

# NEW YORK FASHION SHOWS

*the* Cut



## Fashion Week Makes It Work

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The fashion world heads into next week's shows amidst a steady drip feed of bad news. Guest lists have been cut in half. Alexander Wang, Calvin Klein, and even Marc Jacobs canceled their parties. Obedient Sons & Daughters, Searle, Bill Blass, and Kira Plastinina went broke. Tracey Ross's store closed. Neiman Marcus, Saks, Chanel, and Burberry have all seen layoffs. Big names like Vera Wang, Betsey Johnson, Monique Lhuillier, Naeem Khan, and Carmen Marc Valvo are forgoing the extravagance of the Bryant Park tents for something quieter.

The CFDA has also been playing matchmaker. They hooked up Brian Reyes and Richard Chai with sponsorship from the Gilt Groupe, while many designers were encouraged to team up with each other. "You'll see a lot of collaborations going on with designers — like Irene Neuwirth is doing jewelry for Richard Chai — so you can see the talent at the same time," says executive director Steven Kolb. "Also, Charles Nolan is letting Michael Bastian show at his beautiful space in the West Village as a way to help out a fellow designer."