

**WEB EXTRA: Move over, baby**

One-piece rompers will be a hot outfit for spring



## FASHION



Complex gave the most dramatic fashion show with blinged-out hoodies, lumberjack layers, fake money and some hooch for their homies.

## Homeboys, gents and in-betweens

## Annual fashion show reveals trends for fall

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Sarah models a Valentino knit shift and Missoni cape from Nushin Boutique in Trounce Alley

Visit the Fall Persuasion III photo gallery at [timescolonist.com](http://timescolonist.com).**SARAH PETRESCU**  
Times Colonist**B**old fashion statement or cheeky take on West Coast style, Outlooks for Men stole the runway with dapper duds tucked into sleek, black gumboots at the Fall Persuasion III fashion show last Wednesday night.

In its third year, the show has become the most anticipated fashion event in the city. Trendy boutiques reveal fall wares just as they are to hit the racks.

This year, the battle of the menswear dominated the theme.

Complex kicked off the show with blinged-out hoodies, designer jeans and razor-art haircuts by the Fix. A few preppy logger-plaid pieces rounded out the collection, presented with serious flair. Models threw fake money off the runway and poured out brown-bagged hard booze — for their ghetto lumberjack homies?

Outlooks presented an entirely different image of men and style. Three-piece suits, rich textures like tweed and velvet, double-breasted sweaters and fitted flat-front slacks were worn well by models ranging in age and personal style — they included local running stars Jim Finlayson and Reuben Jentink, who recently returned from a 4,200-kilometre run across sub-Saharan Africa for charity.

While the homeboy or gentlemen look might appeal to two separate camps, newcomer boutique Four Horsemen brilliantly bridged the two with edgy tartan cardigans, not-too-skinny jeans, silk-lined wool hooded jackets and custom-designed authentic Cowichan sweaters. Their look is definitely more man than boy, but it's still fun.

Women's fashion showed a less-cohe-



PHOTOS BY BRUCE STOTESBURY, TIMES COLONIST

Four Horsemen, a new Market Square boutique for men, bridged the gap between homeboy and gentleman with edgy formal looks like this tartan cardigan over dark-wash tailored jeans.

sive but inspiring season of shopping ahead. Plaid, in every incarnation from Scottish to grunge-inspired, will dominate the streets. Wild ankle-boots are the season's must-have. Wear them tasseled, with kitten heels, in red leather or whatever — just get some.

Fall Persuasion has grown with the local fashion community that supports it. Some newcomers to the show revealed the most interesting looks.

Eco-chic boutique Not Just Pretty showed that environmentally friendly fabrics and style have come a long way in recent years. Fitted blazers with detailing and rich earthy tones — forest green is finally back — had the crowd uttering audible ahhhs.

Devilish Damzels, a new boutique in LoJo's Paper Box Arcade, revived rocker chick with tattoo-print corsets and '80s-inspired ripped T-shirts. Enormously big hair, provided by extension experts at Fish Hair Salon, topped off the theatrical bombshell look.

Fall Persuasion organizers, and Suation boutique owners Kylee Simpson and Tiffany Dobson, introduced their new eclectic store Hemingway with a take on "boyfriend wear" — shirt dresses paired with knee-high Hunter gumboots and rich leathers.

The idea for the fashion fundraiser came about three years ago when Simpson and Dobson set out to promote their new Johnson Street store. They enlisted neighbouring LoJo boutiques and hair salons to help put on a show.

Because the event was imagined primarily to give exposure to the area's fashion scene, the two friends decided to make it a benefit.

Any funds raised at the show would be donated to the B.C. Cancer Foundation for breast cancer research. Deanna Young, a close friend of Dobson

and Simpson, inspired the decision. She had just made it through radiation, chemotherapy and a mastectomy.

"She was very enthusiastic," Simpson said. Young has been the event's MC for all three years. At Fall Persuasion III, Young was presented with a \$15,000 cheque for the B.C. Cancer Foundation. Proceeds from the night's sold-out tickets and door prizes are still to come. [spetrescu@tc.canwest.com](mailto:spetrescu@tc.canwest.com)

Outlooks for Men dominated men's classic fall stylings, here worn by long-distance running star Jim Finlayson.

**RHONA RASKIN**

Ask Rhona

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## Home office is girlfriend's playground

**Dear Rhona:** I run my computer-based business from my home office. The great part is there's no commute, but the problem is my lovely girlfriend. She treats me like I'm at home for her amusement. She thinks nothing of walking in for a conversation or a distracting neck rub (often with cues that she's like more). I don't have the heart to shut her out, as she works mostly evenings, but I have to be available to my clients during normal working hours in the daytime. What's the solution?**Distracted****Dear D:** It's time to tell your sweetie that your day must be devoted to your hard drive — that any attention to her software will have to wait till you log off your official business. Tell her you've noticed that the work is taking you too long with distractions. Explain to her that if she reads a closed door as "Don't Enter: Work in Progress," you'll have more time for shared lunches. Consider extending your coffee break time when she's home, then set aside an hour or so after she has left for work to complete your projects. Your work schedule has more flexibility than hers, so take advantage. To paraphrase my dad: "Just because you're self-employed doesn't mean the boss is nice."**Dear Rhona:** My girlfriend of four months informed me that an old boyfriend wants to see her before he moves to Oregon. She says she wants to meet with him to tell him that it is over forever between them. I do *not* want her to see him because it has been two years since they went out. They only dated for five months. Am I overreacting?**Not Happy****Dear NH:** If she's been your girlfriend for four months, you'd think that it would have come to his attention by now that it was over. Some people, however, need the official goodbye in poster size print, hand delivered. You will seem petty and untrusting if you try to control her social calendar. You never know — maybe he found a winning lottery ticket they bought together and he is handing over her half. So, yes, you are overreacting. It seems as though you are saying that she can't be trusted out of your sight. She had a life before she met you. You are not her parent and you are not the border patrol. If you want to keep the position of "current boyfriend," avoid ultimatums and resist brooding.

Imke &amp; Thorsten

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