

Voice of the Rocky Mountain Empire

# THE DENVER POST

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## October event to fight Down Syndrome

Kicking off a benefit style show with a parade of fashions is only natural, so Saks Fifth Avenue recently converted part of its Cherry Creek store's main floor into a party zone with food, tables, drinks and a runway.

Cheryl Preheim of 9News introduced, among others, Anna Sie, who told the audience about the Oct. 10 Be Beautiful Be Yourself Jet Set Fashion Show, a fundraiser for the Global Down Syndrome Foundation where backers hope to raise \$1 million. Sie and her husband, John, through their eponymous foundation last year opened the Linda Crnic Institute for Down Syndrome, focusing on research and clinical care. Located on the Anschutz Medical Campus, it's a collaborative effort among the Sies, Children's Hospital and the University of Colorado's Boulder and Denver campuses.

Quincy Jones, the legendary music producer and arranger, is the gala honoree. Professional athletes, Denver Nuggets dancers and models with developmental disabilities will wear fall and winter looks from Saks.

The Be Beautiful event starts at 5 p.m. Oct. 10 at the Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center, 650 15th St. Individual tickets are \$250 to \$500; sponsor tables from \$5,000 to \$100,000 are available. Information: [coloradojetset.com](http://coloradojetset.com); Diana Moore at 303-468-6663, [ajsfoundation.com](http://ajsfoundation.com).



Above: Gretchen Bechtolt, left, and Sophia Whitten (daughter of Michelle Sie Whitten), take their turn on the runway at the Saks Fifth Avenue kickoff.

Left: Michelle Sie Whitten with her parents, John J. and Anna Sie.

Steve Peterson, Special to  
The Denver Post

# Classic styles, quality are keys to fall fashions

By Suzanne S. Brown *The Denver Post*

Denverites might still be wearing shorts, T-shirts and sandals, but fashion fans itching for a first look at fall styles shifted seasons when Saks Fifth Avenue hosted a recent preview for 300 people at its Cherry Creek store. From what was shown on the runway, expect black leather, sweatery tights and booties, and animal prints to be wardrobe staples when winter rolls into town.

"We're seeing a lot of beautifully made, classic, understated clothes," Cynthia Petrus, fashion director, said of the styles. "People are looking for clothes that last, investment pieces that don't go out of style," she said, noting that consumers are "shopping very carefully and looking for value."

If you like black and other neutral colors, it's your season. Gray, chocolate brown and camel are options, too. Purple — or its French name, aubergine (egg-

plant) — is popular, as are green shades. Petrus spotlighted several trends during the presentation, including:

**The New "New Look":** Playing off the concept of Christian Dior's New Look from 1947 but modernized for today's woman, designers are pushing suits with strong shoulders, trench coats, dresses with belted waists. "Think of iconic, timeless classics," Petrus says.

**Knits:** The sweater substitutes for a jacket or coat and is a key layering piece when done in chunky, textural stitches. Jackets from such designers as Ralph Lauren and Giorgio Armani are unlined and in stretchy fabrics rather than being stiff and heavily tailored. Some designers have combined knits and other materials in dresses and jackets.

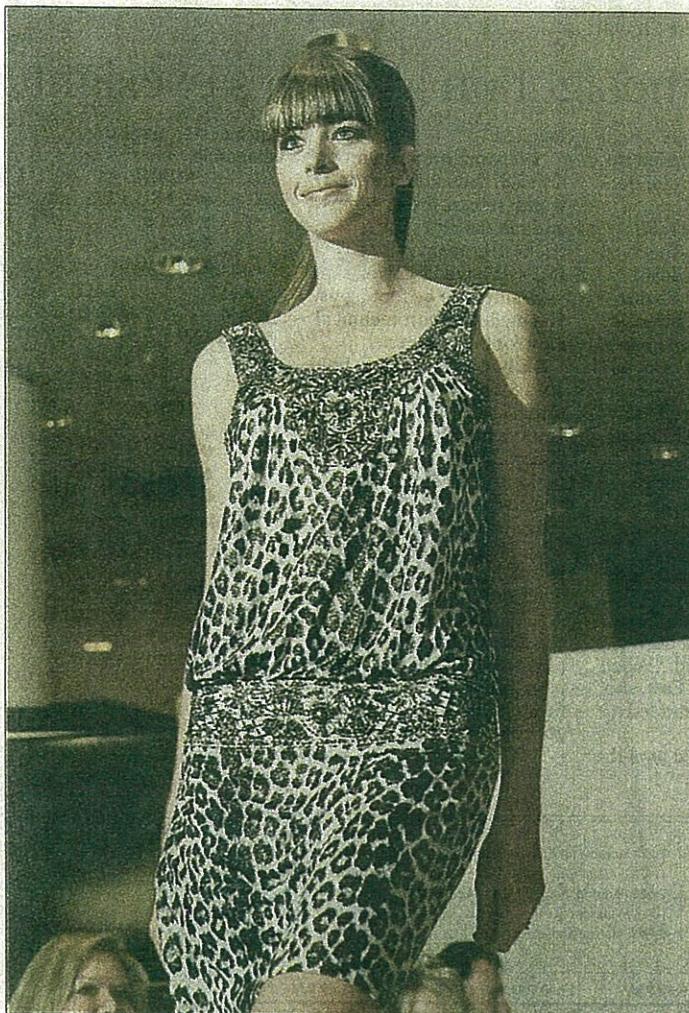
**Animal prints:** Recolored in shades of

FASHION » 10D



A Donna Karan sequined cocktail dress and Ippolita necklace were among the fall looks shown by Saks Fifth Avenue at its kickoff for the Be Beautiful Be Yourself benefit fashion show.

Steve Peterson,  
*Special to The Denver Post*



Left: Sue Wong's embellished leopard-print cocktail dress. Above: the wool dress with knit bodice, from Akris Punto, and an Ippolita necklace. Photos by Steve Peterson, Special to The Denver Post

## FASHION: "Forever" bags hold value

« FROM 1D

gray, overscaled or abstract, the motif is once again a presence for fall. Animal prints also go from day to night, in suits or cocktail clothes, and show up in shoes, bags, belts and scarves.

**Key accents:** Women will be able to update with knee and over-the-knee boots, scarves, mixed metal jewelry and what Saks is dubbing "forever" bags — investment handbags that you'll keep and pass down to your daughter rather than send to the consignment store next year when a new design catches your fancy.

**Gothic romance:** For the edgy dresser, "rock and roll with a romantic twist" is the way to go, according to Petrus. Romantic ruffled blouses worn with vests and skinny pants or leggings; leather jackets and skirts; and boots with studs, zippers and nail heads are some of the key pieces in the trend category.

Suzanne S. Brown: 303-954-1697  
or sbrown@denverpost.com



Left: A model removes a Giorgio Armani jacket, worn over a Rivamonte sweater with satin detail and flannel Escada jeans. Right: the Lafayette 148 jacket with zipper detail tops a Vince leather skirt.