

campus life

A passion for fashion

It was smooth sailing on the night of Island School's annual entirely student-led fashion show, which raised money for a local cancer charity while celebrating diversity, writes junior reporter **Bakhita Fung**

Striking models wearing amazing designs lit up the catwalk at Island School's student-led annual charity fashion show Anaia on March 18.

The show was entirely organised and run by students. Their goal was to celebrate diversity and break stereotypes, and also raise money for local charity Maggie's Cancer Care Centre. Organisers were careful when selecting models to choose those who'd reflect the wide range of body types, ethnicities and ages in society.

The talented Excuse Me, Your Face is On Fire dance crew kicked things off, and MCs Caylan Socha and Daniel Meerovitsch cracked cheesy jokes and wittily introduced the events of the night. Other acts were equally popular, including Ria Schmidl and Kevin Diego.

This year, 29 students from schools including Island School, Harrow and Wah Yan College strutted down the runway wearing brands like KTZ, Zalora and Topshop.

To celebrate Island School's 50th anniversary, 10 student designers had also come up with lines that had been inspired the decades since the school's founding. Student Avantika Malhotra gave this project her all, poring over every era and studying each decade's key prints, fabrics, styles and fashion icons.

"If something really stood out to me, I tried to incorporate it," said Avantika, 15. "For example, for the '90s, I saw that women were wearing more

masculine pieces, so I used a shirt pattern in army green and then tailored it. I think that really captured the decade." In comparison, her noughties dress was inspired by Valentino, who placed emphasis on more feminine clothes and prints. Avantika said that she was ecstatic to see her final designs being worn on the runway.

Seven teachers from Island School took an active role in Anaia - something that they had never done in previous shows. Chris Lord, the head of Food Tech, admitted that he had been nervous

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before the show, and that he had been mentally preparing [himself] the night before.

The teachers wore select choices from the Magic Wardrobe collection, which focused on wedding gowns and suits. It was definitely the most popular line of the evening, and the most well received by the audience.

"This has been the best event I've been to all year," said Island School student Alyssa Harries, 15. "The best part was when the teachers got involved."

Year 11 model Aayush Batwara said the experience was "incredibly hectic but definitely

worth it", adding that he admired how the show had progressed from a chaotic Friday rehearsal to Saturday's smoothly operated show, thanks to the hard work of the organisers.

"I'm really proud [of the fact] that Island School has made the bold move to encourage diversity on the runway," he added.

Alsha Patel, the deputy head organiser, felt the show went very well.

"I'm extremely proud of the entire team for their dedication to the cause, and the event was spectacular," said Alsha, 16, before adding that it had not been without challenges.

"We had some stressful moments trying to reach deadlines, but we couldn't be happier with the outcome."

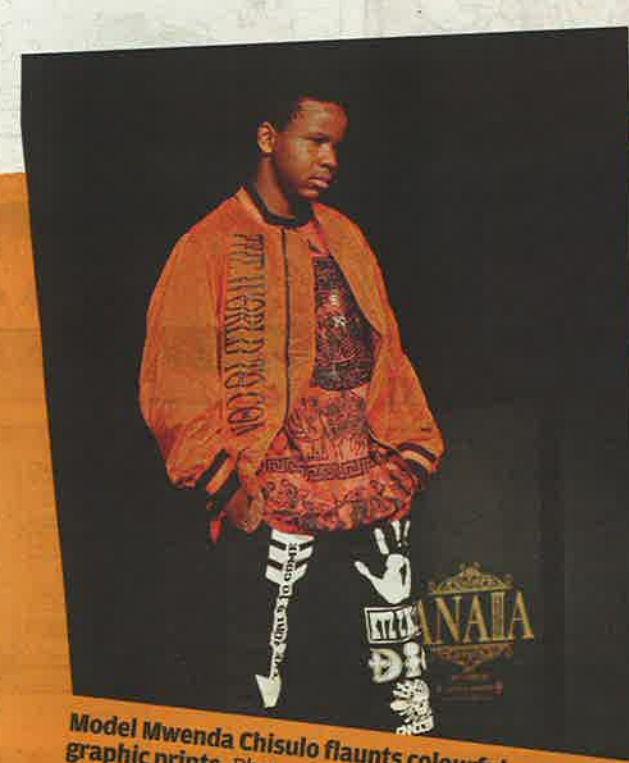
Hanyan Tsien, 16 and the head of advertising, said that she was happy and proud to see the show come to fruition.

"We've all put so much time and effort into Anaia in the past few months. It was great to know that we were raising money and awareness for such a good cause, too."

Amber Horne (right) struts her stuff in a retro-inspired outfit.
Photo: Yu Kakinoki



Edited by Ginny Wong



Model Mwenda Chisulo flaunts colourful graphic prints. Photo: Bakhita Fung



Your talented MCs Caylan Socha (left) and Daniel Meerovitsch. Photo: Bakhita Fung



Flora Chen and Linus Hui model a fashion line made for romance. Photo: Yu Kakinoki