

Chicago Fashion Connect

FASHION FOCUS 2011: INSPIREDESIGN PRESENTED BY MARIO TRICOCI AND VITAMINWATER® - PART 1: MARIO MAKE ME A MODEL COMPETITION



At the second headlining fashion show of the Fashion Focus Chicago 2011 week at the Millennium Park on October 19, Mario Tricoci revealed the winner of the model competition "Mario Make Me a Model".

With vitaminwater® being involved with the InspireDesign, it only meant one thing – it's a show you don't want to miss. I am yet to see a fashion show that was presented, produced or sponsored by vitaminwater® that wasn't top notch.

Mario Tricoci started the "Mario Make Me a Model" contest to find the undiscovered talent in Chicago. In its fourth year, the competition had attracted more than 500 entries at the open call. The list was cut down to 38 semi-finalists of which only 5 made it to the finals.

Juni Juhyun Park (Skokie, IL), Mercedes Janell Johnson (Chicago, IL), Lynn Michelle Tatge (Mount Prospect, IL), Zachary Ross (Chicago, IL), and Alexandra Grace Cangelosi (Orland Park, IL) had to face 6 areas of challenge: makeover, fashion shoot, TV spot, fitness training, runway walk and public vote.



On the stage from left to right: Mario Tricoli, Juni Juhyun Park, Lynn Michelle Tatge, Zachary Ross, Alexandra Grace Cangelosi, Mercedes Janell Johnson

The finalist underwent a two-month training before taking on the final challenge of walking the runway with professional models at the Fashion Focus 2011 at the Millennium Park.

After the fashion show, Mario announced not one, but two winners – Juni Juhyun Park and Mercedes Janell Johnson. In a press release distributed after the event Mario explained this unprecedented decision.

"Choosing just one winner was impossible because we had such a diverse, talented group of finalists this year, I have been following their progress through their TV shoot, makeovers and the fashion shoot and realized this was going to be our toughest choice to date. The transformation in each of these individuals has been inspiring. But once the finalists walked the runway, Mercedes and Juni clinched it when combined with the great work they did in the other parts of the competition."

- Mario Tricoli



Winners Juni Juhyun Park and Mercedes Janell Johnson



Mercedes Janell Johnson



Mercedes Janell Johnson



Juni Juhyun Park



Juni Juhyun Park



Zachary Ross



Zachary Ross



Alexandra Grace Cangelosi



Lynn Michelle Tatge



Winners announced Juni Juhyun Park and Mercedes Janell Johnson



Winners Juni Juhyun Park and Mercedes Janell Johnson