

In this issue, T.L.P. introduces a series called "City Diary," in which T.L.P. staff writers share their experiences from an on-site reporting or internship experience. Look for new City Diary entries in each issue.

By Wendy Nunez // T.L.P. Staff Writer

Designer R.K. Houston said, "When you know what you're doing, doing what you know takes no time." But getting to the point where you "know what you're doing" takes time and training—a lot of it.

It's easier to write an article about what shoes go with a pink shirt than it is to actually design or even make those shoes. The School of Fashion Design on Newbury Street has been around for 71 years and it now gives teens a chance to design their own outfits—and get the taste of an education in fashion design before leaving school. I was given the chance to sit in on the High School Prep Summer Program in July.

Does this sound appealing to you? Don't be scared if you can't sketch or sew. The School of Fashion Design has a great instructor, Jay Calderin, and assistant instructor, Julie DeBiemore. To start off the summer program, Calderin left the girls with a lot to think about, but one quote really stuck out: "A good designer should be able to design anything."

Sixteen other students, all girls, were enrolled in the class with me. We were drawn to the class because we love fashion, but some of the girls realized how hard it is to actually create an outfit. All the girls in the class learned that a love for fashion isn't enough. You have to have a passion for it.

Becky Baumwoll, 17, of Newton, said, "This program has given me an idea on what I want to be when I grow up." Baumwoll won a free trip into the School of Fashion Design through a sketching contest the school holds for high school

students. She is also an experienced seamstress, a skill she learned from her mother and grandmother.

Another 17-year-old, Sarah Gorvick, had this advice for future students of the School of Fashion Design: "There's a lot more to fashion than just the clothes you wear, and this school will make you a true fashionista." She praised the fact that the classes are divided into sections: sketching, pattern making, clothing construction, and making an actual garment.

Baumwoll and Ruby Gerz, another student enrolled, attended the school for free thanks to a sketching contest. The contest entitled "Rendering Style" is held by the school every year in February for all high school students. Students have to draw five sketches of their own and submit them by April. The winners attend a fashion show and take the High School Prep Summer Program for free.

In the High School Prep summer Program, I learned how to sketch, make patterns, hem, and use a sewing machine. Because we had to complete the wrap dress, I had to hand hem a skirt that was 2 yards in length. For real! For those who know how to hem and even for those who don't, imagine having to pick up one individual thread from a piece of fabric at a time, with a needle, and shove it through, stitch by stitch, so the hem won't show.

I also drew five sketches for my portfolio. All the girls had to come up with a theme for their sketches. Some girls had bottoms in every design, one even had an Army theme. At the end of the course, we received certificates for completing the class. Now I can truly say I've experienced some serious fashion education.

## Teens transform into

# fashionistas



ALL PHOTOS BY JOSH VAUGHN



### Fast Facts on School of Fashion Design

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"Rendering Style" sketching contest held every February. Winners get a place in the School of Fashion Design High School Prep Program and attend the school's annual fashion show. High School Prep Programs are available fall, winter, and summer. Call for exact dates.

*"When you know what you're doing, doing what you know takes no time."*

Designer R.K. Houston