

ASpiRE!

Issue # 3

**FALLINGWATER
CELLARDOOR:
Shiny Falls**

**NICKY REE'S
BOUTIQUE:
Fashion
Parade**

**NEW DESIGNER
SPOTLIGHT:
Marlene Simon**

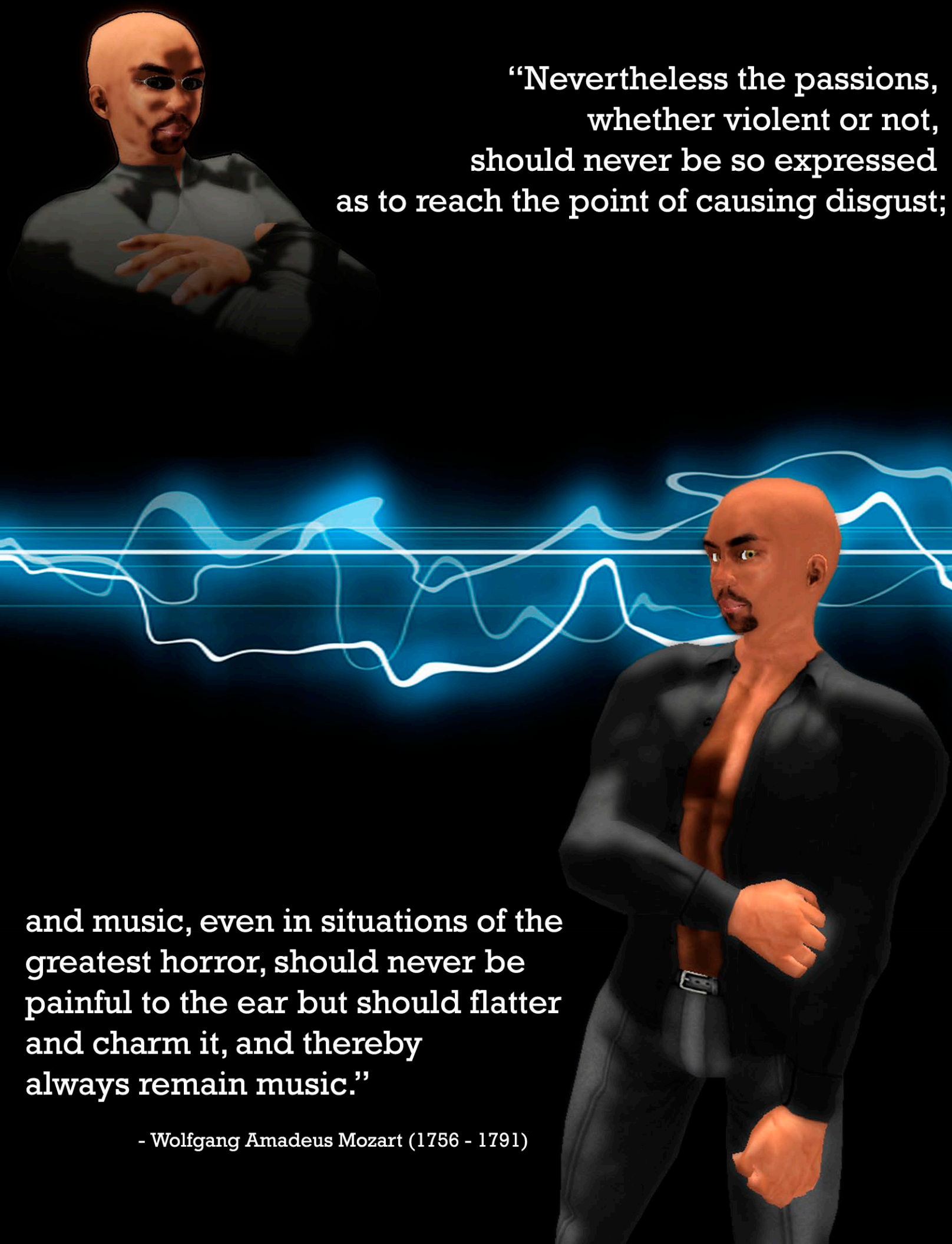
**WICCAN SOJOURNER:
Bewitched!**

**Winter's Bewitching
Fashions**

**SHAI DELACROIX:
Casa Del Shai**

**And much
more!**

**CLICK ON ADS TO VISIT
LOCATIONS IN SL!**



“Nevertheless the passions,
whether violent or not,
should never be so expressed
as to reach the point of causing disgust;

nexeus fatale

virtual dj

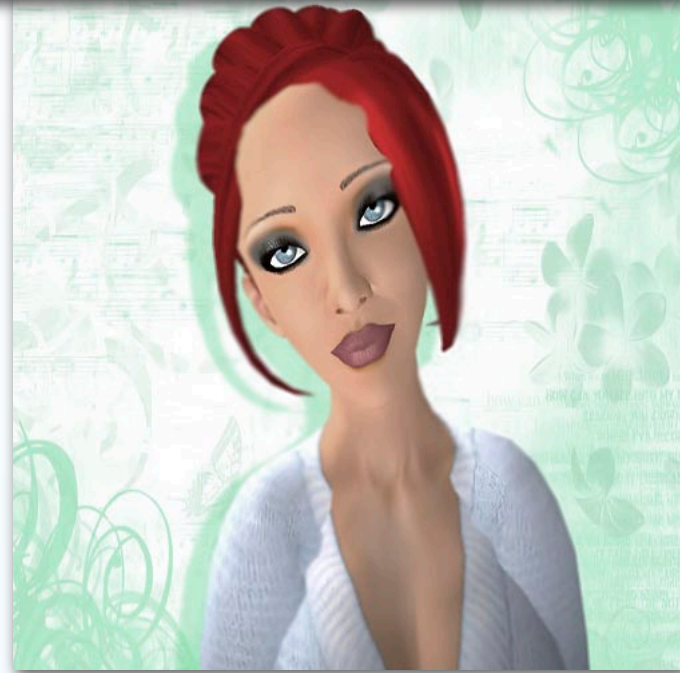
request for your events at:
www.nexeusfatale.com
www.apex-high.com

and music, even in situations of the
greatest horror, should never be
painful to the ear but should flatter
and charm it, and thereby
always remain music.”

- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 - 1791)



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Can you believe this is our third issue already? Just a few months ago this magazine was just a dream of Trina Noland and Bianca Darling. Now, it's become a presence not only in SL but on the web. If you're reading this in SL, you can also find us at www.aspiresl.com.

If you're into fashion (and if you're reading a fashion magazine, why wouldn't you be?) this issue is chock full of great ones. On our cover is designer Wiccan Sojourner featured with both a fashion spread and an interview by Rubianne Ellison. If you missed our two fashion shows this month, you can read about the "Jolie Femme" and "Adored Clothing" ones here. From the classically elegant sweaters of new designer Marlene Simon to the whimsical designs of Sparkle Skye, you won't be disappointed by anything you see between these covers.

Do your interests include building?

Aunnia Wilbert debuts her column "Escapades" with two builder "finds" worth checking out.

As always, drop me an IM or a notecard with your feedback. And, if there's anything you want to see here, please let us know.

May your Holidays be blessed. See you in the New Year!

Adrienne Beliveau

ASpiRE!

Issue #3

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SOCIAL EVENTS

BY ADRIENNE BELIVEAU

Our very own Shoshana Epsilon recently showcased her photography at the new University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) ArtTech Island. Talk about being in the right place at the right time. When Shoshana was a Mentor on "Help Island" she met Blake Wake. She met him again when they were both in competition for the same gallery to exhibit their work. Neither one of them got the gallery but she invited Blake to an exhibit of hers for the SL 3rd Anniversary Celebration. He liked her work and asked if she would be interested in exhibiting at an art sim he was trying to get built. This sim eventually turned out to be UTD ArtTech Island (139, 43, 89). As soon as it was built, Epsilon was contacted by Juliette Cordeaux (who is connected with the University in RL) about being the first artist to exhibit there.

Shoshana's photos have an ethereal quality to them. They go beyond the standard portrait and bring depth to each subject. You walk away feeling you have been introduced to the person in the picture. One of my favorite's in the exhibit was "Phedre" which turned out to be Shoshana's favorite too. It is a stunning full figure photograph of a woman (with beautiful peacock tail feathers) profiled against the setting sun. Her jutting breasts, soft smile and the sunset all give a sense of lost innocence.

Soon after that, I was contacted by Adrea McKay who invited me to come see an exhibit at the Gallerie de Felice in Shwanson Schlegel (22, 160, 25). Lou Portsmouth was mak-



Shoshana Epsilon



Luna Torricelli



Denny Denny

ing her debut in SL exhibiting art from journals she has kept from as a child in RL. She took photos of the artwork and uploaded them as textures "as is" only adjusting for brightness. They are very creative and whimsical works. The exhibit is still up and the pieces are available for sale.

Congratulations to Luna Torricelli and Denny Denny for winning the Sexiest Woman Hottest Man Contest which was held in the month of November brought to you by ASpiRE! Magazine and I-Material Girl furniture and design company. Dharma Austin for Dharma Island and Bodhi Guru for Surf Island were primary sponsors. Musashi Do, Shiny Things, Nomine, and Skarlet Rutledge Pools and Design were contributing sponsors. Elephant Outfitters and Emily Hartford Designs were participating sponsors. The winners received 5000L each, a photoshoot in this magazine, and their picture in a free calendar.

Although I was not able to attend any of the functions prior to the writing of this column, I must mention the efforts of the Elf Circle. They sponsored a Holiday Charity Week fundraiser to benefit the charities of American Red Cross, Toys for Tots, Habitat for Humanity, and Doctors without Borders. Many activities including concerts, ice skating, story telling and classes were held during the week of December 7-15. I'll try and report on at least one of the activities for next issue.

If you have an event you'd like to see mentioned, please don't hesitate to IM me or send me a notecard. •

CD Furnishings is now



Plush Terra (142, 59, 22)



DECEMBER EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Adored Clothing Fashion Show, 4pm SL
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Tres Beau Fashion Show, 4pm SL
17 Winter Bliss Fashion Show, 4pm SL	18	19	20	21	22	23 ASpiRE! Christmas Party @ ASpiRE! Manors, 2pm-4pm SL
24	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27	28	29	30
31 Happy New Year!						

On the city streets...

At the racing circuit...



Musashi-Do

Wear your dreams...

ESCAPADES

BY AUNNIA WILBERG

Hello fellow readers, this is ASpiRE!'s third issue and I am so honored to be bringing you "Escapades." Before we get started, I would like to thank Trina Noland, Bianca Darling, and Adrienne Believeau for giving me this great opportunity and having confidence in me to write this column every month.

In this and future columns, I will be reporting to you on the unique, interesting, and unusual people and places of Second Life. If anyone out there knows of a place or person that you feel others should know about, please IM me and I will check it out.

So, here are some exciting stories for this month. The first I would like to tell you about is a very unusual place my sister, Lena Kennedy, found during the Halloween weekend. She sent me the landmark and told me, "You absolutely must check this place out." Lena comes up with some pretty cool places, especially when it comes to shopping, so I thought I better listen to her.

When I teleported there, I found myself looking up at the most ominous castle I have ever seen in Second Life. The name of the Castle is "The Devil's Labyrinth" located at (Rivata (181, 177, and 45) next to Club Casino. Before you go in, you are instructed to turn up your sound, adjust your light settings and enter at your own risk. When you walk into the first room, you are able to choose between three different paths. All have different outcomes and are equally scary.

I talked with Colin Nilsson, the mastermind behind "The Devil's Labyrinth." Colin told me the grand opening had been October 16, 2006. Colin created the castle all on his own and is planning to add a lot more to it. You can find info about "The Devil's Labyrinth" at <http://clubspace-radio.com/devil>. Go check out this awesome place.

The next story I have for you, touched my heart so



The Devil's Labyrinth



Myles Cooper, owner of Lifestyle Designs



Southern Comfort, a Myles Cooper home for \$L 200

deeply and gave me hope in human kindness. It shows just how much people care and open their hearts to help others out. Allana Dion held an auction on October 31st, Halloween, at 10:00am and 10:00pm. The bids made at the auctions went toward "The Forum Scholarship Fund." The entire amount raised goes to one recipient (keeping the identity private) to help with college tuition costs. Because of all the generous hearts that attended the auction, Allana was able to raise 359,251L which converts roughly to around \$1,300.00. The largest bid at the auction from one person was 230,000L. Way to go!

I have one last story to report. There is a builder here in second life, Myles Cooper, of "Lifestyle Designs," (Sweetbay 171, 74. 30) who has lowered the prices of all of his homes (including mansions) and is selling them for 200L. When I asked why,

he said that he felt it was his way of being able to help out new residents in SL. I find this commendable. We all have so much knowledge and so many things we all can do to help. I mean, there is plenty to go around to for everyone. So why not mentor someone if they want to build, design clothes, or whatever they might want to learn to do. Are we really that greedy??? I hope not.

That's all for now, I hope that you enjoy my column and if you have any ideas for future stories, please IM me and I will be more than happy to check it out. So, until next month, be well, show your fellow neighbor some love and compassion and let's spread our knowledge to all those who want it.....*hugs*and *kisses* •





Wiccan, wearing her self-made wedding gown, "Cassandra"

Mystical Quality: The Designs of Wiccan Sojourner

by Rubianne Ellison

At a recent interview, Wiccan Sojourner, designer and owner of "Bewitched Designs," modeled her handfasting dress for me. It was her most difficult project to date, taking nearly a year of revisions to complete. The dress, named "Cassandra", is accented with gold, and consists of a layer of ivory lace over a layer of ivory brocade. Though it's only one piece, the skirt is multi-layered and pools into an elegant oval train. Puffed sleeves trail into floor length wings. An off the shoulder scalloped neckline flutes out to a waistband encircled with a golden, Celtic patterned sash. The sash is held in place by triquetra, a Wiccan symbol representing the triple goddess.

Sojourner's handfasting gown, and the process she went through to create it, truly outlines two important elements of her designs; her commitment to quality and her Wiccan background.

Sojourner, a Second Life resident of over two years, has been designing clothing since June of 2005. After listening to friends complain about their clothing, which had flaws such as mismatched seams, she began to realize that some of

the apparel she bought from her favorite designers were flawed. She recalled how the feeling of wearing less than perfect clothing affected her modeling career." It got to the point that when I modeled, I was upset if the designer was offering below par work, so I started designing for myself and my friends," she explained. She added that the idea of people paying a lot of money for less than perfect items bothered her.

Sojourner's main shop, located in Witchwood, seems almost surprising to her. She recalled starting her business by using free spaces lent to her by friends. "I was scared to death to rent," she mentioned. "I guess I never thought people would buy from me and I had no money." Today, Sojourner has over 60 stores located throughout SL, and she sells many of her items on SLExchange. She joked that one reason she has so many locations is that "it's hard to say no when someone asks you to come." Many of those locations are holiday locations, displaying ensembles perfect for this time of year.

Her Christmas outfits are also displayed in her main store. The "Snow Queen,"



Wiccan, wearing
"Let it Snow"

one of the ensembles featured in the holiday section of her main store, is stunning and aptly named. It consists of a revealing bolero that is textured in silvery sparkles and opens down the front, displaying a glimpse of tantalizing cleavage. A floor length skirt in a complimentary fabric with a silvery tier skims the body. The "Snow Babe" ensemble, in pine, is a more traditionally holiday outfit, but equally sexy. Patterned in green snowflakes, the set includes a fur trimmed- Santa hat, midriff baring jacket, and tiny pleated skirt. Matching knee length boots are also included. Men aren't forgotten in the holiday rush, though. The "Holly King" ensemble includes a long, jacquard trimmed velvet robe, and matching belted pants. Accessories include a fur trimmed hat and boots, as well as a staff trimmed with mistletoe. Another Bewitched holiday specialty is the annual "Miss Claus and Sexy Santa" modeling contest. Winners of the contest receive a modeling contract, 500 Linden, and other gifts. The winners are judged not only on their beauty, but on their personalities.

These holiday outfits are just one type of the special ensembles Sojourner displays throughout the year. Come Halloween, Bewitched has one of the most extensive collections of costumes in SL. The "Buccaneer Beauty" and "Buccaneer

Brawn" sets, for example, are highly detailed costumes for women and men respectively. Both sets include everything a swashbuckler needs; pirate jackets, pants, belts, hats and swords all textured in a stylish black and white. The "V for Vendetta" set, which Sojourner calls her most difficult project to date, is based off of the movie of the same name. The set, which is for men, includes, among other things, a set of painstakingly created knives. The "Modern Witch" ensemble consists of layers of a transparent silver, cob webbed skirt and blouse layered over a bikini set. And of course, many accessories, including a pointy silver witch's hat, are included.

The "Modern Witch" ensemble is one of many of Sojourner's witch designs. She's a witch and a Wiccan in her first and second lives. She explained what being a real modern witch is "someone who uses her or his personal energy to effect changes in his or her surroundings." According to Sojourner, authentic modern witches don't cast spells, worship the devil, or summon demons. She joked, "There are a lot of people out there thinking the TV show Charmed is true. You hear them talking about destroying demons. Makes you want to smack someone." Sojourner is not only a witch, but was also born into a Wiccan family. Wicca, a religion like Catholicism or Judaism, has one rule- "Harm none." Sojourner explained that the religion is centered on the Goddess, nature, and balance. She explained that many are interested in becoming Wiccan be-

cause they dislike men. Men, however, are an important part of the religion because they create balance.

Sojourner does custom ensembles, as well as collaborates with other designers. Her husband, Shadow Weaver, created two impressive dragons he calls "Blackie" and "Percy" that are displayed at Bewitched. The two of them also collaborated on an extensive collection of skins; the "Skins of the Gods" for men, and the "Skins of the Goddess" for women. Both collections have an impressive range of tones, with many makeup choices for the female skins. Sojourner also collaborates with her daughter, "Sheltered Heart," who has a large hair shop, also located in Witchwood. Sojourner has created items for The Goddess Shoppe, and collaborated with Robin Wood, a real and Second Life artist.

In addition to costumes and seasonal wear, Sojourner also has an extensive line of less specialized clothing. She has created everything from scanty lingerie to pant sets. She also has a line of about 20 wedding gowns available at her stores and at "All Things Bridal," including the one she so painstakingly created for her own wedding. Sojourner says her plans for the future are to hone her craft, and also learn more about scripting. She already makes and sells jewelry and shoes, but explained that she wants to get better at "torturing prims". The "Bewitched" store at Witchwood is located at: Hubbard (108, 181, 148).•



Bianca Darling is a dark delight in this gorgeous gown with matching hooded cape entitled "Crimson Death". Wiccan has outdone herself with all the attention paid to detail in this piece. The multi tiered bustle skirt has a waist line trimmed in roses, while a sumptuous black velvet panel highlights the gowns middle. A fitted and matching jacket is open in the front revealing a sexy black bra and the whole ensemble topped off with a black velvet and satin lined hood and cape. Reminiscent of fairy tales, this gown will transport you to another time and place.



Leigh Matthews is the bell of the ball in Crimson Serenade. This decadent gown is swathed in luxurious crimson velvet and accented with black lace detail. The bodice of the gown features more lace detail and corseted waistline. Topped off with the perfect bonnet styled hat, Crimson Serenade will have everyone singing your praises!

Wiccan Winter Fashion Spread



Honey Bender sizzles in Bewitched's "Gothika". This sexy yet feminine set comes complete with red heels with a spiked silver stiletto, black stockings with red accents and lace detail, an adorable prim skirt in black velvet with red lace bustled detail, a perfectly fitted black velvet jacket with button detail and red lace cuffs, matching red lace top and flexi red lace scarf. This unique ensemble is perfect for the goth at heart, looking to spread a little holiday cheer!



Angel Lafontaine is "Santa's Elf Cupid". With an elf like this around, it's a wonder Santa gets anything done at all! This fetching ensemble comes with either pants or shorts for the most daring or unassuming of elves. Add to it the fur lined and bow accented corset, hat, and buckle sided boots and you have a wintertime wonder, sexy and sweet, naughty and nice!



This Christmas Damiana Aquitaine will melt the snow in “Snow Babe”. Worn here in Pine, Snow Babe could just get you all the present you asked for! This sexy little set features prim mini skirt and shorts as well as a flirty fitted jacket open at the front. Accessorized with holly accented hat, stiletto boots and white fur in all the right places, Snow Babe is perfect for warming up in the winter cold.



Trina Noland is living it up with flash and style in “Viva Las Vegas”. No woman will be able to resist the urge to play the Seductress of Sin City in this gown adorned in purple sequins and feathers. “Viva Las Vegas” also comes complete with the jewelry set pictured here, featuring a large diamond solitaire at the neck. When you are ready to light up the night, nothing shines like this sparkling finery!

Rebel Hope Designs

Formal

Bridal

Costumes

Casual

Lingerie

and so much more!



RAH Designs on Isla Del Amor 127, 128

When only the best will do....



RAH Engel Fine Jewelry

RAH Designs Isla Del Amor 127, 128



FALLINGWATER CELLARDOOR

Just a few days ago I had the distinct pleasure of meeting Fallingwater Cellardoor, the stellar designer behind “Shiny Things” and “Fallingwater Flowers.” Known widely throughout SL for her accessories from shoes to jewelry she is also surprisingly well versed in the art of building. Nothing will demonstrate this more than her new sim, “Shiny Falls,” which is due to open in the first part of December. Fallingwater invited me to her unfinished sim where I could already feel Fallingwater Cellardoor and see the unique charm that encompasses all that she designs.

Bianca Darling (BD): How long ago did you join SL and how did you find out about it?

Fallingwater Cellardoor (FC): I joined SL over 3 years ago. My brother was pestering me to check it out. I didn’t think I’d be interested because I’ve never been interested in socializing online; but, I got totally sucked in by the building and it turns out I really like the socializing too!

BD: I look around and can see your talents go way beyond “Shiny Things,” and “Fallingwater Flowers.” I can’t wait to see how it all turns out.

FC: Me too! Big builds are the most challenging thing for me. I’m not good at visualizing and planning on a large scale so I just experiment until I get it right.

BD: How long did it take before you started designing?

FC: It was probably spring of 2004. My first accessory creations happened because there was very little jewelry around and almost none that I liked. It was stupid stuff that I’m not very proud of; photo sourced, textured jewelry. But, friends convinced me to sell it and that’s how “Shiny Things” started. It wasn’t “Shiny Things” back then. I was partnered with a friend under a different name. It was purely a hobby in those days.

BD: So it’s safe to say SL has changed a lot since then. What are some of the ways in

which the world is vastly different than it used to be, from a design perspective?

FC: The quality of what’s available is so far ahead of the early days and obviously there’s so much more of it. Back then you could make a business of really basic designs with no fancy shading, bad seams, etc. Now, even people just starting out are doing high quality work.

BD: Exactly. There’s a drive now to be the best one can be from the start. I think this is what anyone should do who wants to enjoy their work in the long run.

FC: Absolutely, if you’re doing it just to make money, you’re doing it for the wrong reason.

BD: Did you have help or major influences in SL when you first started designing?

FC: I really didn’t. I’ve always been a self-teaching kind of person. My facility with prims has just come from a lot of experimentation and practice.

BD: Where do you get the inspiration for your designs?

FC: Good question! I’m not a fashionista in real life by any means, but, I’ve always liked the sleek simple look in shoes and I’ve tried my best to get that look with prims, and that’s a fun challenge. I never try to copy a specific style. It’s more a general aesthetic that I go for.

BD: Do you find you get some of your best ideas while being in a certain mood, or do they flow more consistently?

FC: Oh they’re definitely not consistent. Lately I’ve had a good run, but, I sometimes get blocked. I’d say the mood I’m in when things are flowing is “happy.” If something distracting is happening in my life, or if I’m just bored and burnt out, things don’t flow.

BD: Think about your favorite pair of shoes. How long would you say they took to design?



FC: My prior favorites were my “Lady Slingbacks” and “Zigzags.” They took me five or six solid days of work, from getting the prims exactly right through choosing and making good colors. My old boots are a newer favorite and they took a similar amount of time; a little less because I didn’t go color crazy with them.

BD: Do you make all of your own textures as well?

FC: Yes, most I make from scratch, but, occasionally I’ll do heavy modifications of a photo sourced starting point. Lately, I’ve been learning to add shine to my textures. That’s fun!

BD: Tell us about your shops around SL and the collaborations you do with other designers. Also, tell our readers a little about what they will find at your new “Shiny Falls” sim.

FC: I’m really lucky to have a wonderful bunch of talented friends here. Hosequeen McLean and I go way back. We collaborated on a hair/flower combo a long time ago. Hosequeen and Zyrra Falcone have been really supportive of me. The shop space they’ve given me since my business was small has been a great help. It’s also nice when Simone Stern or Hyasynth Tiramisu and I can collaborate on a clothes/accessory combo. As for the new sim, I’m finally going to have “Shiny Things” and “Fallingwater Flowers” in one place. Eddie is going to have his store here. I’ll give him a 512 plot and charge him rent. (Fallingwater giggles here mischievously).

BD: Eddie is your SL hubby?

FC: Eddie is my SL Hubby AND my RL Hubby. We never had a wedding in SL, but we met here and then later married in RL. We just celebrated our two year anniversary. I couldn’t have found a warmer, more loving husband anywhere.

BD: Wow! I love hearing stories like that! Congrats to finding someone who you may have NEVER found otherwise! When you have time to shop, where do YOU find yourself?

FC: I’ve been to “Paper Couture” a few times lately. I keep going back and contemplating what to buy next. I think they’ve done some really original work. “Pixeldolls” is also a long time favorite of mine and I think I have everything “Simone,” “Panache” and “Canimal” have ever made. It’s great to have designer friends!

BD: Tell me about some of the negative aspects or difficult hurdles you face when designing in SL, either from a design perspective or from the perspective of the SL market.

FC: Design wise, prims are more limiting than I’d like them to be. I’m amazed sometimes at what I CAN do with them, but, there are many things I only wish I could do. As for the market, I’ve always pretty much made things I like and hope the customers follow and for some reason that’s worked. Once in a while, there are some items I love whose sales have been disappointing. But, it all works out in the end.

BD: That’s an important point I think, being careful not to get caught up in a trend or a demand that you don’t enjoy creating, simply because the demand exists. It seems if you love what you create; you will enjoy your work more in the long run, and that will always be reflected in your designs.

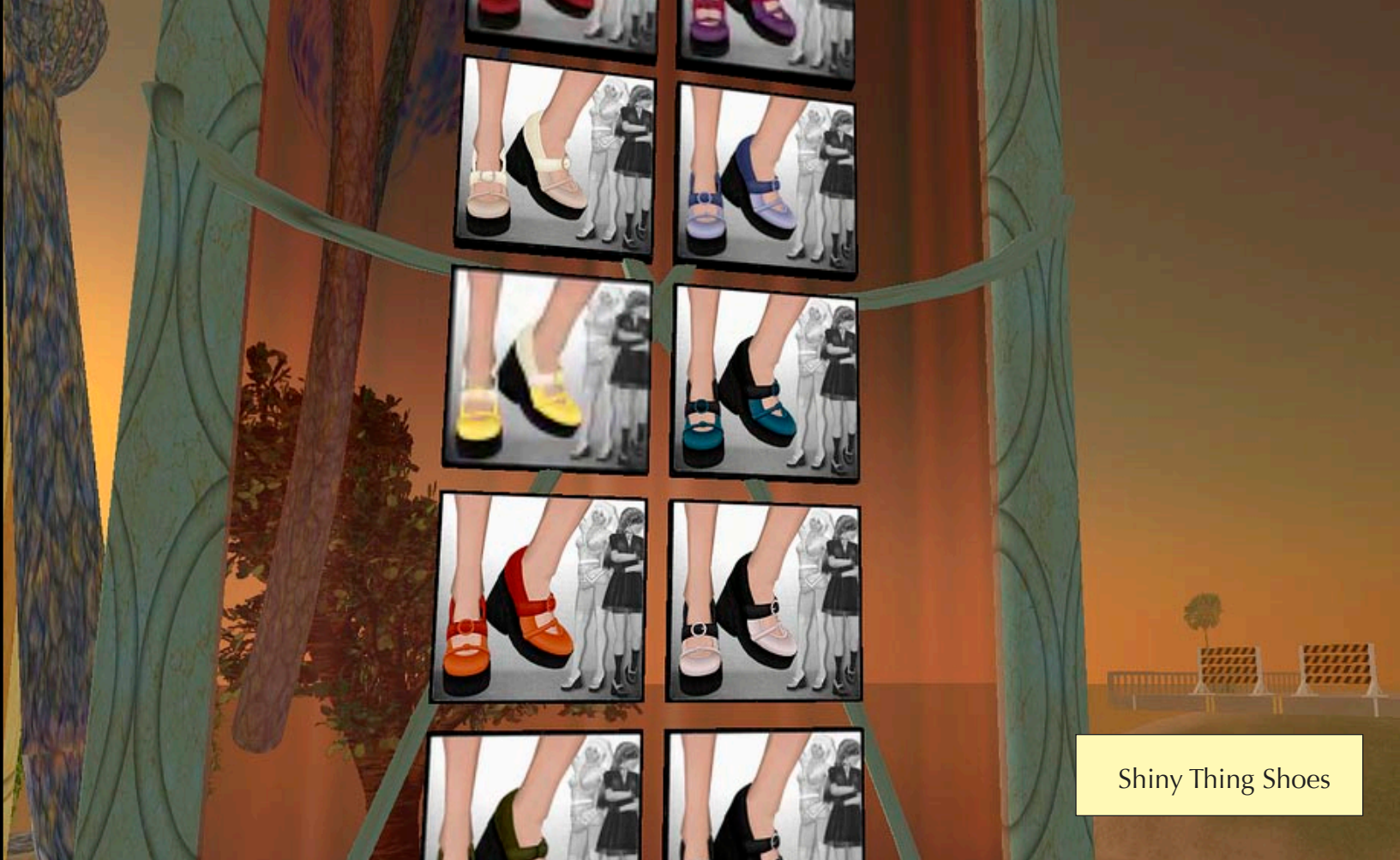
FC: That’s a good point as well. I hadn’t thought of it that way. I do hope my love, for what I do, shows.

BD: By the size of your following and the attention paid to your designs, I would say many are aware of your love and excitement for what you do! It was a pleasure to be able to sit down and chat with you. Do you have any parting comments for our readers and your loyal customers?

FC: I’d like to say a big THANK YOU to my customers and supporters. That’s about it! •



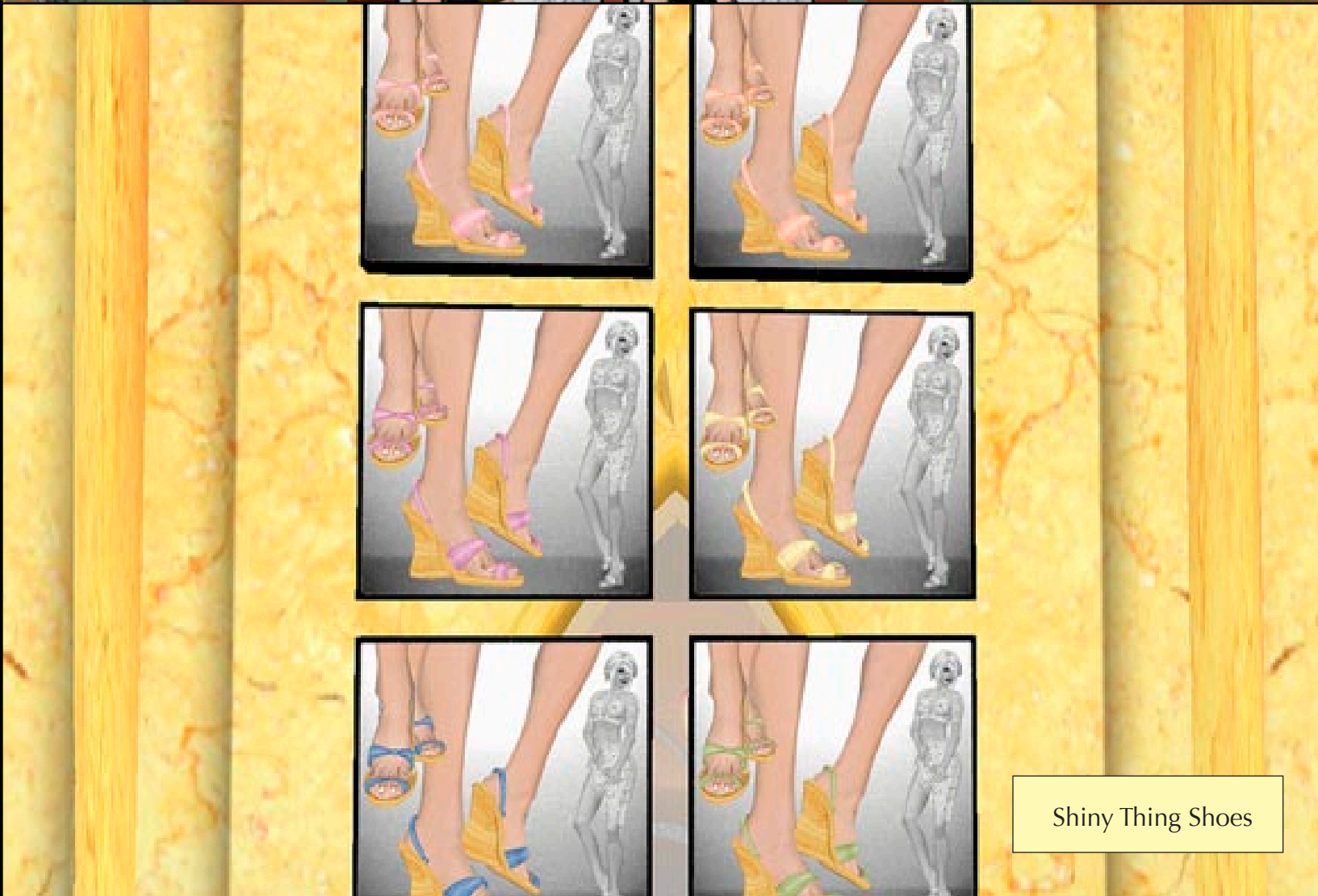
Flowers at Fallingwater's Garden Store



Shiny Thing Shoes



Wedding Flowers at Fallingwater's Garden Store



Shiny Thing Shoes

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM "FUNK" IN PLUSH LAMBDA

clothing • hair • accessories • jewelry • shoes



callie cline



Kiana Dulce



Fashion Parade: *Nicky Ree's Boutique*

Recently, I received the honor of interviewing an extremely talented and gifted designer. She has had SL in a full buzz for some time now. This designer is none other than Nicky Ree. As I entered into "Nicky Ree's Boutique," the decor immediately swept me into a place that was reminiscent of a tropical paradise. A glorious water fountain greets each guest as they enter the ingeniously designed boutique. Looking around, I noticed that Nicky had not quite made it yet. So, I took

the opportunity to do a little shopping and admire more of the amazing structure. I walked over beautiful bridges that stretched over patches of serene water. Tropical plants seemed to gingerly grow from the floor.

Loving fashion as I do, I could not help but notice the vast array of designs that lined the walls of the boutique. In particular, the 9-piece "Daniela" caught my eye. This garment includes a shimmering bikini top and bottom that gives the essence of class and sensuality. "Daniela" also provides an elegant coat that pins closed with a diamond brooch. Although "Daniela" is available in multiple colors, I quickly purchased it in green.

Soon after my purchase, Nicky Ree entered the boutique. She had been to a wedding in Dublin. By the looks of the stunning, formal gown that she was wearing, Nicky could have easily have been mistaken for the event's guest of honor. As she changed into something more casual, I helped myself to a complimentary Banana Daiquiri. Smiling, Nicky entered the room for a second time.

Nicky Ree: Have you been around the store?

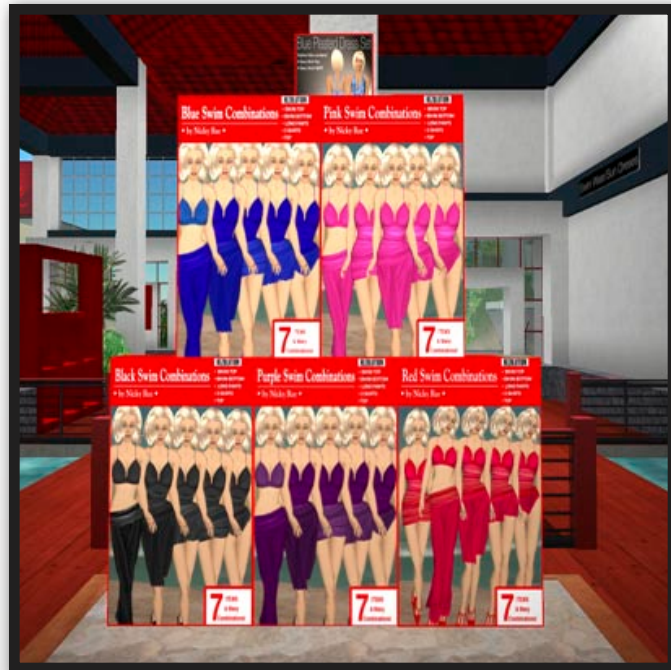
Trina Noland: Yes, I did some browsing. I love the design of the store.

Nicky Ree: The store was built by my friend Ace Albion.

Trina Noland: What inspired the design?

Nicky Ree: [Ace] asked me what I liked and I showed her my "Peranakan" house. I love water, open spaces, plants and wood. So I wanted something tropical and yet classy.

Trina Noland: You have definitely achieved that.



bored in the beginning. All we could find were casinos and camping chairs. Then, I found the “_blacklibrary” and met some nice people there. The rest is history.

Very aware of pacing customers, Nicky realized that we were chatting in the middle of the store. She recommended that we continue the interview in her office. She suddenly disappeared from my sight and within seconds, I was being transported to another tropical utopia. She announced the spacious skybox as her work area. As I admired the relaxing atmosphere, she pointed out that from time to time she simply enjoys skating around her work area. We headed to the upper level of her workspace. As I ascended the staircase, a massive and glorious swimming pool welcomed me.

Trina Noland: How do you get anything done? *laughs*

Nicky Ree: Well I didn't build the pool. I just bought it. *laughs* I just like having it. I need my water, even in the skybox. *laughs*

Trina Noland: So, how long have you been designing?

Nicky Ree: I started, in late May, designing for SL Fashion. But, I am a graphic designer in real life.

Trina Noland: You are a great talent for only 6 months of SL designing experience. Where do you get your inspiration?

Nicky Ree: Hmm. Mostly, I get inspiration from fabrics. I fiddle in PhotoShop working on fabrics. Then once I get a fabric texture and pattern I like, I start working on designs for clothes based on the fabric.

Trina Noland: There's a great amount of detail

Nicky Ree: I have to give a big thanks to Ace for visualizing what I like.

Trina Noland: How long have you been in SL and what brought you to this world?

Nicky Ree: Well, since Feb 19th of this year. My husband heard of SL and he suggested we visit this place one night. So, we both got our accounts and spent the first few days exploring the world. I must say I was very



Trina Noland (left) and Nicky Ree (right)

in your fabrics. So, if the textures inspire the designs, what inspires the textures?

Nicky Ree: Well I look at fashion sites, movies, and comics. Sometimes I just plain doodle. I was doodling “Isobel” the biker suit, doing swirls and abstract. Then, I liked the composition so decided to use it on the bodysuit.

Trina Noland: In one word, how would you describe your fashions?

Nicky Ree: Hmm hard one. . .simple elegance. . .I guess

Trina Noland: Good answer. *smiles and winks* How many store locations do you currently have?

Nicky Ree: Well, Deimos is now my new main shop. But, I still have Plush and various smaller outlets. All in all about nine I guess.

Trina Noland: Will you be keeping all of them, or possibly adding more?

Nicky Ree: Well, I just bought a 1/4 private sim with some friends. So once that is ready, I will have a bigger store there and might sell my land in Plush.

Trina Noland: Bigger than this one?

Nicky Ree: Yes. Prim wise that is. *smiles*

Trina Noland: Is your workspace in Plush as beautiful and spacious as this one?

Nicky Ree: No, much smaller. This is my first big workplace. *chuckles* No pool, but, it has a pool in the store for customers to use.

Trina Noland: So, when you are not creating or tending to business, how do you like to spend your time in SL?

Nicky Ree: I chat with friends from the “_blacklibrary” and hang around with my hubby when he logs on. I don’t get out much. *laughs* I’m mostly in my workbox.

Trina Noland: *laughs* I COMPLETELY understand that.

Nicky took the time to model a few of her designs that are still “works-in-progress”. Now, I like to consider myself having a keen eye for fashion, but, these incomplete designs would easily sell in her store “as is.” She modeled prim skirts, jackets, and pants. For a brief moment, I felt as though I had special access to her creative process.

Trina Noland: Which style fashions do you enjoy creating the most?

Nicky Ree: I love all kinds of fashion. It

really depends on my mood for the day. Sometimes, I just want to do frilly gowns, sometimes sexy sensual bodysuits, and sometimes casuals. Lately, it has been more casuals. Maybe it’s because of the weather. It is getting cold here, so now I’ve started designing pants and jackets. One day, I would love to do a complete costume from headwear to shoes. . .mythical like.

Trina Noland: Fairy type or. . .?

Nicky Ree: I’ve been thinking a lot about the Snow Queen lately. . .It must be the cold. *smiles*

Trina Noland: How long does it normally take you to create one design...from start to finish?

Nicky Ree: Well that’s hard to say. Some designs took forever. Like the “Dragon Princess”. I started it in August and finished it this month. *laughs* I worked on it, put it aside and forgot about it. Then this month, I was bored and didn’t have any fresh ideas. I went through my files and realized that I had “Dragon Princess” 90% complete. So, I just finished it up within 2 days.

Trina Noland: I would imagine that happens a lot. May I see the “Dragon Princess”?

As Nicky wore “Dragon Princess,” an amazing dragon rezzed onto her shirt.

Trina Noland: Very nice. *smiles* Do you hand paint your designs?

Nicky Ree: Most times... *smiles*. . .98% of the time, except for some buttons and belt buckles. I sometimes put in some gemstones. I did the vector graphics in freehand and imported it to PhotoShop for some treatment.



Trina Noland: Other than Nicky Ree’s Boutique, where do you go to shop?

Nicky Ree: Eheh, I have been known to buy stuff from small shops here and there and from some of my friends’ stores. I shop a lot for hair and shoes-my weakness. *smiles* I love Kin’s hair. I have her entire range. I love Lost hair too. I have the entire range. *laughs* I have some of Lash and FD and loads of ETD.

Trina Noland: Oh yes, *laughs* I’m stocked up with them as well. So, it’s safe to say that you LOVE to shop for hair the most?

Nicky Ree: Hehe . . .and shoes. Every time

I finish a new design, it is an excuse for me to shop for hair and shoes to go with the outfit for my PhotoShop. *smiles*

Nicky and I continued to discuss our love for shopping and the multiple excuses we could use to justify this addiction. As I reflected over this interview, her love, passion and pride for her work became very apparent. This will certainly prove to be the driving force to the inevitable success that she has already begun to experience. Through her designs, Nicky brings a sense of elegance, seduction, and simple fun in such an awe-inspiring way. I guarantee SL will be unable to resist Nicky Ree’s Boutique. I, for one, am already convinced. •



IMAGE REFLECTIONS (83, 82, 27)

HOT DESIGNS BY HOT DESIGNERS



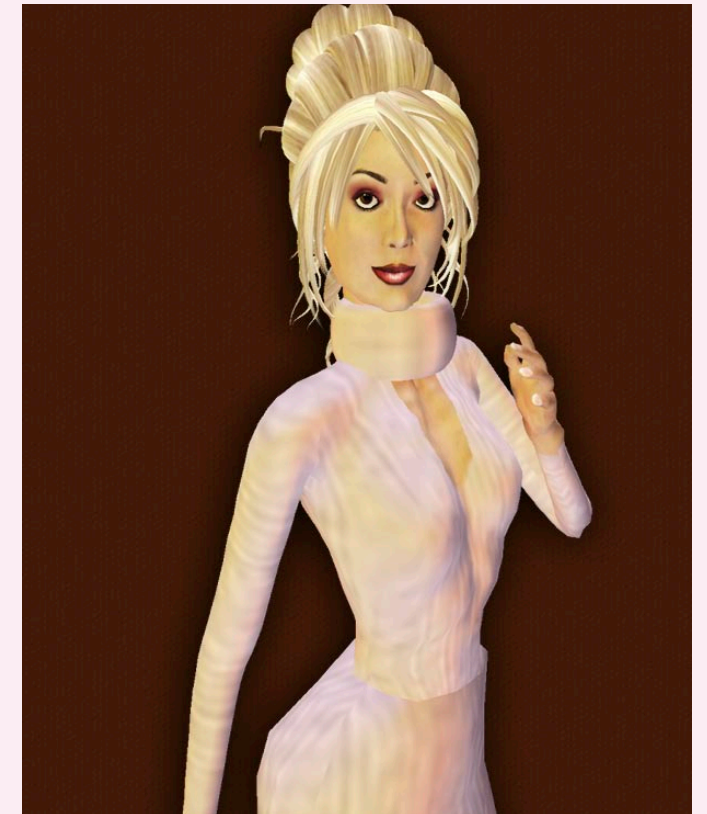
Cold Comfort: Marlene Simon's "Sweater Girl"

By Rubianne Ellison

A friend and I recently hit the virtual slopes. Boarding down a snow covered mountain in a satin tank top and matching trousers, I secretly wished that I had something more appropriate to wear. The women of Second Life wear wedding gowns to their weddings, swimsuits to the beach, and costumes to Halloween parties, so doesn't it make sense that we would wear warm clothing to go snowboarding?

The problem of dressing appropriately in snowy environments has found a solution in the designs of Marlene Simon, owner of "Sweater Girl." Simon, who has been creating clothing for about a month, explained that her practical knowledge about clothing comes from her real life occupation as an actress. She explained that as a performer, "you learn a lot about what clothes do for you or don't."

When it came to Second Life apparel, Simon said she wanted to create clothing that was "elegant and sexy, but in that order." She joked that it's "no fun if you are half naked all the time." The bold patterns and colors she uses on her pieces are the hallmark of her designs. Simon explained to me that she loves colors so she allows the "quality of textures and patterns to work so the designs themselves can be very simple." Simon chooses "clean" colors, shades that contrast with each other to build warmth.



The "Pink St. Clam" sweater is warm and oversized, featuring a geometrical pattern that incorporates a bold pink, blues, greens, yellows and reds. The "Sunshine Africa Day Dress" is patterned in a bright kente cloth in yellow, brown and green. For those with the holiday spirit, there are several oversized turtleneck sweaters featuring holiday prints such as snowmen, bells, and Christmas trees.

Simon's customers are very happy with her work. For example, the pink, midriff baring sweater she donned for the interview was a result of customer suggestions. One of her customers has even started a group called "The Sweater Girls." Simon, who has just opened four new locations, is working on designs for men and a line of cocktail dresses she's promised her fans. Her main store can be found in Cass (95, 105, 56).•

Luminosity



Clothing by Sol Columbia

Happy Holidays from Calla



Plush Kappa ~ 195, 35, 22





Casa Del Shai

by Seiko Myriam

“Casa del Shai” has a warm tropical feeling. The palm trees that you see outside the windows give the intimate spaces the feeling of a plush, rainforest tree house. On a small deck near the entrance, there is a table with an elegant white umbrella and seats with comfy white cushions. The inside is natural, dark

wood and rattan, with enough white to keep it light. Shopping here feels like being on a vacation.

The building is divided into two “huts” separated by a wide covered passageway that’s open at either end to let in the breeze. The

huts (and they are much too elegant to be called huts) present Shai Delacroix’s current fall/winter collections, one for “Shai Girls,” one for “Shai Guys.” This is Shai’s new store, designed for her by her friend Aemilia Case, and built to hold her growing fashion line.

It’s sensual and comfortable, modern without being cold, themed without being a cliché. Much like Shai, (who when asked to describe herself in one word, replied “eclectic”) diverse elements come together to create a harmonious but complex whole.

Dark haired with delicate features, Shai is warm and easy to talk to. She is often found in the store chatting and making jokes with customers. There’s a cocktail party feeling, a cocktail party with well-dressed, witty friends. The friendly banter is punctuated by friendly business talk. “Thank you for your purchase,” she says to one. To someone who leaves the jacket off one outfit to bare her tummy, she says, “hmmm, maybe I’ll do some skirts like that.” Her customers are loyal, “Although,” she laughs, “they accuse me of hoarding when I hold back designs to release a collection.” At her customer’s requests, she’ll soon be doing more accessories and there will be shoes, mostly sandals, in the upcoming spring/summer collection.

Shai’s knowledge of her customers produces a coherent collection with pieces that seem to belong together in one’s wardrobe. This produces “Shai-aholics” who insist on owning every piece. Shai says that a “Shai Girl is confident, adventurous, independent, and feminine without being girlish.” A “Shai Guy is sure of himself, casually elegant, worldly and not afraid of showing his softer side.”

Shai translates her understanding of her customers into beautiful, well made clothes. Her clothes are rich, rich in texture and detail, rich in color and fabric. The colors are not simple



or basic. They are layered earth tones with berry hues and colors from the sea. The only true pastel is featured in the “Prom Dress.” A sweetly innocent dress that has an optional jacket dripping with lovely, carefully rendered blood drops; this dress was inspired by the horror movie “Carrie.” Most of her clothing is not so shocking. It’s comfortable, casual and highly detailed.

In spite of the relaxed and easy feel of her clothes, Shai puts an enormous amount of energy into her work. Her first collection, last season’s spring/summer, was produced in just three weeks. All of her pieces are hand drawn. She avoids photographic processes. This handwork gives her clothing an organic natural feel. The clothes look elegant and pulled together but just a little rumpled as if they were actually worn.



The fall/winter collection, which is her second, introduces some new pieces and keeps a few of the old favorites. The tropical resort feeling is still there along with cocktail dresses that bring back the glamour of old movies and some comfortable, beautifully practical pieces for hanging out with friends.

The "Boracay Sundress," an old favorite of Shai's, a dress she calls her "comfort outfit," is a standout. The dress is made of earthy colored, rust and gold spiked with a little red, silk jersey beaded and draped to follow the body. The simple cut features a plunging neckline and bare shoulders. The panels of the skirt are cut wider so the dress flows. This dress is the perfect, go-anywhere dress, and the perfect resort dress. Imagine a tropical resort, "an afternoon shopping in an open-air market followed by dinner and dancing, ending with a walk on the beach carrying your heels." The dress comes with bangles that fit without fiddling.

"Animal Fever" tube dresses cling to the body,

45 ASpiRE!

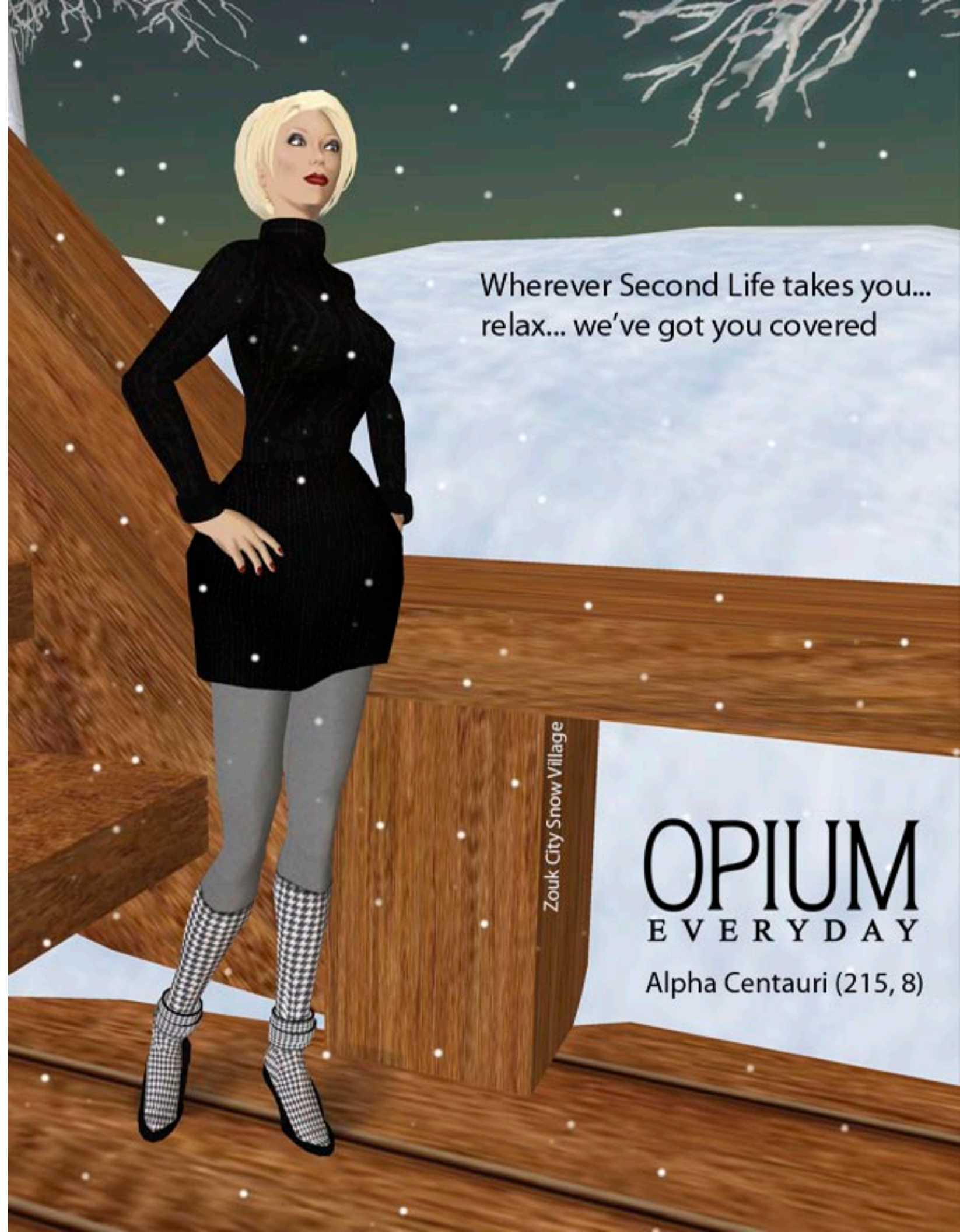
flow marvelously around the hips. The sexy front slit opens when you walk and sit. Like all of Shai's clothing the texture is so rich, deep and tactile. The dress comes in cowhide, zebra, giraffe, and leopard.

Casual clothing for women include skinny jeans, with the most amazing fading, tube tops, shearling coats with matching mock turtle necks, and cute, cute "Daisy Dukes." The ultra plush, cashmere sweaters have a belted jacket styling that makes them great partners for other pieces in the collection or one's own closet.

The "Nouvelle Librarian," like the cocktail dresses, harkens back to old movies. It's frankly glamorous and steaming with repressed, barely repressed, sexuality. Think Joan Crawford or Bette Davis. The elegant shear blouse, with intricate detailing, and sweet short sleeves, pairs with a leather cinched skirt with a slit that's anything but shy.

On the men's side, the "Professor," a shirt and pants set, pairs with the Academy Jacket to create an outfit that Cary Grant or Brad Pitt would wear. There's also a rugged, plaid lined jacket, and more great jeans and shirts. There's a shearling coat for men as well. It's as at home with you hiking in the snow as it is perched on a barstool while you have warming drinks with friends. The "Casino Jacket" is a little dressier but not stiff. "The Shai Guy is relaxed about himself, unpretentious (or willing to act so), rugged, and soft at the same time."

Shai is often in the store early in the morning and late at night. One late, late evening, after almost everyone has left, she turns to store designer Aemilia and says, "More space, I need more space." Already, she's outgrowing this new, barely opened store. Aemilia looks up, and they begin to discuss a second story. Stay tuned. •



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An Afternoon of Couture: *The Jolie Femme Fashion Show*

by **Rubianne Ellison**

On November 18, a crowd of about 30 people gathered around the ASpiRE! runway to see the creations of McGeeb Gupte, designer of Jolie Femme clothing. Jolie Femme means “Pretty Woman” in French, and the name is apt for Gupte’s lovely, sexy designs. The ensembles shown ran the gamut from the classically sensual to the provocatively racy.

Roenik Newell glided onto the stage in a lovely blue ball gown. The gown boasted an all over glittery texture, a sexy strapless bodice, and a waist cinching full skirt. Another classic gown was modeled by Bianca Darling. Reminiscent of a 1950’s cocktail dress, it consisted of a fitted bodice which blossomed into a full skirt. Its classic styling was accented by a silk bow that tied across the bodice. Casually elegant, the blue polka-dotted dress Newell also modeled, featured spaghetti straps and a cute pleated skirt.

More casually sexy ensembles included a pant set sported by Leigh Matthews. A midriff bearing top with bell sleeves perfectly complimented the matching pants, the bottoms of which flared out to flimsy peplums. Kirsten Corleone wore a sexy plaid school girl outfit, whose plaid and sheer fabric top were accented by a spicy pleated skirt. Myoka Murakami wore a flirty double ruffled skirt set; the full, thigh-skimming skirt fitting over a matching bikini

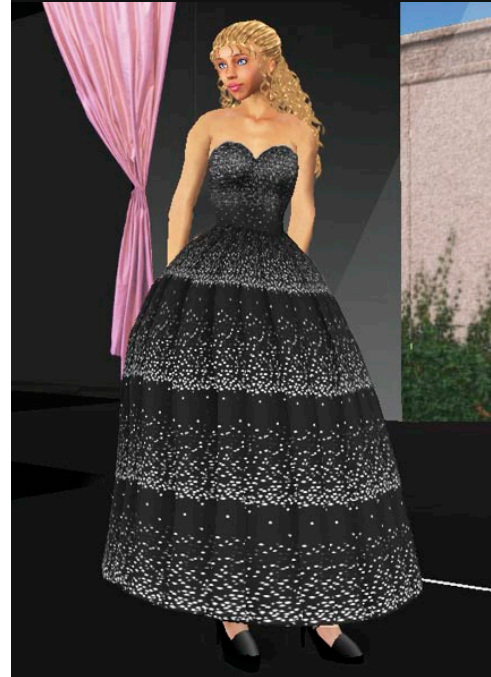
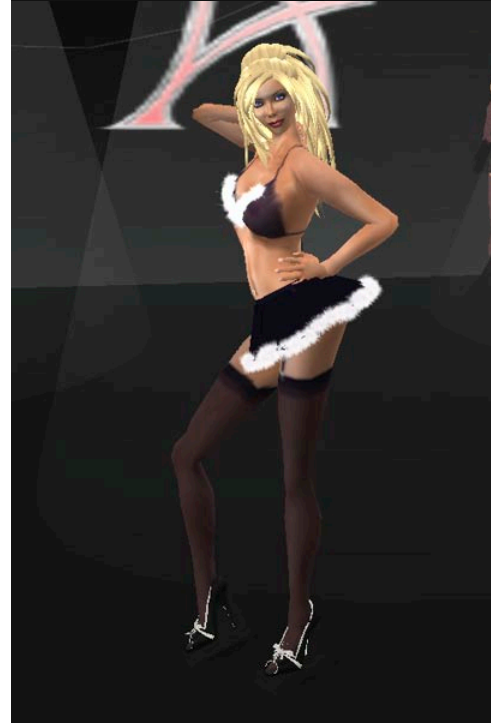


with a studded band.

Leigh Matthews and Roenik Newell looked ready to hit the beach in sexy swimwear. Leigh sported a sexy, barely there bikini, while Roenik wore the same suit in a modern camouflage print. Another ensemble that was reminiscent of the beach was the “Tropical Flirt Blue Night Sky” ensemble modeled by Kirsten Corleone. Patterned in luscious blues, the ensemble included a tiny bikini and matching thong. Those desiring more coverage can don the included pleated skirt and bell sleeve top, which knots between the breasts.

Plenty of clothing more suitable to the boudoir was also featured at the Jolie femme show. Myoka Murakami was a showstopper in the “Showgirl” ensemble, which included a sheer bustier with a black bra accented with teal stripes, a matching thong, garter belt, and stockings. Telima Taggart “strutted her stuff” in the “Flower Lace Garter” ensemble. Made of a sheer floral lace, this tantalizing outfit included a matching thong and stockings. Kirsten Corleone displayed the “Marabou” set which includes a sheer bra and thong, matching garter and stockings, topped with a tiny skirt. There are two versions in the set; one with and one without feathers.

The show ended with designer McGeeb Gupte stepping onto the stage in the black version of her ball gown. Gupte recently remodeled her store, where you can find all of her wonderful designs. The Jolie Femme main store is located in Dimidiata (176, 69, 91). •





Adored Clothing Fashion Show

by Seiko Myriam

I'm on time, but I'm late. It's my first fashion show, well not my first fashion show, but the first one I am writing about for ASpiRE!. I am on time because the "Adored Clothing" fashion show started at 4:00 and it's not quite 4:00. I am late because it is already full and I can't get in! I could hear Trina Noland as she began to announce the show, but I couldn't get in. The ASpiRE! staff works hard and I am finally in and seated, and only a little late.

Music spun by Nexeus Fatale revved up the energy as ASpiRE! models sashayed down the runway in designs by "Adored Clothing's" Amysue Shirakawa. Amysue is famous for soft feminine takes on classic designs, her use of color, and layers of beautiful, flowing fabrics; and the full house demonstrated how eager we all were to see her new designs. Models floated down the runway, with flirty little skirts flouncing around them or long frilly skirts that could have come from a fairytale.

First down the runway, a business suit called "Beama," was all business and all girl ready to run a cooperation and leave for a dinner date without going home to change. The ensemble is pinstriped and accented with piping. The tailored jacket has 3- quarter length sleeves. The low- riding, body hugging, pants

flaring out at the ankle, looked casual and alluring all at once.

There were feminine dresses and ensembles with flirty little skirts. Bianca Darling was a vision as she walked the catwalk in standout "Amanda," a sweet little dress made of fabric dotted with pink flowers. Its deep V-neck and ruffled sleeves, trimmed in lace, added to the allure. A lovely blue and white ensemble known as "Caroline" seemed guileless but a second look revealed its womanly side. The blouse featured an enticing sweetheart neckline and shoulders with dropped sleeves. Fitted with an asymmetrical hem, the pleated skirt was at once playful and enticing.

Two outfits defined the collection. "Alex" combined classic fifties style with modern sex appeal. A strapless, cut out tube top drew attention to the model's curves, while the full skirt, trimmed with lace, and featuring a toile overlay, provided a demure balance. Perfect for an outing with the girls or a romantic date, this ensemble is sure to make you look and feel your best. Women who need clothes that wow in the board room and the dance floor will love the outfit called "Inari!" This stunningly simple ensemble, modeled by Roenik Newell, featured an eye drawing wrap closure. The cardigan, trimmed in white, was classy, elegant and sure to make a positive impact. The outfit was completed by an understated, knee skimming, A-line skirt. The message was clear. You can dress for success and still be alluring.

Some of the ensembles were frankly sensual. "Avongara" featured a modern day corset transformed into a sexy halter. The dress was completed by a miniskirt that laced to the navel. Feathering textures in shades of purple added to the appeal. "Gwendolyn" featured a bold new "twist" on the traditional o- ring top. With a plunging décolletage and a wrap-look back, this blouse showed off plenty of supple skin. Paired with a charcoal skirt that had tiny pockets and black trim at the waist, this ensemble was not for the faint of heart.

Evening gowns featured delicate straps or no straps and surprising touches like "Sundari's" wings and yards and yard of beautiful fabric. "Sundari" almost stopped the show. This backless floor length gown featured breathtaking wings that floated from the wearer's wrists. Textured all over in graduated blues and yellows, this ensemble made it's model, Damiana Aquitaine, shine!. The dress looked like a flower and is perfect to brighten these grey fall evenings. It comes in several colors, enough to make a mini-garden in your closet. "Chantal", would be perfect for a New Year's Eve ball. A strapless, fitted bodice was ruched and laced up in the back, while sleeve wings adding drama. The flowing floor length skirt featured a lacy textured overskirt.

The wedding gown took my breath away. "Hannah had a sweetheart neckline, fluttered sleeves and a full, gathered skirt that flattered the December Bride. Hearts will definitely flutter when the bride glides down the aisle in



Amysue Shirakawa

this confection!

The last item was modeled by all ten of the beautiful models. The "Fiona" gown, available in six colors, comes in two lengths. Sumptuously embroidered on the bodice and skirt, this ensemble was captivating. The gown, trimmed at the waist and neckline in a contrasting color, is perfect for a romantic date or a formal event.

Amysue took center stage in the semi-circle formed by the models wearing "Fiona" She said, "thank you" to all those who made the show possible and to those who attended. There was warm applause.

A woman near me said, "One? I need six." I went over to Adored in Plush Genesis (175, 8, 23) and managed to stop at three. •

Adored Clothing



Plush Genesis 176, 6, 23

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Sparkle Skye

By: Aunnia Wilberg

I am so excited to bring you another interview with another of my favorite designers in Second Life, Sparkle Skye. She does some of the most incredible silks and hair. I met her when I was frantically looking for something special for my collaring ceremony. She agreed to custom make my silks, my master's suit and my hair.

When I landed at her island she was wear-

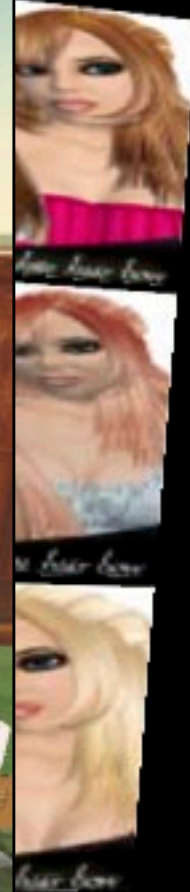
ing an adorable outfit from her new "Fairy Collection" which included wings to complete the ensemble. She began by telling me that she had been in Second Life for two years. She told me that before coming to SL she used to go on an old 2D chat called "Palace." She and her partner, Dominus Skye, had also tried "There." She said that they "have always built things in one form or another and 'There' was very limiting." According to Sparkle, it was "frustrating" and had no scripting which is what Dom is interested in. When she heard about Second Life they both switched over and have been here ever since.

If you have been in Second Life for a while, you are probably thinking that Dominus Skye sounds familiar. If you have ever played "Slingo," it should. He is the creator of the SL version of that and other games in Second Life.

When asked what made her decide to design hair and clothes she replied, "Well, in 'Palace' I made the avatars photos we would wear and I was always looking for something that was unique and represented my tastes." When she came to Second Life, the first thing she did, as most people do when coming here, was go on a shopping spree. But, there wasn't a lot of what

she was looking for so she started making her own clothing and soon followed by making her own hair. She has gone on to making furniture, which includes her beautiful flower chairs, and she loves trying "a little bit of everything."

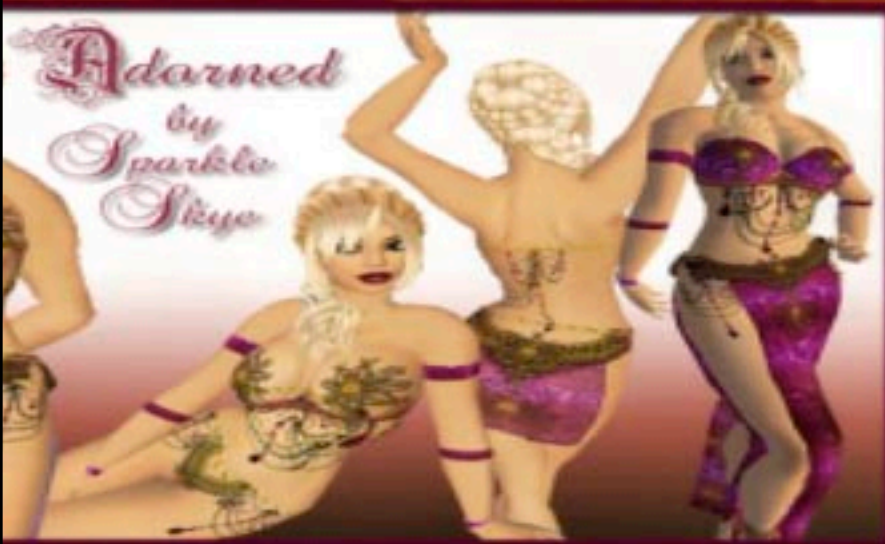
I asked her if she had any new collections coming out and she said that she was in the process of getting ready to launch her "Fairy Rose" collection. This collection includes beautiful flexi wings, a rose bodice, rose garland bra and panties, stockings, petal skirt, flexi babydoll, prim rose wand with particles, and prim ballet slippers. She told me that she will be releasing



[Back](#)



[Next](#)



the ballet slippers separately in an array of colors. These are to match her fairy flower chairs which also come in different colors with “ponder” and “nap” pose balls. She also is preparing to release an older collection of wedding dresses. Now that she has the island, she finally has the means to display them.

In RL, Sparkle Sky studies visual design and 3d modeling. She also designs costumes for belly dancing and teaches belly dancing classes. One of her first silk creations in SL was a copy of one of her belly dancing costumes but it was before flexi

was introduced and she wasn't very satisfied with it. With the advent of flexi, she revisited doing silks and more and more customers began asking for them.

In the beginning, Sparkle just created for herself. Then people started seeing her making different things and they would ask her to create something for them. Customers don't have to wait to get an appointment with Sparkle anymore. All of her creations can be seen on her island ImagineNation (241, 233, 24). Go check out her wonderful work. I know you will be as satisfied as I am. •



Dream City (25, 129, 23)

