

Class Appeal

THIS YEAR'S FASHION SCHOOL

commencement shows are quickly turning into a busy collections season of their own, featuring some great-looking clothes. At The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, seniors were inspired by everything from homelessness (Mi Ri Uhm) to the mythical Russian figure Baba Yaga (Sarah Newman). Especially notable were Rachel Frank's take on Dante's "The Divine Comedy" — with *Pride* embodied by a slinky dip-dyed gown — and Jessica Grate's lushly embellished lineup influenced by a recent trip to India. Before the show, the audience also got a look at the school's new 25,000-square-foot design space, the Sage Studios for Fashion Design.

The prevailing mood at New York's Pratt Institute was decidedly commercial, whether it was uptown tony, as in Adrienne Waite's collection of dresses dubbed "42nd and Lexington," or downtown edgy, like Emily Kellerman's rocker look. Yamel Mendoza, meanwhile, received a number of awards for her lineup of sleek eveningwear, among them the Merrick and Lillian Pratt Best of Show.

Here, some of the top looks from the two schools. For more, see WWD.com.



Victoria Lane



Yamel Mendoza

PRATT INSTITUTE

Kate Boucher



THE SCHOOL OF THE
ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO



Elyse Crowell



Mi Ri Uhm

Sarah Newman



Catherine Mudd



Emily Kellerman



Adrienne Waite

Jessica Grate Rachel Frank

