-colored blazers and guayabera-inspired shirts. But Serbian designer **Bata Spasojević's** line of *Matrix*-like trench coats and pants with far too many zippers was a little too futuristic for the men of today. Can you imagine a guy showing up to Tarpon Bend for beers with the boys wearing a silver blazer, matching fitted cargo shorts and a scarf? It's clearly a look best reserved for meeting up with the characters from *Zoolander* for Orange Mocha Frappuccinos and an impromptu gasoline fight. On the upside, the models were forced to walk the runway in bizarre plastic eye coverings that resembled blindfolds, so they really couldn't see what they were wearing.

Because the shows were running almost an hour behind, I nearly skipped the eveningwear segment due to hunger pains; I needed something more than the melon balls, cubes of pepper Jack cheese and Dixie Cup of Barefoot Bubbly available at the show. But I was glad I stayed, because I have never witnessed a more-intriguing presentation of eveningwear other than Gaga's meat dress, of course.

Dubai-based designer **Rocky Gathercole's** showcase began as an homage to caveman couture. Male models wearing tiny loin coverings and airbrushed with primitive cave drawings prowled around the stage as if they were freshly thawed Encino men. They pounded the runway and made strange hand gestures toward the ceiling. Then, a bizarre collection of clothes was presented. The first model wore a large ram's head and a mesh metal dress, resembling a creature we may see at some point on *True Blood*. Intense tribal music blared in the background as she proudly held up what looked like a human spine at the end of the runway. The spectacle continued with models sporting long, curly fingernails and wearing red feather headdresses, spiky silver

bustiers, green feathered getups, fairy wings and a chandelier-inspired shirt that looked as if it has been ripped from the ceiling of the Forge.

During the show, I sat next to a couple of buyers, who joked about where they'd be able to stock and sell such apparel. But I could easily imagine the pieces appearing on a Gaga/Cher tour.

Although several designers showed more-traditional eveningwear, such as floor-length gowns, I fixated on the night's fantasy fashions. The final collection to make my jaw drop was by [Baron Levon Siamanto](#), a Pompano Beach-based designer and artist who draped models in painted canvases, created a ball gown from American flags and made a metal bustier dress adorned with a full-size violin. One piece appeared totally normal — a sleeveless, ruffled, white top. But when the model turned around, Siamanto didn't let me down: A ginormous pair of scissors hung from the shirt, a perfect fashion statement for letting friends or lovers know when you feel stabbed in the back. Visit [Glamazon.citylinkmix.com](#) for photos and footage from the shows