



Willow models walked the black carpet at a Neiman Marcus fashion show. The spring David Meister dress collection was a big hit with the audience of Bedford women.

Wardrobe tips for the Bedford fashionista

By NANCY McLOUGHLIN

There are likely to be dozens of pretty new spring dresses dotting the streets of Katoomba, Bedford and Pound Ridge. A Neiman Marcus brunch event on Friday, March 23, attracted a huge roster of local friends and fashionistas. They were the invited guests of Bedford superbugger Stacy Gelsinger, who has a way of showing up at most local newsworthy and fun festivities.

Stacy was a guest of honor at an in-store reception featuring David Meister's beautiful new spring designs. You are all just a few of Stacy's friends. Neiman Marcus president and GM Beth Sharkey jokingly quipped, "Can you imagine if all her friends had come!" The overflowing attendance necessitated a call for more chairs. There were smiling faces as models walked the "black carpet" and one dress was more beautiful than the next.

Fashion designer David Meister narrated the presentation featuring his newest line, "Meister and mimosa" was a showcase of his beautiful "figure forgiving" dresses. The designer, fresh from a taping of a Joan Rivers TV segment, reclined in a director's chair, providing a comedic commentary as the models moved up and down the runway.

"My dresses have pockets. Men don't want to hold your stuff," he said, displaying a wit and likability not always associated with haute couture. He added, "Everything I do has stretch and give. These models could do handstands down the runway."



Kristen Ruby and Stacy Gelsinger, hostess of the David Meister event.

Sharing the stardom of the day was Stacy, who donned one of his shimmering black dresses for the day. She jumped up from her ringside seat to escort the model wearing the same dress down the runway to the cheers and claps of her friends. Stacy asked the designer a few audience questions at the end of the presentation.

"Which of these dresses would you choose to guarantee a romantic night?" she said mischievously.

Caught off guard, Mr. Meister rifled through his racks until he came up with a bright orange sleeveless shift. "I think men get tired of lo-king at black," he said. "Wear this with a simple six-inch gold heel and wow." The answer

to her next question was no surprise. "Which celebrity would you most like to dress?"

The answer was the America-obsessed body image perfection of Angelina Jolie, but the designer was quick to point out that he dresses a variety of movie stars from Sharon Stone and Queen Latifah. He prides himself on styles that are known to be figure flattering to a variety of shapes he considers all "real" women. He also expressed a desire to dress Jane Fonda, pronouncing her "hot" at age 74.

"Good design means you should be able to buy a dress now and it still should look good if you pull it out of your closet in a few years. It should be timeless," he said.

The event helped spread the word that the new line is now available at Neiman Marcus in Westchester, and no longer just in Manhattan. "Did you find anything?" attendee Anne Reid asked another Bedford friend, who answered with a satisfied smile, "I bought three dresses!"

Based on the Bedford women placing orders and trying the fashions on at the end of the event, the response to the line and the price point has been a positive one. Fortunately, David Meister's designs are here to stay. There may have been other guests like me, who longed to bring home one of the delicious dresses, but felt compelled to first check my social calendar for spring so that I don't end up "all dressed up with no place to go."

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