



Fabulous Fashions for the Calvert Trust on the Castle Hill Catwalk

Huge Success for the Castle Hill Charity Fashion Show 23rd September

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Glamour and glitz, combined with killer heels and daring necklines, hit the catwalk last week at a fabulous charity fashion show held at Castle Hill in Filleigh, North Devon. The event, on 23rd September, was organised by the Calvert Trust, based on Exmoor, and held by kind permission of Lord and Lady Arran in their elegant Palladian-style home, Castle Hill, near South Molton.

The venue was filled to capacity and provided a stunning showcase for three local fashion boutiques, Vanilla in South Molton, Boutique 28 and Posh Boutique in Barnstaple. Their elegant and stylish clothing and accessory collections were displayed to extraordinary effect in the atmospheric surroundings of the West Wing at Castle Hill. The compere for the evening was ITV's Seth Conway, with entertainment by local singer and musician Milli Taylor.

The models, all local and ranging in age, displayed the gorgeous designs on a specially constructed catwalk complete with spotlights and clicking cameras. The collections included everything from funky everyday fashions to mesmerising evening gowns and sparkling party wear.

The dress that stole the show was Vanilla's extraordinary silky black creation by New Zealand designer TK, modelled by the impossibly glamorous and leggy 23 year old Natasha Murray, with a neckline that didn't just plunge, but promised to abandon its raison d'être altogether. This dress that threatened to reveal too much, and somehow managed not to, drew gasps and applause from the audience, and raised the heartbeats of the few men brave enough to accompany their wives to the event.

Overall the evening was an extraordinary success. Tim Harris, Centre Director at the Calvert Trust, was delighted by the occasion.

"The Fashion Show was a marvelous fundraising event for our Centre, which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended. It was a wonderful evening in fantastic surroundings – thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make it such a success."

The profits for the Calvert Trust from the event were around £2,000. This will be passed to the Trust's Equipment Fund and spent on two new KMX bikes for the Centre's visitors to use on the Wistlandpound Trail. The Calvert Trust needs to raise around £150,000 every year, through fund-raising events, to provide bursaries and essential equipment for the thousands of disabled visitors who stay at the centre every year, taking part in outdoor activities and adventures. (more..)

The three fashion boutiques showing off their gorgeous gowns at the event were delighted to be involved in an occasion to raise money for such a highly respected local charity.

“We felt very honoured to be invited to take part, we have huge admiration for the work of the Calvert Trust,” said Joelle Elmhirst, owner of Boutique 28, in Boutport Street, Barnstaple, and a second shop in Taunton . “It was an absolutely fantastic evening, a big thank you to everyone who came to the show. They were so warm and appreciative of our clothes.”

The Boutique 28 designs displayed on the catwalk included labels from German designer Mark Caine, shown for the first time in the South West, also French Canadian designer Joseph Ribkoff and award winning British designer Ian Stuart.

The collections from Posh Boutique in Barnstaple’s Tuly Street focussed on Italian labels including Luisjo, Twinset and Moschino. Owner, Beverly Britton, was delighted by the success of the fashion show:

“What a beautiful venue and a stunning location which showed off our clothes and accessories to their very best. It was a wonderful evening which we all thoroughly enjoyed. When we were invited to take part I didn’t know very much about the Calvert Trust. Since then I have learned a lot about the amazing work they do, and am happy to support them in any way I can.”

Barbara Miers, owner of Vanilla in South Molton and two further shops in Dulverton and Cheltenham, was also thrilled to get involved. Her collections including designs by the Belgian label Stills and Dutch designer Pomodoro.

“We loved doing the show, it was our first fashion show, and what a great venue. The audience were so receptive and we were very pleased to support the Calvert Trust, and to be invited to take part.”

Wine for the event was supplied by South Molton’s Bray Valley Wines with food by the Friends of Calvert Trust. Also on show were gorgeous shoes from Aprille James’ new shop, Hattie B, in Holland Walk, Barnstaple and make-up was provided by Natasha Coddington of Banbury’s in Barnstaple.

Editor’s Notes

1. 5 photos attached showing dresses from the fashion show, (including the TK black dress with model Natasha Murray and Vanilla owner Barbara Miers, and host Seth Conway.) The girl in the white dress, from Vanilla, is Milli Taylor, the singer at the event, who joined the girls on the catwalk.
 2. Impact Media provided the catwalk at the event, and David Matthews of Orpheus provided the lighting and sound.
 3. Lady Arran is one of the trustees at the Calvert Trust.
 4. For more information please contact Rachel Shortridge, Fundraising Assistant, Calvert Trust Exmoor on 01598 763221.
 5. The Calvert Trust is a charity, with three UK bases, including one based at Wistlandpound on Exmoor, North Devon.
 6. Press release issued by ND Media. www.ndmedia.co.uk
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