

GALA PROGRAM

2014



United Colors of Fashion

4TH ANNUAL GALA 2014

Paper Dreams

Writing New Runways

LEXINGTON AVENUE ARMORY | 69TH REGIMENT

68 Lexington Avenue, NEW YORK, NY 10010

Wednesday, October 8TH, 2014

UCOF
ACADEMY



EMPOWERING
YOUTH THROUGH
FASHION EDUCATION

www.UnitedColorsofFashion.org | 917.266.4171



Anatomy of the **UCOF Brand Mark**

The button and needles within the Brand Mark represent the tools we provide in order to empower youth to achieve their goals through fashion. The two needles are used to signify UCOF's two core initiatives: Fashion Education and Charity Care.

Message from the President



On behalf of United Colors Of Fashion (UCOF Academy), a very warm welcome to our **4th Annual Gala: Paper Dreams: Writing New Runways**. As the first registered 501(c)(3) organization in the United States to offer **FREE Fashion Education** to youth in the tri-state area, I am excited and honored for you to witness us **Empower Youth through Fashion Education** for the 8th season.

During my tenure as the UCOF president, we have made an impact on over 350 youth. This year has been a fulfilling one in terms of seeing the vision of UCOF expand, but also aligning the focus of the Gala solely with the interests of our precious students. Our theme this year pays homage to the dreams our students have written down on paper, which will one day change the face of fashion. To see them grow from having a less than basic understanding of fashion to taking charge of their own collections has been an unforgettable and rewarding experience.

Our annual Gala is the event our students work towards throughout the year. It serves an experiential culmination of their collective short-term goals in growing into the fashion industry. It is also a way for UCOF to share the tangible results our work yields and allow our supporters to see the impact we make in our students' lives. The Gala serves to honor those who are not only making a difference in the world, but also providing hope. Hope is after all the backbone that carries dreams to meet opportunity. **The goal for the night of the Gala is to raise \$500,000 in order to continue offering free fashion education to our youth, throughout the coming year, and expand our UCOF Cares Program to Haiti.**

At age 12, I already knew that I wanted to study and get a degree in fashion. I started paying attention to what local seamstresses and tailors were doing and learned the basics from them. Unfortunately, at age 17, my family was struck by a tragedy and I had no choice but to go to school to major in business and finance in order to make a stable

living. During my undergraduate school, I often wished I had someone who showed me how to make it in fashion design. It never happened. Most under-resourced youth from the inner city areas, with a desire to work in fashion, experience the same.

Today UCOF is here to offer the training and opportunities in the fashion industry, which were not readily available to me in my youth.

I hope during your journey on earth you leave behind an **impactful legacy**. That's my goal, and I am optimistic that you will join us as we invest in our youth globally, as they are the future leaders of our communities.

I invite you to take the next step and become a supporter, sponsor, volunteer or donor of UCOF to help ensure we can continue to **Empower Youth through Fashion Education** throughout the Tri-State area and globally. We believe that the paper dreams of today will evolve to launch the careers of our interns, who stand at the forefront of a new era of fashion.

Thank you to the amazing and awesomely talented board of directors, staff, volunteers, funders and our sponsors at UCOF who make this project possible on a daily basis.

With sincere gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ciano Clerjuste".

Ciano Clerjuste

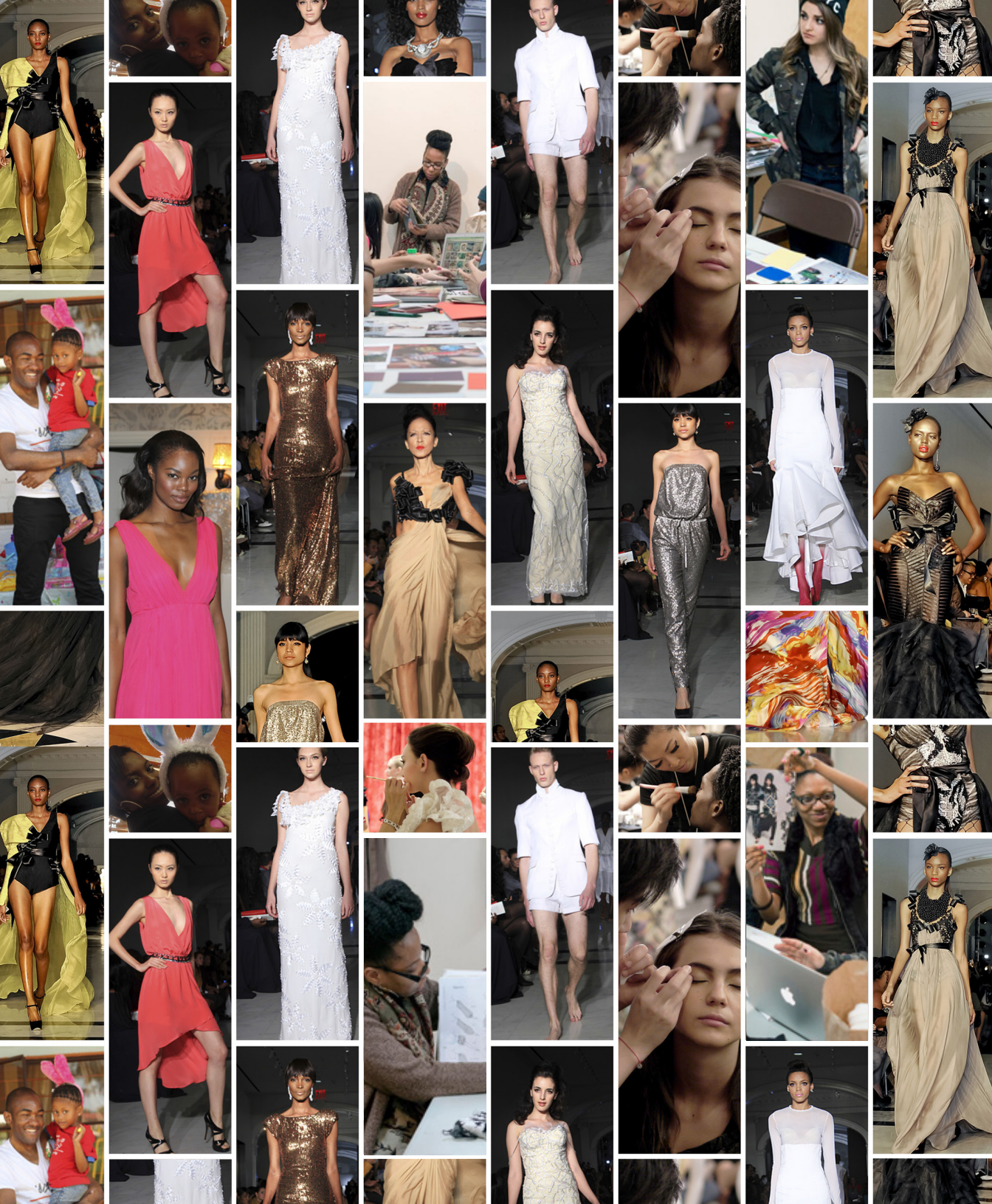


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Program

5:45 pm	Press Check-in Opens / Arrival of Honorees
6:00 pm	Red Carpet
6:00 pm	VIP Reception Begins
6:30 pm	Arrival of general admission guests, gala reception, silent auction, exhibition by our students, and the DJ playing curated music
7:40 pm	<p>Announcement and Welcome by our voice over (Cassandre Jeanty)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome Address by the Hosts : Janice Huff & Mike Ruiz• Presentation of the Techno Innovator Award to Meck Khalfan• Introduction of the 2014 Model of the Year by Sandi Bass• Presentation of the Model of the year Award to Devyn Abdullah• Presentation of the 2014 Fashion Icon of the Year to Malan Breton• Top 10 Students from the Advanced Design class to explain their projects• Runway Fashion Show by the top 2 groups from our Advance Design class (6 looks each)• Introduction of UCOF President: Jamil Khan• Speech by the President: Ciano Clerjuste• Presentation of the 2014 Achievers of the Year Award to our top 4 students• 3 minute emotional Video of our impact in NY and overseas (focusing on needs & goals)
8:15 pm	Live Bid Call Auction by the Auctioneer from Christie's: Tash Perrin
8:35 pm	<p>International Runway show by 6 Established Designers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Malan Breton (USA)2) Agatha Ruiz De La Prada (Spain)3) David Tlale (South Africa)4) Berny Martin (Catou) (Haiti)5) Anisa Mpungwe (Loin Cloth and Ashes) (Tanzania)6) Amparo Chorda (Spain)
9:15 pm	Farewell and final call to action by Devyn, Millen, and the two new ambassadors

About UCOF

United Colors of Fashion, Inc. (UCOF) Academy is a New York City-based non-profit organization dedicated to providing fashion focused: Education, Mentorship, Counseling, Internship Opportunities, Entrepreneurial Development and Scholarships to under-resourced youth in New York City. UCOF Academy is the first registered 501(c)(3) organization in the U.S. to offer FREE Fashion Education to under-resourced youth.

The organization is registered with New York Department of Education, NY Charity Bureau, NY Department of State and the Internal Revenue Services (IRS) as a 501 (c)(3) organization under the name of United Colors of Fashion, Incorporated.

Under our **UCOF Academy Educates: Student Training Arts and Design (STAND)** program, these youth are afforded opportunities to pursue their fashion careers free of charge to them. Our core mission, thanks to a dedicated compliment of staff who all volunteer their time, is rooted in our STAND program. The program allows students to learn in areas of fashion design, fashion merchandising, global fashion, PR & marketing, production and product development. Since inception the project has assisted over 350 students in gaining access to institutions of higher learning and facilitated the allocation of scholarships to them.

As a means to give back, UCOF also raises funds to assist children infected and affected by HIV in South Africa. Our mission has also recently taken us to Haiti to provide medical assistance and teacher training – a mission we aim to expand in 2015.

To learn more about UCOF's Financials, please visit www.unitedcolorsoffashion.org/financials



UCOF Educates

Although many under-resourced youth have the talent and the passion to thrive in Fashion, they do not have access to the opportunities that exist in the industry. Unlike other areas of the arts such as Dance, Music and Drama, there is little to no support made available to under-resourced youth looking to pursue careers in Fashion. Those who are fortunate enough to attend a design school - which for many under-resourced youth is prohibitively expensive - graduate but struggle to find jobs or establish themselves in New York, where only 200 designers produce shows during New York Fashion Week. Meanwhile, 80% of new designers go out of business within their first two years of operation due to a lack of resources, funding and support.

Without access to the unique educational opportunities, internships, and connections that are invaluable to building a career in fashion, under-resourced youth stand almost no chance of entering or staying in the industry. We at UCOF therefore strive to provide talented youth with the chance to explore futures in fashion by offering them a variety of educational opportunities in the industry at no cost to them.

“Our youth are the future leaders of our communities. As we empower them through fashion, we are investing in the upcoming groundbreakers of our country,” says Ciano Clerjuste, UCOF President & Chairman.



Our Student Training Arts & Design (STAND) Program, which is the first of its kind in the United States, provides free hands-on training to youth who would not normally have access to the invaluable experiences they need in fashion. Each year, we provide a select number of under-resourced youth with the opportunity to turn their dreams into reality by working with renowned industry professionals, such as top fashion designers, producers, hair stylists, make-up artists, publicists, and even positions to volunteer backstage during New York Fashion Week.

To date, we have impacted the lives of over 350 under-resourced youth in New York/ Tri-State area.

HOW TO APPLY:

Students from NYC tri-state area are eligible to apply for the Fashion Education Program by submitting a written application online in August for the upcoming year. For more information on how to apply, please visit www.unitedcolorsoffashion.org/education

UCOF 9 year plan

In a recent interview with National Association of Haitian Professionals, **Ciano Clerjuste**, President of United Colors of Fashion (UCOF), revealed his long-term vision for the organization: “In nine years, I see myself working full-time only for United Colors of Fashion, leading the organization to huge success with the help of our awesomely talented team, and assisting emerging designers and HIV-infected children in more than five countries. We are currently working on a plan to open the first Center for Fashion in New York. The center will be a state-of-the-art building in midtown Manhattan.”

As fashion students leave school, their student IDs expire and they forfeit access to school facilities such as sewing machines, steamers or just well-equipped workspaces in which to create. Due to the repayment of student loans and the inability to find jobs after graduation, many cannot afford to purchase items such as sewing machines on their own, and their dream of becoming a designer gives way to harsh reality. If only there were a place where they could go to continue what they learned in school and begin building their own fashion brands. This is where UCOF comes in. UCOF aims to provide a space for young, aspiring fashion designers, which will feature:

- Event space to hold runway shows, presentations, mannequin installations and fashion exhibitions
- Showrooms from which to sell their products
- Well-equipped office space with all types of industrial machines and fashion tools
- Stylish studio space for casting calls/auditions, photo shoots, fittings, filming
- Fashion styling, hair and makeup workshops
- Free sewing classes for low income individuals
- Chic boutique offering custom-made clothes by young designers who are former interns of the UCOF Fashion Education program



Our building will be the first space in New York solely dedicated to fashion, open to under-resourced youth, the general public, and giving emerging designers a state-of-the-art and well-equipped space to hold fashion shows without breaking the bank. Most designers currently go out of business after their first show due to the high cost associated with putting such events together. There are programs to help young artists and musicians, why not for the under-resourced youth who want a career in fashion?

The creation of this space will also help UCOF become self-sufficient and not have to rely on donations and sponsors in the future. We have a very clear vision of what we want to accomplish and are determined to make this a place for the fashion community. The three-story building would look something like this:

- The first floor will have a gallery of students' work, which will rotate each month with a new exhibit. It will also house the boutique where patrons can purchase designs made by our former students. Finally, there will be a hall for fashion shows. During the non-fashion season, the hall will be rented to corporations to do corporate events, which in turn provides more jobs for the youth and revenue for our programs.
- The second floor will house classrooms which will teach students all about the fashion industry.
- The third floor will contain office and studio rental space. Here established as well as up-and-coming designers can rent space at a reasonable fee to conduct business, hold fashion shows, model castings, etc.

"Every day is a struggle for most people in fashion, so we must learn to be kind to one another and help each other," explains Ciano.

UCOF's vision for the future is to help support emerging designers not only in training and funding, but also in learning how to deal with the pressures that come from a business standpoint.

This is our "call to action", for you to help us turn this dream into reality. United Colors of Fashion is looking for investors who wish to help with the center.

If you are interested, please contact **Ciano Clerjuste** at ciano@unitedcolorsoffashion.org

Fashion Facts

Why UCOF Needs Your Support

- New York City comes in as the second fashion capital of the world, however there is no funding to support under-resourced youth who want to have a vocation in fashion.
- 80% of new designers go out of business in two years due to lack of resources, funding and support.
- Each season, only 200 designers produce shows during NY Fashion Week.
- There are more opportunities in the Arts (vs. Fashion) due to better funding. Fashion is Art, and it must be treated as such.
- The government and foundations offer grants for free programming to support Dance, Music, and the Arts, however there is no funding available to support free fashion education or to produce fashion shows for under-resourced youth.
- There are approximately 165,000 young people ages 16-24 in New York City who are not in school and not working. It's very hard for recent graduates to find jobs. Companies are producing more with fewer staff, and recent grads have to compete with laid-off, more experienced baby boomers for open positions.
- Young adults who obtain more work experience during their teenage years have a smoother transition into the labor market, higher beginning wages, and higher earnings 10-15 years after leaving high school (Source: New York City Department of Youth and Community Development).

Biographies of Gala Honorees

DEVYN ABDULLAH

2014 Model of the Year



DEVYN

This Bronx born, native New Yorker is a fashion model of Barbadian and Jamaican ancestry. With the encouragement of her parents since she was very young, Devyn studied dance and art, while also pursuing a passion in photography. During high school, she was scouted by an agency in New York and learned to balance her classes with the demands of working as a model. Since graduating, Devyn further developed her interest in photography, hosted a professional photography exhibit, and created a short film, which was recognized at the Tribeca Film Festival.

Devyn admires how United Colors of Fashion empowers youth through fashion.

“To me fashion is more than to set trends or popular styles. In my eyes fashion defines individuality and self-confidence. Whether we believe it or not, fashion has a huge impact on our daily lives. UCOF does exactly that, taking that individuality and self-confidence and mixing in the genius and creativity that comes with fashion to changing young people’s lives,” says the ambassador.

Devyn was most famously awarded the title of being the first official winner of “The Face” reality TV modeling competition.

Devyn explains, “It is an unexpected honor being selected as UCOF’s newest fashion ambassador. In the past, I have shown my support for UCOF by walking in the annual charity fashion show. To now be a part of the entire UCOF movement makes my support grow ever more. I have seen the effect of their cause and the drive behind their vision. It feels amazing to be a part of something so beautiful.”



Biographies of Gala Honorees

MECK KHALFAN

2014 Techno Innovator of the Year



MECK KHALFAN

Meck Khalfan is the CEO and Co-founder of Puku LLC, a New York based company that is revolutionizing the mobile charging industry with high quality and beautiful designed portable chargers. Mr. Khalfan is a Tanzanian born serial entrepreneur and a veteran software engineer.

In addition, Mr. Khalfan is a passionate supporter of minority causes. He is an active supporter of Touch Foundation and Sponsorship for Education Opportunity (SEO), two organizations that aim to make a difference in underserved communities. As a member of Touch Foundation, a nonprofit focusing on bringing vital healthcare services to patients with the greatest medical needs, Mr. Khalfan engagement has been related to the organization's work to make a difference in his home country, Tanzania. As an active supporter of SEO, a nonprofit organization that provides superior education and career programs to young people from underserved communities to maximize their opportunities for college and career success, Mr. Khalfan's family commits a meaningful contribution annually.

Meck is on the Associate board of Madison Square Park conservancy, a nonprofit organization dedicated to raise funds to keep the historical Madison Square Park bright, beautiful and an active public park.

Meck is a graduate of The University of Massachusetts – Amherst with BSc in Computer Science and Mathematics. In 2013, He received African Business Leader of The Year Award by Corporate Council of Africa (CCA).

Ms Cleveland resides in the U.S.A. and is currently writing her autobiography. She lives with her husband Paul Ravenstein and has two children, Anna and Noel.

Biographies of Gala Honorees

MALAN BRETON

2014 Fashion Icon of the Year



MALAN BRETON

Malan Breton is the Designer and Creative director of Malan Breton, Malan Breton – Fantôme, Malan Breton HOMME, Malan Breton Swim, and Malan Breton Bridal Collections. He also licenses his name to a line of luxury outerwear, and shoes.

Born in Taipei, Taiwan, Breton, currently resides in New York City. He has been designing since the age of 11 and is known for his signature detailing, and fabrics.

Breton won the 2014 European Fashion Council “Eirene” Fashion Award, and was nominated for a 2011 WGSN Global Fashion Award. In Sept of 2014, Breton was named number 16 of the top 100 most popular people in entertainment, for his work in fashion, and costume, in American television from Taiwan by IMDB. In April of 2014 Breton was voted by Ranker.com the 24th most famous person from Taiwan for his work in fashion.



Our Students

The 2014 Gala is entirely themed, planned and inspired by the journey our students have been on with UCOF since the start of this year. In preparation of the Gala they have created their own fashion labels, Arshel and 212, and assumed the various roles in the hierarchy of a design house. In order to equip them with the technical knowledge to execute their responsibilities the UCOF STAND Program has provided them with education in Fashion Merchandising, Marketing, Branding and Design through workshops. The students have been working tirelessly to plan their respective collections, which have been tailor made to please their target customer – also created by them.

The 4th annual Gala serves as a culmination of their work all year round, but also represents the realization of their short-term goals while acknowledging the importance of their long-term goals in fashion.

UCOF is proud to celebrate such ambitious, talented individuals and we salute their bravery in actively pursuing their dreams, despite the odds that are stacked against them. It is this bravery, we believe, that will shape the fashion industry of the future.



Introduction to UCOF Designers

United Colors of Fashion invites only established fashion designers from around the world to showcase their work on the runway, as these individuals are best qualified to mentor our youth. All of our selected designers join UCOF's Board of Designers for a minimum period of six to twelve months and serve as mentors and instructors for our fashion students in New York. During the gala season, these designers also teach our students in a workshop format for a minimum of one hour. In addition, our selected designers donate two looks, which are auctioned on CharityBuzz.com to raise funds for UCOF's Fashion Education and Charity Care programs.

UCOF provides its designers with the opportunity to participate in the runway show completely free of charge. Designers, at no cost, are provided with access to the venue and the opportunity to work with professional models, hair and make-up teams, production & lighting teams, as well as UCOF's experienced producer Jan Malan and casting director Sandi Bass at no cost.

The international fashion designers who will be featured at this year's gala are:

- **Malan Breton** (*USA*)
- **Agatha Ruiz De La Prada** (*Spain*)
- **David Tlale** (*South Africa*)
- **Berny Martin** (*Catou*) (*Haiti*)
- **Anisa Mpungwe** (*Loin Cloth and Ashes*) (*Tanzania*)
- **Amparo Chorda** (*Spain*)



Designer Biographies

MALAN BRETON

(USA)



MALAN BRETON

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ÁGATHA RUIZ DE LA PRADA

(Spain)



ÁGATHA RUIZ DE LA PRADA

Agatha Ruiz de la Prada (Madrid 1960) studied in the Escuela de Artes y Técnicas de la Moda of Barcelona. At 20, she began working as an intern in the studio of Designer Pepe Rubio in Madrid. A year later, she presented her first collection in Madrid at the design centre LOCAL and ever since her designs have been shown in the international capitals of fashion: Paris, Milan, Berlin, Madrid and Barcelona.

Agatha’s designs have become a true medium of artistic expression. During her first years as a designer she began displaying some of her masterpieces in galleries and museums in different cities of Spain, France, Italy, US, Germany, Portugal, Austria, Belgium, Greece, Sweden, Colombia, India, Sri Lanka and Hong Kong. In 2014 and 2015, she will present a new retrospective exhibition in different countries of Latin America

Since 1986, the company has counted on the collaboration of more than 100 fashion accessory licenses. Ceramics coatings, bed and house linen, books, accessories for pets, perfumes and stationery are examples of the many products distributed through Agatha’s flagship stores in Madrid, Barcelona, Paris, Milan, New York, Oporto, her online store, as well as a number of multi-brand stores present in over more than 150 countries.

Designer Biographies

DAVID TLALE

(South Africa)



DAVID TLALE

Since launching his brand Tlale in 2008, award-winning designer, David Tlale's designs have far exceeded expectations. That same year Tlale was also voted the most stylish person at the Annual South African Style Awards.

Tlale was also voted Mzansi's Star Fashion Designer at the Mzansi Star Awards, and was nominated at the Mercedes Benz Fashion Awards 2008. He was invited to judge the Elle New Talent 2008 competition, a place where he began his own journey in fashion.

His proud moments in 2008 include designing a showstopper for British model, Jourdan Dunn, which was showcased at Virgin Mobile Cape Town Fashion Week, and being chosen to be an ambassador for the Change-4-Ever campaign, which aims to alleviate poverty in Southern Africa.

In 2010, Tlale proudly showcased a 54 piece collection accompanied by a live 28 piece orchestra at the African Fashion International Week (AFI) during the FIFA World Cup in South Africa.

Breaking all boundaries, Mr. Tlale hosted an outstanding show on the Nelson Mandela Bridge during Joburg Fashion Week 2011. The collection celebrated Nelson Mandela's 92 years of life as the show consisted of an unbelievable 92 piece collection showcased by celebrities, models, sports men and women, as well as business people that altogether make South Africa beautiful.

BERNY MARTIN

CATOU

(Haiti)



BERNY MARTIN

Berny Martin is the founder and designer of Catou, an internationally recognized line of men's and women's professional wear. The line has been recognized on BET, MTV, Source Magazine, Indianapolis Monthly, Indianapolis Star, Indianapolis Woman, Indianapolis Business Journal, Indianapolis Recorder, Bella Magazine, Miss Universe Magazine, Power Magazine (Atlanta), Fashion Manuscript, and Focus Magazine (Louisville). Berny was awarded the United Nations Association Young Professionals in 2009 for his support and menswear fashion designer in the Midwest by FGI (Fashion Group International). Catou has been shown at Paris Fashion Week, New York Emerge Fashion Week, Brooklyn Fashion Week, Chicago Fashion Week and African Travel Association Fashion Show, and is the main staple of Midwest Fashion Week.

"Edgy and elegant, flirty and sophisticated, Catou clothing makes a statement. Drawing from travel experiences as well as my studies in college and at FIT (Fashion Institute of Technology in New York), I design with a creativity that extends beyond conventional fashion to offer an unique look. I create pieces with the customer in mind, paying attention to detail to guarantee well-made clothing that compliments its wearer. Catou clothing is made to provide customers with sophisticated and ageless fashion," says Martin.



Designer Biographies

ANISA MPUNGWE

(LOIN CLOTH AND ASHES)

(Tanzania)



ANISA MPUNGWE

Anisa Mpungwe, founder of Loin Cloth and Ashes was born in Tanzania and raised in South Africa to diplomat parents.

Her career started at the age of 19, she worked for various fashion houses, magazines and apparel factories. During this time, she took leave to further her studies at the prestigious London College of Fashion, United Kingdom.

Upon her return to SA in 2008, she entered a national fashion competition, where she won and became the first black female to earn the admired title. There after her brand has been involved in many Fashion Weeks in and out of SA, to name a few, Angola, Sweden, New York and Johannesburg.

Anisa managed to open her first flagship store in 2012, in the same year, she got a nod from Solange Knowles when gracing her designs for the Elle Magazine cover.

With many accolades, such as winning the prestigious title of Emerging Designer of the year Africa in 2013, Launching a range with company giant Mr Price that same year, gifting the super nation's Michelle Obama and being a MTV Awards Transform Today nominee 2014, Anisa's career seems to be settling well in the Fashion and supporting industries.

Now at the age of 30, she has managed to employ 8 members to her team and have just presented their SS15 collection at the Mercedes Benz Fashion Week Cape Town in July.

AMPARO CHORDA

(AMPARO & BISILA COUTURE)

(Spain)



AMPARO CHORDA

Amparo Chorda was born in Valencia, Spain. This exceptional European designer has enjoyed a long and successful career in the fashion industry. Mrs. Chorda's focus is on making custom garments for select high-end clientele, along with costumes for theater and television.

In the free and innovative spirit of her designs, the eternal feminine elegance conjugates between the dream and the magic. Luxury and modernity are constant in her creations. Her excellent pattern design highlights the body's form.

Amparo Chorda is a perfectionist to the extreme. She has completely dedicated herself to her profession and is an expert in every aspect of design and production. Mrs Chorda's process begins with sketches that capture her inspiration. The sketches themselves are full of charm and subtlety. There is finesse and elegance in her costumes and even the basic details of scissor and needlework astound.

Fashion Show Producer

JAN MALAN



JAN MALAN

Namibian-born Jan Malan, director of Umzingeli Productions, is one of Africa's leading show producers. Umzingeli means "hunter-gatherer" in Xhosa and Zulu, as the company prides itself on finding and nurturing fashion and beauty talent that hails from Africa.

Since starting his show production career in 1985, his momentous work, energy and positivity towards the industry has led him to stage high profile productions in 22 countries spread over four continents. Using his powerful knowledge of the events industry, he brainstorms truly innovative concepts and executes them professionally with an enthusiasm that can only be described as electric.

Malan pioneered Africa Designs for M-Net and AngloGold, a pan-African fashion designer competition, in the year 2000. This was the first time that African designers showed on schedule at New York Fashion Week in a group show. He also conceptualized the legendary M-Net Face of Africa Model Search. Malan has produced shows at various Fashion Weeks across the continent including South African, Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg, Kinhasa, Fashion Business Angola, Mozambique, Swahili Fashion Week in Tanzania; and also directed all shows at Delhi Fashion Week in India for two consecutive seasons in 2008 and 2009. Malan has also directed the international finals of Ford Models' Supermodel of the World for two years.



Fashion Show Casting Director

SANDI BASS

Sandi Bass was born and raised in Nashville, Tennessee. After graduating, she moved to Los Angeles where she studied Art Culture and Fashion Design at LA City College. It was during this time that Sandi was discovered by Monsieur Hubert de Givenchy and taken to Paris, France as his muse. This historical, Girls of Color Cabine that took Paris by storm was on the heels of the Versailles Show honoring designers Halston and Stephen Burrows, and featuring models Bethann Hardison and Pat Cleveland. Sandi spent the next fifteen years as a top runway model living in Paris, Rome, and Tokyo working for top designers such as Valentino, Christian Dior, Emanuel Ungaro, Karl Lagerfeld and Fendi, to name a few.



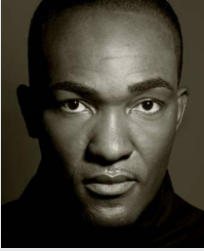
SANDI BASS

After turning in her runway pumps, Sandi returned to America, making appearances on numerous television shows as the on-camera personality and fashion coordinator presenting *Fashions of the Moment*. She also appeared as a guest judge on Tyra Bank's *America's Next Top Model*.

Sandi is now on the other side of the modeling industry. She has experience working as the Director of Runway at a top NY agency and traveling the world as a top international model scout placing models in Asia, Europe, the US and Canada. Sandi is sought after by modeling agencies, schools and conventions to give seminars to models and parents, knowing they will get sound advice. She is also the Creative Director for Cover Girls for Change, models of the 80's and 90's uniting to mentor young models through events during NY Fashion Week, and is also a member of The National Association of Professional Women in New York.

UCOF President, Chariman & Founder

CIANO CLERJUSTE



CIANO CLERJUSTE

Prior to settling in the USA in 1996, Clerjuste made a promise to himself to help those less fortunate and in need, the same way he was raised. Ciano Clerjuste was born and spent most of his teen years in Gonaïves, Haiti. His educational background spans across a wide range of theatrical performances, dance, film, fashion, and arts. With 18 years of valid experience in these fields, he has graced stages performing in leading roles for such productions as *Romeo & Juliet*, *South Pacific*, *Daniel's Song*, *Pas De Deux*, *Lulumba*, and *Cinderella* and for five years in the run in *The Jesus Story*. He has coupled his acting with directing some of these productions including *Noel Sans Toi* for five years. He has also performed in the WYACT/ NJPAC Summer Musical Production.

With extensive training garnered from Alvin Ailey American Dance Company, Newark School of the Arts, New York Conservatory of Dance and Cynthia Meryl, he has also made some independent films including *The Kreyol Boys*, *Descent*, and *Love Around the World*. He has teamed up with great designers from all over the globe – from as far as Argentina, Spain, Haiti, Angola, Paris, Trinidad, the Philippines, Russia and South Africa – with one purpose in mind: to Empower Youth through Fashion.

In 2010, Ciano Clerjuste founded United Colors of Fashion. It has been a platform for him to work with and showcase young and gifted artists in fashion, and expose them on a global scale in order to realize their dreams. He has the lead role behind planning UCOF's Annual Gala and International Fashion Benefit, which seeks to raise funds for UCOF's free Fashion Education and Charity Care Programs.



Meet the Staff

AMBASSADORS

Devyn
Global Ambassador,
Winner of “The Face”

Millen Magese
UCOF Cares Ambassador

Skye
STAND Ambassador

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Make a Difference. Get Involved.

UCOF is supported by an international team of philanthropically-minded, skilled professionals with backgrounds in fashion, the arts, and business, united by the mission to Empower Youth through Fashion. We invite you to join our staff for the opportunity to use your specific skills, talents, education and experiences to positively impact youth in the Tri-State Area. If you're committed to making a difference in the lives of young people through fashion, there's a position for you at UCOF:

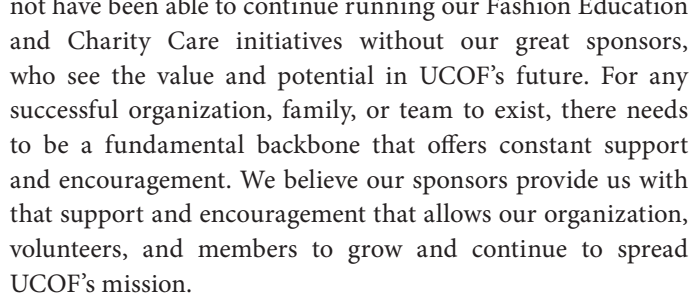
- Executive Board
- Board of Advisors
- Finance
- Fundraising
- Sponsorship
- Marketing
- Media
- Event Planning
- Legal/Corporate Law
- Grants Writing
- Fashion Design Instructors
- Graphic Design
- Steering Committee
- Host Committee

While many of our staff members are based in the New York tri-state area, a significant number are scattered across the country and around the world. Each staff member commits about seven hours per week to help run our programs. However, through emails, conference calls and in-person meetings only as needed, our staff has the flexibility to work for UCOF according to their own schedules.

For more experienced professionals unable to commit seven hours each week, UCOF invites you to apply to join our Board of Advisors where you will be able to use your unique expertise to provide advice and counsel to our staff. If you are interested in applying for any of our teams, please contact **Ciano Clerjuste** at 917.266.4171 or via email at ciano@unitedcolorsoffashion.org




Acknowledgement To Our Sponsors



United Colors of Fashion would like to thank our generous sponsors for making our 4th Annual Gala possible. We would not have been able to continue running our Fashion Education and Charity Care initiatives without our great sponsors, who see the value and potential in UCOF's future. For any successful organization, family, or team to exist, there needs to be a fundamental backbone that offers constant support and encouragement. We believe our sponsors provide us with that support and encouragement that allows our organization, volunteers, and members to grow and continue to spread UCOF's mission.

We are grateful to all our sponsors. We have grown tremendously since UCOF was founded four years ago in 2010, today our organization encompasses a remarkable team of individuals who donate their time to help Empower Youth through Fashion. None of this would be possible without our sponsors.



Our sponsors have allowed UCOF to carry out our mission both locally and globally. We look forward to continued partnership with our sponsors and we promise an incredibly passionate and rewarding journey ahead.

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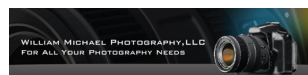
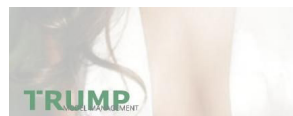
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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UCOF Academy celebrates dreams with fourth annual Gala

NEW YORK, NY (September 29, 2014) - With just over a week to spare, the team behind United Colors of Fashion Inc. has started the official countdown to the fourth annual Gala taking place at the historic Lexington Avenue Armory, New York on October 8th, 2014 at 6:30pm. This year the Gala theme; “Paper Dreams: Writing New Runways,” pays homage to the dreams of the students, who are ultimately the driving force behind the mission UCOF has to empowering youth through fashion education. It is the dreams they have written down on paper that will redefine the fashion industry of the future. In essence, they are now writing new runways, which will change fashion in ways as different as their dreams are. This year, the UCOF Gala is all about the students and in preparation for their fashion debut they will present their own collections on the night. In addition, they are giving their seal of approval of the theme with a collection of paper dresses, which will be put on display.

“From assisting backstage at fashion shows to learning how to produce a fashion line and showcasing it – United Colors of Fashion allows us to do it all. They offer you free fashion education classes, design mentorship and a platform for you to express and discover your creativity, helping you to evolve,” says Desiree L. Patton, a UCOF student.

In keeping with dreams, this Gala is also about honoring individuals who followed their dreams and continue to provide inspiration to so many hopeful youth for their own aspirations. This year UCOF is honoring model Devyn Abdullah, who won Season 1 of The Face as their Model of the Year. Devyn is a perfect example of how hope and faith delivers the believer into the embrace of their dreams. Meck Khalfan, CEO of Puku and the brain behind the ultra stylish and efficient Puku charger will receive the Techno Innovator of the Year Award. Our third honoree is designer and luxury brand owner Malan Breton who will receive the 2014 Fashion Icon of the Year Award. Our honorees have defied great odds to be the respected, successful people they are today and their humility and generosity makes them most deserving of these accolades.

“This year our Gala is all about the students as it should be, considering our entire mission revolves around them. Our goal for this Gala is to raise \$500,000 which will enable us to continue our free fashion education and expand our UCOF Cares missions to Haiti. This organization started as a dream, and now we are making dreams come true. It is this cycle we wish to encourage at this year’s Gala where guests will help us put the dreams of our

hopeful youth on the conveyor to success,” says President Ciano Clerjuste.

The Gala will commence with an intern exhibition and a cocktail reception. A subsequent award ceremony and an entertainment line-up featuring the work of designers: Malan Breton (New York), Amparo and Bisila Couture by Amaparo Chorda (Spain), David Tlale (South Africa), Loin Cloth & Ashes by Anisa Mpungwe (Tanzania), Catou by Berny Martin (Haiti), and Agatha Ruiz de la Prada (Spain).

The designers have been hand selected by United Colors Of Fashion and serve as role models for the students. The annual gala brings NY/NJ elites, celebrities, Wall Street bankers, and fashion and lifestyle media from different parts of the world.

The lights will be shining brightly on hosts for the evening, Janice Huff and Mike Ruiz who will preside over matters to keep proceedings moving smoothly and timeously. With all that will be said during the night, “donate” remains the most important word. This Gala aims to raise \$500,000 with live and silent auctions, which will fund the education of the students for 2015. The 100% model ensures that every cent raised is used to impact the lives of the students.

The UCOF fourth annual Gala dedicates itself to the dreams of not only the students of UCOF, but those of the nameless, faceless hopefuls who can not yet see beyond their circumstances to find a future all within their control. A future that says: “I’ve been expecting you.”

The incredible team working tirelessly to put this world-class event together include partners and sponsors American Endowment Foundation, Christo Fifth Avenue, LDJ Productions, Jan Malan Umzingeli Productions, Sandi Bass International, Malas Meninas, The Accessory Expert, Sterling Design, and model agencies IMG, Elite, Major, Muse, Red, Wilhelmina, Boss, Trump, Q, New York, Colby, Soul, Kaback, One and DNA Model Management.

For more information on United Colors Of Fashion and “*Paper Dreams: Writing New Runways*,” please contact:

Jamil Khan

Phone: (646) 641-9732 (917) 266-4171

Email: jamil@unitedcolorsoffashion.org



Anatomy of the **UCOF Brand Mark**

The button and needles within the Brand Mark represent the tools we provide in order to empower youth to achieve their goals through fashion. The two needles are used to signify UCOF's two core initiatives: Fashion Education and Charity Care.



United Colors of Fashion is a New York City-based non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with a mission to Empower Youth Through Fashion Education.

Our core initiative is providing FREE Fashion Education with our Student Training Arts and Design (STAND) Program to under-resourced youth in New York/New Jersey. Mentoring and Counseling, workshops and hands-on internships in the fields of design, fashion merchandising, PR and Media, Marketing and Management make up the program.

UCOF
ACADEMY



EMPOWERING
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