

# DAILY NEWS

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The New Yorkers who make this \$10 billion industry work — and make the rest of us look good in the process

BY MARK ELLWOOD

## fashion's 50 most fascinating

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FASHION WEEK FALL 2010



Anna Wintour, reigning fashion queen

**F**ashion Week kicks off this morning with BCBG Max Azria's Fall collection but so much of the excitement surrounding the \$10 billion industry's biggest event is taking place outside the Bryant Park tents. Proof the style spectacular is starting to loosen its exclusivity? Designers like Calvin Klein and Marc Jacobs are, for the first time ever, broadcasting their shows online. Naomi Campbell opened up tomorrow's Fashion for Haiti runway show to the paying public (it's sold out). And even Anna Wintour is letting her right hand man Andre Leon Talley serve as judge on "America's Next Top Model." Since the fashion industry in NY employs 175,000 regular folk to get these clothes on racks and into shoppers' hands, letting everybody in on the behind-the-scenes magic is more important now than ever.

**1 ANNA WINTOUR, editor, Vogue** The British-born but New York-made editor made a slinky appearance on Letterman's couch to promote her career-capping docusoap, "The September Issue," and proved herself yet again the most famous and most powerful person in fashion. Ever.

**2 DIANE VON FURSTENBERG, designer & CFDA chair-woman** DVF still juggles designing her collection with steering fashion's version of the Oscar-voting Academy, not to mention the now-annual Fashion's Night Out each September.

**3 PETER LEVY, head of IMG Fashion Worldwide** When it comes to Fashion Week, IMG is the company that runs the shows. And the man with the international plan is Peter Levy, whose runways reach from Bryant Park to Milan, London, Sydney, Moscow, Mumbai and beyond.

**4 MICHAEL BLOOMBERG, mayor, New York City** When term limits got the boot, the fashion industry must have sighed and rejoiced to see that such a champion of the rag trade remaining part of the fabric of New York was likely to remain mayor. His new initiative with the CFDA, a fashion incubator for emerging talent, only underscored his loyalty.

**5 NICOLE FISCHELIS, fashion director, Macy's** For the last six years, Fischelis has steered the stock at the chain's more than 250 stores, tapping into the contacts she gained during gigs as a buyer at Saks and in Paris to update and upgrade.

**6 CHRISTINE CHIN, dermabrasionist, Christine Chin spa** Chin has more actreeses and models on speed-dial than Jack Nicholson: The faces of Gisele, Rachel Weisz, Hilary Swank and Penelope Cruz all rely on her propri-

**18 ALEXIS MAYBANK & ALEXANDRA WILKIS WILSON, founders, Gilt Groupe** In less than three years, the Harvard-educated pair has transformed fashion retailing with their members-only flash sale site — think of it as Century 21 with a panic attack.