

c h a r l e s n o l a n

F a l l 2 0 0 8

[The setting: An alcove. Off a reception room. Somewhere.]

Cake. As in: “Let them eat.”

Also as in: American Ballet Theatre’s junior company and its upcoming production of a new ballet by that name I have been costuming – Cake – by a terrific young choreographer, Brian Reeder.

So ultimately as in: I inevitably found myself lost in Eighteenth Century France, plutocrats, the poor, the stirrings of egalité and calls for change . . . the silks and chiffons but the need for something practical . . . democratizing beauty . . . fashion for a new age aborning . . . yes, we can . . . ready on day one . . . does the knife loom for our subprime excess?

This is what comes of sketching Eighteenth Century French ballet costumes while watching MSNBC.

I was struck by the sheer *technology* of the period, what had to go into making the old hoop structure showing lightness and wealth . . . that was all about technology. Whale bone, light metal – fantastic when you think about it. Just as astonishing for its time as the amazing fabrics and technology we get to play with today . . . the memory taffetas that evoke grand evenings – but you can sleep in on a plane and smooth out (and practically hose down) . . . the recycled industrial mesh that holds up our pouf – the skirt wraps the body for ease of fit as the silk wraps the mesh to maintain its shape. This mesh also gives lightness and rise to the shoulders of the heather jersey-lined featherweight wool tweed jacket.

The shape is about the roundness. Layers, textures, and subtle coloring.

The shoes are all about sharpness and crispness – the snub toe, the crisp heel.

The bags are about roundness, soft and hard. The big soft slouch sack pouf in deerskin; the little hard chain mail sack and little reticule.

The flourish – jewel-embellished ribbon accents to brighten the mood.

It’s all about the fit . . . it’s all about empowerment . . . it’s all about moving forward mindful of the past.

c h a r l e s n o l a n

F a l l 2 0 0 8

Run of Show

1. Milagros Greige memory taffeta pannier trench. Crème silk jersey ruffle wrap. Buff stretch cord jean. Black croc heeled riding boot.
2. Phillip Buff cotton double poplin trench coat. Ivory cashmere fisherman's sweater. Heather grey flannel trousers.
3. Michaela Scarlet double face felt caped weskit. Charcoal stretch cord jean. Black polished calf heeled riding boot.
4. Claudia Cadet double face felt topper. Rose silk jersey sleeveless turtleneck blouse. Black polished calf riding boot.
5. Cecilia Navy herringbone gabardine sailor pant. Black cashmere satin back cardigan. White cotton bow shirt. Espresso croc pump.
6. Alexander Indigo windowpane topcoat. Grey stretch cord jean. Burgundy tie.
7. Alina Navy silver button cardigan. Navy gabardine inverted pleat skirt. Cobalt/white striped poet shirt. Black polished calf pump.
8. Georgie Navy gabardine trimmed jacket. Black matte crepe paper-bag pant. French blue bow shirt with white collar and cuff. Black polished calf pump.
- 9 Clayton Navy cashmere topcoat. Navy gabardine slim fit suit. Dip dyed french blue shirt. Cerulean slim cut silk faille tie.
- 9a Mari Scarlet double face felt caplet with pink trim.
- 10 Han White cotton poet shirt. Navy shadow stripe "Oxford Bags" pant. Black silk faille pannier. Black polished calf pump.
- 11 Erin Navy wool milano jacket with white pique collar. Black shadow stripe "Oxford Bags" pant. Black croc pump.
- 12 Andrea Navy blue scoop neck dress. Espresso croc pump.

13 Anna	Scarlet satin corset camisole. Navy crepe "Oxford Bags" pant. Black polished calf pump.
14 Eugenia	Auburn silk taffeta poet tunic. Plum stretch velvet jean. Black croc heeled riding boot.
15 Edythe	Plum double breasted coat cardigan. Charcoal stretch cord jean. Lilac silk crepe tie neck blouse. Black polished calf riding boot.
16 Ghylan	Pine taffeta trench. Cadet stretch cord jean. Pine asymmetrical pullover. Cadet ruffled heeled boot.
17 Jaime	Cadet tweed jacket. Cadet tweed wrap skirt. Black croc pump.
17a Beth	Kelly green double face felt coat. Green/ white striped silk jersey tee.
18 Simon	Heather hunter/ violet overplaid officer's topcoat. Plum stretch velvet jean.
19 Milagros	Ivy cashmere taffeta back cardigan. Rose printed silk twill wrap pouf skirt. Cerise croc pump.
20 Michaela	French blue double face felt jacket. Mist gabardine "Oxford Bags" pant. Chambray cotton tie neck shirt. Espresso croc pump.
21 Claudia	Sunset bias plaid caplet. Light charcoal flannel "Oxford Bags" pant. Rust cardigan. White cotton shirt. Black polished calf heeled riding boot.
22 Cecilia	Auburn tweed jacket. Heather grey wool felt seamed skirt. Apricot silk crepe tie neck blouse. Espresso pump.
23 Han	Apricot satin back cardigan. Light charcoal double knit pencil skirt. Tree print silk twill balloon sleeve blouse. Spectator pump.
24 Alexander	Black/ white Prince of Wales check three piece suit.
24a Chiara	Mist double face felt caplet. French blue double face felt wrap skirt. Daffodil silk crepe blouse.
25 Georgie	Mist double face felt cropped jacket. Mist double face felt wrap skirt. Lilac satin back shell. Black polished calf pump.
26 Erin	Silver lurex cardigan. Tree print silk twill wrap full skirt. Daffodil silk crepe blouse. Pewter pump.
27 Anna	Plum double face felt princess coat. Blackberry wool felt

- seamed skirt. Charcoal lace blouse. Wine satin ruffled heeled boot.
- 28 Edythe Wine wool jersey shirt dress with silk satin full skirt. Plum double face felt jacket. Black polished calf heeled riding boot.
- 29 Phillip Plum velvet lounge suit. Dip dyed purple shirt. Crimson slim cut silk faille tie.
- 30 Eugenia Birdseye print jacket. Birdseye print pencil skirt. Plum silk crepe ruffled wrap. Cerise croc pump.
- 31 Milagros Plum optic print velvet poet jacket. Deep plum seal skin wrap full skirt. Cerise croc pump.
- 32 Michaela Nouveau abstract print jersey dress. Red pump.
- 33 Claudia Navy ring print jersey shirt dress with satin twill full skirt. Olive ruffled heeled boot.
- 34 Cecilia Violet ottoman sack coat. Empire waist arabesque printed pouf dress. Espresso pump.
- 35 April Black stretch velvet scoop neck jacket. Black washed silk taffeta double tie skirt. Black croc heeled riding boot.
- 36 Han Greige jersey Moroccan print turtleneck dress. Black croc pump.
- 37 Georgie Grey clipped dots satin high neck chemise. Grey ruffled heeled boot.
- 38 Edythe Argyle v neck sweater dress. Black cotton bow shirt. Black polished calf heeled riding boot.
- 39 Anna Cerise ottoman sleeveless sack coat. Black satin ruffled heeled boot.
- 40 Eugenia Bronze metallic leather zipper bomber. Espresso washed silk taffeta double tie skirt. Espresso silk crepe top. Black croc heeled riding boot.
- 41 Alina Black / rose reversible dinner jacket. Black silk paillette chemise. Black satin ruffled heeled boot.
- 42 Cecilia Black ottoman sack coat. Black wool jersey pleat skirt. Black croc pump.
- 43 Claudia Black wool jersey/ stretch silk satin zippered shirt dress.

Black polished calf riding boot.

- 44 Alexander Royal blue silk velvet shawl collar jacket. Black wool mohair evening trouser. White tuxedo shirt. Black bow tie.
- 45 Alexandra Black silk pique poet shirt. Black wool felt seamed skirt. Black satin ruffled heeled boot.
- 46 Georgie Black mohair boucle belted wrap. Black split neck dress. Black croc heeled riding boot
- 47 Ros Espresso wool felt seamed countess coat. Espresso wool pencil skirt. Espresso rayon jersey ruffled wrap. Black polished calf heeled riding boot.
- 48 Han Taupe glazed jersey party dress. Black croc pump.
- 49 Anna Bisque memory damask Marie robe de soir. Brown satin ruffled heeled boot.
- 50 Erin Black silk faille Marie coat. Black stretch velvet jean. Red satin pannier. Black satin ruffle heeled boot.
- 51 Michaela Black silk faille skirt with ribbon back. Black wool crepe caped weskit. Black polished calf heeled riding boot.
- 52 Milagros Ivory silk faille skirt with ribbon back. Black silk pique poet shirt. Red satin ruffled boot.

Acknowledgements

Production

Kevin Krier & Associates

Lighting & Production

Design One Corporation

Music

Agent Jackson

Hair

Peter Butler

Make-up

B O B B I B R O W N

Video

B P r o d u c t i o n s

Footwear

c h a r l e s n o l a n

Jeweled Ribbon Flourishes

**Katrina LaPenne for
c h a r l e s n o l a n**

Handbags - Oversized Sack

c h a r l e s n o l a n

Handbags

**Nancy Bacich for
c h a r l e s n o l a n**

Backstage Refreshments



Thank you!

We would like to thank all our civilian models for helping us tell our story.

Ms. Ghylia Bell
Commercial actress and holistic practitioner

The Honorable Alexandra Knatchbull
Grad Student- Georgetown
Thesis topic: modern children warriors

Mrs. Ros Boissevain-Bardi
London based design consultant

Ms. Chiara Bardi
Student - 6th year, London

Mr. Clayton Apgar
Actor

Mr. Colby Parson
ABT Dancer

Ms. Andrea Thomson
ABT Dancer

Ms. Jamie Hickey
ABT Dancer

Ms. April Giangeruso
ABT Dancer

Miss Beth Rooney
Student – Charles' niece

Miss Mari Rooney
Soon to be scholar – Charles' niece