

GALA PROGRAM

| 2013

United Colors of Fashion

3RD ANNUAL GALA & INTERNATIONAL FASHION BENEFIT / 2013

LEXINGTON AVENUE ARMORY | 69TH REGIMENT

68 Lexington Avenue, NEW YORK, NY 10010

Wednesday, October 9TH, 2013



EMPOWER YOUTH
THROUGH FASHION

www.UnitedColorsOfFashion.org | 917.266.4171



Anatomy of the UCOF Logo

The graphic thread elements represent the unity that UCOF creates between (a) under-resourced youth and the fashion industry, (b) philanthropists and youth suffering with HIV/AIDS, as well as (c) the many uniquely talented members of the UCOF team. The various bright colors reveal our optimistic spirit, while also signifying the globally diverse nature of the UCOF team and the youth we strive to empower.

Message from the President



On behalf of United Colors Of Fashion (UCOF), a very warm welcome to our 3rd Annual Gala: **FAITH. HOPE. FASHION.** 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 see how we **Empower Youth through Fashion** for the 6th season.

In my tenure as the UCOF president, **2013 has been the most meaningful year for me yet.** Our first intern and this year's Achiever of the Year, **Sade Solomon, is launching her first collection.** Three years ago, when Sade started with us, no one knew that upon finishing her degree at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT), she would have been ready to launch her first collection or be part of the history of this organization. Today our awesomely talented Sade has made us very proud, and we are so thrilled with her accomplishments.

Moreover, assisting Sade to be where she is today is one of the most *rewarding experiences* of my journey on earth.

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 mother was hit by a car, which left her paralyzed. Shortly after, my father died, 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 urban 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** throughout the Tri-State area and globally. We remain *faithful* that our mission will launch the careers of our interns, while also providing *hope* for their futures and also for the children in Soweto, South Africa through the magical medium 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 genuine gratefulness,

Ciano Clerjuste

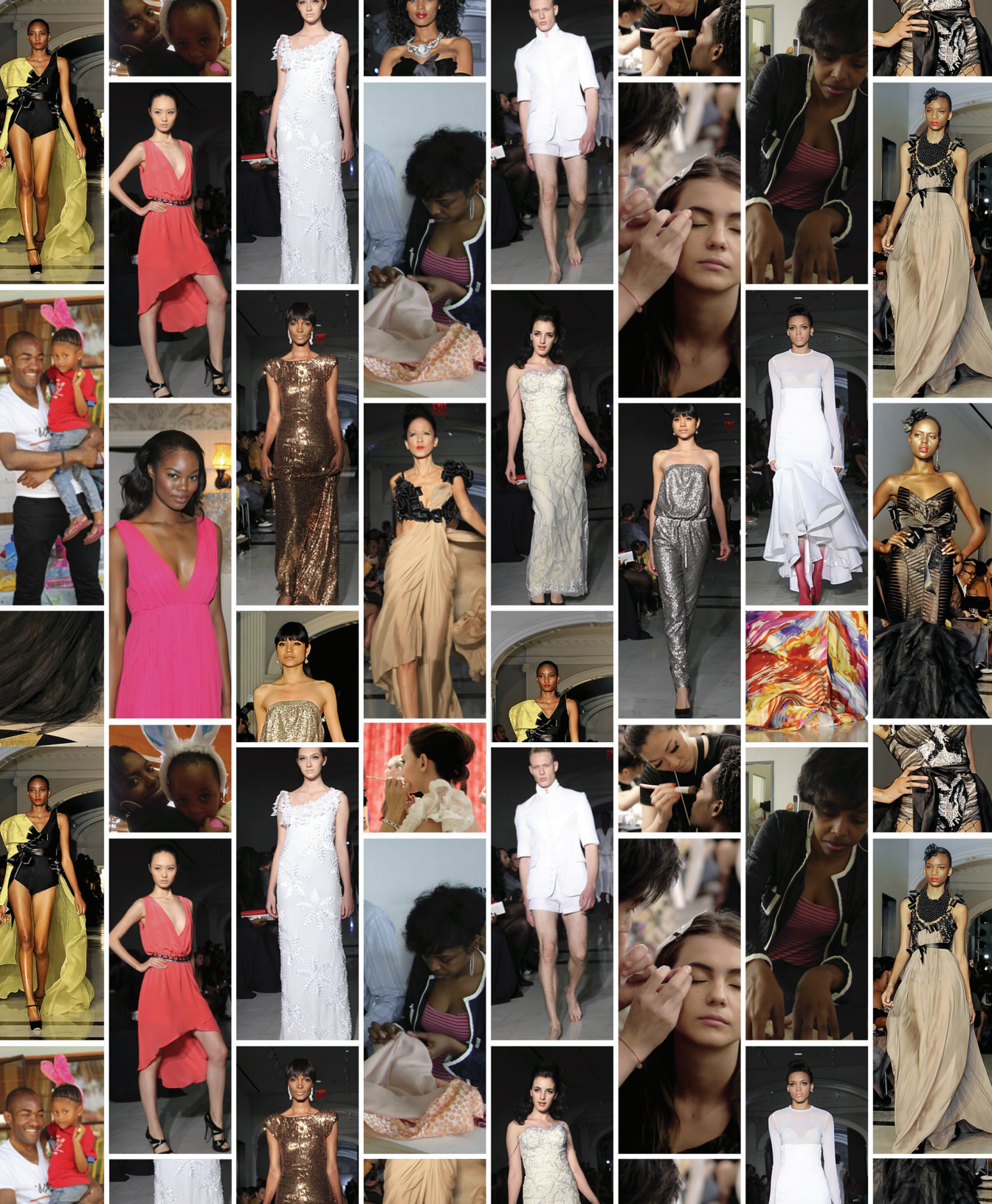


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Program

- 6:00 pm** Press Check-in Opens / Arrival of Honorary Chair
- 6:15 pm** Press Conference
- 6:30 pm** Cocktail Reception and Exhibition Begin
- 7:20 pm** Award Program Begins
- Presentation of the Honorary Chair Award to Fern Mallis
 - Bethann Hardison to present the Lifetime Achievement Award to Pat Cleveland
 - Legendary Supermodels of the 80's
 - Video of our Impact in NY and Abroad
 - Collection by Sade Solomon
 - Ciano Clerjuste to present the Achiever of the Year Award to Sade Solomon
- Live Auction by Host of the Gala
- International Runway Fashion Show by Top Designers
- Dance Presentation by Dancers from Steps on Broadway
- Grand Finale
- Thank You and Closing Remarks

About UCOF

United Colors of Fashion (UCOF), which *Vigore!* Magazine calls an “epidemic of hope”, is a New York City-based non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization with a mission to **Empower Youth through Fashion**. We do this by educating and mentoring under-resourced youth about the fashion industry through hands-on training. In addition, we provide financial assistance, food, and clothing to youth living with HIV/AIDS, sickle cell anemia and paralysis in South Africa.

Founded in 2010 by Ciano Clerjuste, UCOF has been an inspiring platform for showcasing young and gifted youth by helping them to realize their dreams in the fashion industry. We are supported by an international team of philanthropically-minded industry professionals with backgrounds in fashion, the arts, and business. Our diverse staff donates their time and expertise to passionately carry out UCOF’s mission.

Our focus is on improving health and education as the foundation for happy and fulfilling lives. We raise funds for these causes primarily through our annual gala, in addition to corporate sponsors, grants and generous contributions. We are different from other non-profit organizations as 100% of public donations are used to fund our Fashion Education and Charity Care Programs (minus credit card fees for donations made online). To cover our operating expenses, we depend on private donors, foundations and sponsors. Your donations fuel our long-term mission, our ability to scale as an organization, and our promise to continue using 100% of public donations for our programs.

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



Fashion Education Program

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 the fashion capital of 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 business 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 **Fashion Education Program**, which is the first of its kind in the United States, provides free hands-on training to youth who do not normally have the connections to get 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 the best in the industry, such as top fashion designers, producers, hair stylists, makeup artists, publicists, and even positions to volunteer backstage during New York Fashion Week.

To date, we have impacted the lives of over 200 under-resourced youth in New York/ New Jersey. Our top student for 2013, Sade Solomon, just graduated from the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT), and is launching her first collection at today's gala.

During this year's gala season, we have focused specifically on providing extensive training to interns interested in the areas of Womenswear Design, Menswear Design, Marketing & PR, Fashion Show Production, and Hair & Makeup. Top performing interns during the gala season will be selected across each of these areas and provided with exceptional mentorship and training opportunities during the year.

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

Charity Care Program



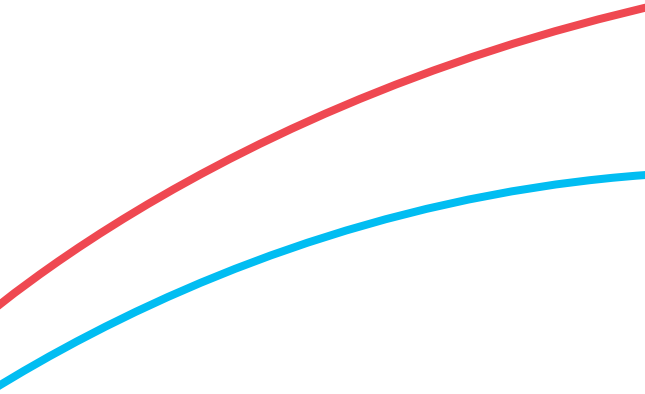
Through our Charity Care Program, UCOF harnesses the fashion community's compassion to bring relief to youth in South Africa who lack access to adequate medical care. We are partnered with the Mapetla Day Care, an affiliate of the Soweto Hospice, in South Africa to provide financial assistance, food and clothing to children suffering from HIV/AIDS, sickle cell anemia and paralysis.

To date, UCOF has provided assistance to 52 children in Soweto, South Africa. In March of this year, the UCOF team made our highly anticipated yearly visit to South Africa to provide support to the children of the Mapetla Day Care Center. The UCOF team and ambassadors arranged a party for the children, showering them with love and gifts.

In addition to creating a fun time for the children, the aim of the trip was to deliver on a much needed promise – to provide each child with clothes, food, educational toys and sanitary items to take home. Moreover, the money raised for this trip was donated to the hospice to support their inspiring work. The teachers at the center also received gifts to thank them for all the wonderful work they do by investing in the futures of the children.



10 Year Vision for UCOF



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 ten 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 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

FERN MALLIS

UCOF 2013 Gala Honorary Chair



FERN MALLIS

Hailed as the award-winning creator of Fashion Week in New York City – Fern Mallis has been called an industry titan, doyenne, and The Godmother of Fashion. As the creator and host of premiere conversation series *Fashion Icons w/ Fern Mallis* at New York's prestigious 92nd Street Y – Mallis assembled an incredible roster of guests for her now signature in-depth interviews, including Calvin Klein, Norma Kamali, Donna Karan, Tommy Hilfiger, Tom Ford, Michael Kors, Diane von Fürstenberg, Polly Mellen, Marc Jacobs, Betsey Johnson, Vera Wang, Suzy Menkes, and most recently – the legendary Oscar de la Renta.

In addition to her 92Y series, Mallis hosts *Fashion Insiders w/ Fern Mallis* on SiriusXM's flagship celebrity talk channel – STARS, where she interviews the best and brightest, covering the most relevant topics of the day in the fashion industry, notably featuring her now indispensable NY Fashion Week shows, with daily on-the-go coverage and backstage interviews.

As one of the most photographed women in the industry, Mallis is consistently and widely quoted in the fashion press and broadcast media, especially in the business of fashion. She's been frequently featured on televised fashion programs, including *America's Next Top Model*, *She's Got the Look*, four seasons of *Project Runway*, and

as the weekly judge on Bravo's first season of *The Fashion Show*, with Isaac Mizrahi and Kelly Rowland. Recently, she served as consulting producer on the CW network's reality television series *ReModeled*. Her globally inspired FERN FINDS: jewelry line is currently featured on HSN, and HSN.com.

Mallis is the recipient of a great many industry awards and accolades. She's received The Fashion Maverick Award from the American Apparel and Footwear Assoc.; Woman of the Year Leadership Award from Concern Worldwide; Fashion Legacy Award from the Fashion Chamber of Commerce State of Style Awards; A Special Award from Diversity Affluence Organization; Leadership Award from the Fashion Center BID. She was honored by Pratt Institute with their 2012 Fashion Industry Lifetime Achievement Award – presented to her by designer Calvin Klein. In May 2013, she was presented with the rarely bestowed Fashion Institute of Technology President's Lifetime Achievement Award, delivering the keynote commencement address.

Former SVP of IMG Fashion and former Executive Director of the Council of Fashion Designers of America – Fern Mallis is currently President of her own leading international fashion and design consultancy – Fern Mallis LLC. She's on the Board of Directors for Robert Graham in New York, and Tara Jewels in Mumbai, India, and serves on the Advisory Boards of AhaLife, FashionGPS, and Industrial Revolution II. She's consultant to Charleston Fashion Week, Seoul Fashion Week, and has served as Executive Advisor to Concept Korea for NYFW. Mallis also serves on the Steering Committee for NYCxDesign Week, and is a consultant to the Centennial Anniversary Committee of Grand Central Terminal, as well as the Global Millennium Foundation in conjunction with the United Nations.

Photo Credit: Timothy Greenfield-Sanders

Biographies of Gala Honorees

PAT CLEVELAND

Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient



PAT CLEVELAND

This year, our 2013 Annual Gala will honor legendary supermodel Pat Cleveland with the Lifetime Achievement Award for the impact she has made on fashion and the arts worldwide, and for her time and dedication to UCOF during the past year.

Pat Cleveland is an international modeling icon and has worked with the most prestigious fashion designers including Armani, Halston, Stephen Burrows and Valentino, both on and off the runway. Ms Cleveland has also been seen in the work of important photographers including Richard Avedon, Helmut Newton, Horst and Steven Meisel. Throughout her illustrious career, Ms. Cleveland has appeared on the pages of the world's most prestigious fashion publications such as *Vogue*, *Ebony*, *Essence*, *Interview*, *W Magazine*.

As a Fashion Ambassador, Ms Cleveland has traveled extensively representing the United States and the United Kingdom on trips to China, Italy and Russia. In 1989 she represented the city of Barcelona as a fashion icon for the Summer Olympics in Spain. Recently she was the recipient of The Thurgood Marshall Award for being a Fashion Icon, named as one of The Huffington Post 100 Game Changers, and was honored at the Metropolitan museum of art for her contribution in *Versailles 73* program

In addition to modeling, Ms Cleveland has performed: singing and dancing on stage in *Let My People Come* on Broadway; acted in several foreign films including *Rio Babilônia* (Brazil), *Iago Shakespeare* (Italy), *Sotto il vestito niente* (Italy), and *Hair, The Musical* (Mexico); and appeared in cameo parts for *The Devil Wears Prada*, *Sex and the City: The Movie* and as a guest judge on *America's Next Top Model* and most recently on *The Face*.

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.



Sade Solomon

Achiever of the Year



To date, UCOF has impacted the lives of over 200 under-resourced youth from New York and New Jersey. We are proud to announce that our top student and Achiever of the Year for 2013, Sade Solomon, is launching her first collection at the Gala. Since Sade started working with UCOF, this former caseworker has grown into a visionary and a paragon of hope with aims of starting her own business through which she can use fashion and philanthropy to encourage youth and empower them to fulfill their dreams and passions as she has done.

Sade has been part of UCOF's Fashion Education program for the last 3 years and has recently graduated with a fashion degree from the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT). The challenge many newly graduated fashion designers face despite being artistically ready, is funding. The Fashion Education program allows designers like Sade to focus on design without the worry of funding, which is covered completely by sponsors. UCOF is proud to be associated with Sade and has kept its promise of assisting her every step of the way to realize her dream of fashion philanthropy that so closely aligns to the mission of UCOF.

"I want to touch lives and provide others with the opportunities that were afforded to me," says Sade. It is evident that she has no intention of resting on her laurels and she is clear that each achievement is only the foundation upon which she can build the next.

In February 2013, Sade designed a number of pieces for the "Hope Beyond Horizons" exhibition of avant-garde fashion. In March, she had the unique opportunity to visit South Africa during Joburg Fashion Week where

she worked behind the scenes as an intern under South African designers David Tlale and Shaldon Kopman, and also with world renowned show producer Jan Malan. The many inspirations she received from this trip have given Sade the impetus to launch her first collection at UCOF's annual gala.

"I knew that on this journey to South Africa, gratitude would be one quality I would have to take home with me," says Sade.

"In the spirit of UCOF, I was put straight to work. Of all the people I met and conversed with at the studio, about 90% of them have a dream and/or desire to visit, live or work in NYC. In their eyes you can see the burning desire to visit this city they deem the capital of Fashion. This is when gratitude began to kick in and I realized how truly blessed I am to be in the fashion industry in NYC thanks to UCOF. If I could bring them all back to NYC with me to visit the land they've always dreamed about, I would," she said.

Sade's collection is being presented at the UCOF gala, where we invite you to ask Sade questions about her creations and her experience with UCOF.

Sade Solomon's First Collection

My Spring 2014 Collection

is inspired by the poetry of the youth I encountered during my trip to South Africa with UCOF. Through the use of prints, sheer and textured fabrics, and a sea-inspired color palette; **I brought to life something that the youth expressed they've never seen: the ocean.** Using Solange Knowles as my muse, I've incorporated pieces that are fresh, forward, and wearable. The silk shantung pieces can easily take a woman from day to night. Many of the tops have loose and boxy fit which can be flattering for all shapes and sizes.

SADE'S INSPIRATION:



INITIAL SKETCHES FOR SADE'S COLLECTION



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.

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

- Marc Bouwer (USA)
- David Tlale (*South Africa*)
- Kosibah (*United Kingdom*)
- Ron & Ron (*Haiti/USA*)
- Naked Ape by Shaldon Kopman (*South Africa*)
- Sukeina (USA)
- **Carmen Marc Valvo (USA)**



Designer Biographies

MARC BOUWER

(USA)



MARC BOUWER

Anyone enveloped in a Marc Bouwer design, whether a sequined mini or a jeweled silk taffeta ball gown, gets noticed. His designs have graced the covers of numerous magazines and the red carpet at movie premieres and awards shows. That's part of his allure—the form-fitting look — imbued with a genuine desire to celebrate, as poet Walt Whitman so neatly put it, “the body electric.”

Indeed, one of Bouwer's strong suits is his ability to cut a garment to complement a woman's figure. Another is his acclaimed talent as a draper, a skill he mastered during his tenure with designer Halston.

Bouwer, who grew up in South Africa, had an unusual career trajectory. He was drafted into the army, before studying fashion and winning the South African Vogue Young designer award. His roots may be African, but his ambition drove him abroad. “There was only one place to go,” he insists, “New York.” His arrival, or what he calls his big “Hollywood moment,” came when Halston studied his portfolio, then uttered these six prophetic words: “I think you got something, kid.” Bouwer received an offer to join Halston's studio.

There, he learned various techniques, including the aforementioned draping, before striking out on his own. His versatility proved crucial to his success and he found his niche as one of the first eveningwear-focused designers in the United States.

The Marc Bouwer aesthetic is the very definition of timeless elegance.



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 Mr. Tlale was also voted the most stylish person at the Annual South African Style Awards.

Mr. 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, Mr. 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.



Designer Biographies

KOSIBAH

(United Kingdom)



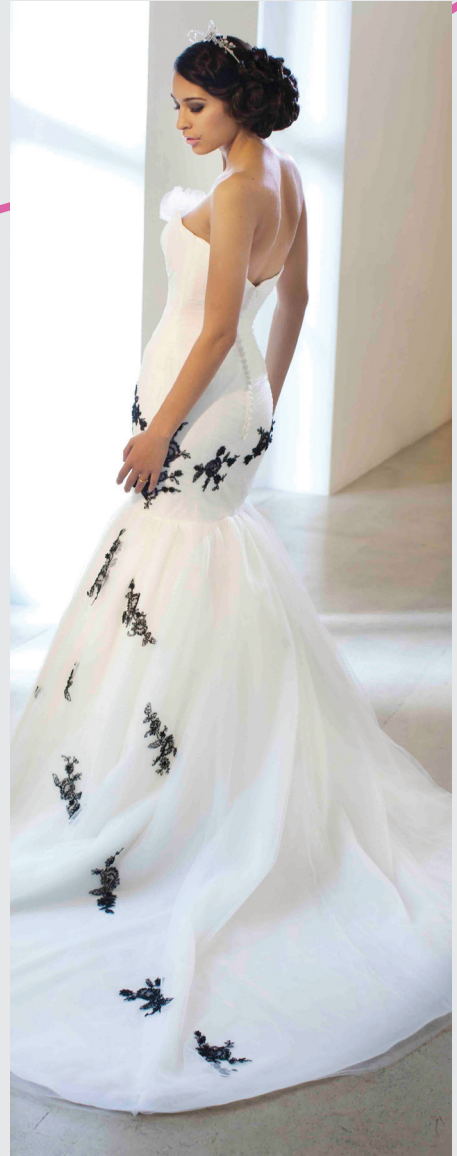
YEMI OSUNKOYA

The seeds of Yemi Osunkoya's fascination with fashion in general and bridal wear in particular were sown at his first high society wedding in Nigeria. From then on, whenever he accompanied his parents to social gatherings, he would feel compelled to draw the dresses and guests after the function. Yemi completed a degree in Textile Design at Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria, and continued his studies at the Paris Academy of Fashion, Oxford St, London, gaining top marks in both men's and women's wear.

Despite graduating in 1990 in London at the height of the recession, Yemi was determined to make his own mark. He decided to strike out on his own and founded his own design label Kosibah, named for his greatest supporter: his mother.

Yemi has worked hard to make Kosibah a truly global brand, but with clientele particularly well represented in the United Kingdom, the USA, West and South Africa, and the Caribbean. Among his celebrated clients, Yemi counts Lady Janet Boateng, Dianne Abbott MP, Kelly Rowland, Alesha Dixon, Sheila Ferguson, Hollywood actress Indra Ové, Louise Rose and members of several royal families in Nigeria and Ghana.

Yemi's designs are firmly rooted in the desire to make every woman look and feel good. Drawing on his African roots, Yemi's designs celebrate the curves and shapes of real women. His signature use of corsetry and draping creates gowns that flatter and enhance every woman's figure. And his long experience of providing a personal attentive service to each of his clients means that he is now an expert in providing exactly what his clients want.



Designer Biographies

RON & RON

(Haiti/USA)



RON & RON

Ron & Ron, a menswear fashion label specializing in made-to-measure suits, was established in 1999 by twin brothers Ronald and Rony Delice. The Ron & Ron label was noticed almost immediately, receiving critical acclaim from the leading periodicals including *The New York Times* and *DNR*, the predominant menswear trade magazine. The label quickly gained popularity among a host of celebrities such as actors Will Smith, Samuel L. Jackson, Courtney B. Vance, D.L. Hughley, and Jamie Foxx, renowned musicians like Justin Timberlake, Jay-Z, and Sean John “Diddy” Combs.

The twin designers were born to a seamstress mother and a tailor father in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Inspired by their lifelong passion and seeking an alternative to the monotonous style of European-inspired minimalist design and limited detailing and sizing, the Delices’ set out to create something refreshingly different within the very competitive high-end men’s suit industry. Celebrating the essence of their Caribbean heritage, Rony and Ronald have been widely recognized for incorporating brilliant colors with truly remarkable details. The twin brothers often combine red-stitched button holes, contrast piping, top stitching and enhanced peak lapels on slender silhouettes cut from imported Italian cloth.

By integrating subtle influences from their cultural background and adding signature detailing, this charismatic duo accentuates timeless, classic tailoring with their own distinctive and versatile touches, giving it a modern appeal. The clear difference though can be seen in the way only a Ron & Ron suit fits a man; complementing his body and personal style effortlessly.



Designer Biographies

NAKED APE BY SHALDON KOPMAN

(South Africa)



SHALDON KOPMAN

Shaldon Kopman's Naked Ape Designs are the answer to the need for high-end menswear fashion for street and suit savvy gentlemen around the globe, catering to travelers that jet set from South Africa to New York. Having worked abroad in cities such as New York, Chicago, Sydney, Milan, Paris and Dubai as a fashion director and stylist, Shaldon was called home by a strong passion for Africa. Once home, he applied his years of experience by filling the role of Fashion Editor for South African magazines such as *Elle*, *Soccer Life* and *Y Magazine*.

Today Shaldon focuses most of his creative energy on Naked Ape and growing the strong Afro Aesthetic to compete in an international market. His natural sense of style and clear direction for a well-rounded wardrobe earned him the "GQ Best Dressed Man" award for 2006 – 2007. More recently Shaldon appeared as one of four judges on the hit show *Diamonds in the Ruff*, and as "Fashion Police" for the Royal Monaco Wedding and for various events on *The Real Goboza*.

With the mission to create multi-functional designs through the use of refined detail and fine fabrication, Naked Ape provides services in fashion and image consulting, offering tailor-made wardrobes for the ever evolving fashion world.

Through a decade of exponential growth from its humble beginnings as a cottage industry with a handful of loyal clientele, to a fully fledged studio and showroom, Naked Ape Fashion Consulting has established an elite service for the discerning individual.



Designer Biographies

SUKEINA

(USA)



SUKEINA

Omar Salam is the Founder and Head Designer of Su Kei Na Fashion House. Born in Dakar, in the Republic of Senegal, his childhood was spent in various countries in Europe. As a child, Omar had a very colorful and exciting imagination, which would later manifest itself in his designs and craftsmanship. He started sewing at an early age, inspired after he saw his mother, Sukeina, stitch together different pieces of fabric and patterns. Omar was also very fascinated with the power and intimacy of communication. When he came of age, he decided to study screenwriting with the hopes of one day getting into film. He later realized that he could tell more intricate and vibrant stories through fashion. “Clothing is a language within itself,” he says.

In 2001, Omar started working for world renowned French fashion designer Madame Sonia Rykiel. Starting off in Sales, he would later be promoted to Merchandising, and finally became Visual Director for the New York City branch. Omar spent seven years with Madame Rykiel.

In 2008, Omar decided to tempt fate, spread his wings and establish his own fashion house. Su Kei Na, the namesake of his mother, is very unique. The colors are vivid, while the fabrics are delicate, lush and elegant. His boldness is reminiscent of a young Gianni Versace, with the fineness and precision of Valentino. Omar Salam has fully engaged himself in his craft. His creations are not made to highlight himself, but rather to celebrate what we all enjoy about our bodies and life. “I truly must be honest. I want to dress people as they want to be. My clothes are made to move with you. Without a body in them, they are nothing.”



Designer Biographies

CARMEN MARC VALVO

(USA)



CARMEN MARC VALVO

Carmen grew up in Westchester County, New York. His father was an anesthesiologist and mother, a nurse. In the Valvo home, traditional children's story and coloring books were supplemented with educational and anatomy related volumes in hopes their son would follow in the family footsteps. This is where Carmen first developed the formative knowledge of the female figure that would later help him to become such a successful and intuitive designer. His artistic spirit revealed itself early on through his passion for oil painting and portraiture as well as fashion illustration. Before heading to Vienna where he hoped to pursue his artistic dreams, Carmen first attended the Fine Arts program at Manhattanville College. While traveling throughout Europe and exploring the rich cultural tapestry of centuries-old historic cities and quaint countryside, and becoming proficient in several languages, fate intervened - Carmen was injured in a car accident and returned to the States to recover. Finally realizing his true passion had always lay in fashion design, he set his sights on a career he thought was only a fantasy and enrolled in Parsons School of Design.

Upon leaving Parsons School of Design, Carmen's first position was with Bill Atkinson in mid-1970. However, Carmen's real professional career began with an offer to work in Paris with the house of Nina Ricci. This was followed by a position with Christian Dior in the same city. Dior is where he established his true sense of the couture aesthetic, which so embodies all of his works to date.



Fashion Show Producer/Director

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, Joburg, Kinhasa, Fashion Business Angola and Africa Fashion Week; Mozambique Fashion Week and 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.

But regardless of an impressive client list, which includes names such as Elton John and Tyra Banks, Malan has continued his passion for charity work by giving his time to produce shows for the Witwatersrand Hospice, The Organ Donor Foundation, the South African Federation for Mental Health and most recently, United Colors of Fashion in New York. UCOF honored him with the "Producer of the Year Award" in 2012.

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.

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. It is her inviting southern comfort personality that has taken her around the world. 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 has also recently been chosen as a member of The National Association of Professional Women in New York.



SANDI BASS



Fashion Show Stylist

CHRISTINE DE LASSUS



CHRISTINE DE LASSUS

Christine de Lassus is a world renowned fashion stylist and fashion editor who has, over the last two decades, collaborated with some of the most famous fashion photographers including Irving Penn, Steven Klein, Steven Meisel, Patrick Demarchelier, Jean-Baptiste Mondino, Albert Watson, Marilyn Minter and Ellen Von Unwerth.

Born and raised in Paris, France, she studied high level mathematics and advertising, graduating from the European Business School, before moving to New York where she shifted her interests to her true calling, fashion.

Christine's career took off immediately and she found herself styling major advertising campaigns such as L'Oreal, Revlon, Elizabeth Arden, Estée Lauder and many others.

In the nineties, she moved back to Paris and became a fashion editor and a regular contributor to French Elle, Vogue España, and Vogue Hommes International.

She currently lives in New York where she contributes to prestigious magazines such as Italian Amica, Paper, i-D, Vanity Fair, Italian Vogue, V Magazine and international editions of Harper's Bazaar, L'Officiel, Tatler, GQ. She styles international campaigns for Hogan, Absolut Vodka, Adidas, Moët & Chandon amongst others.

Fascinated by global youth culture, she has also dedicated time over the past nine years to Trace Magazine where her role as Fashion Director at large often involved creative direction and spanned collaborations on special projects for Absolut Metropolis in Tokyo, Leblon in Rio, in addition to Nike, Y-3, Adidas and Puma. These creative collaborations enabled her to travel the world extensively and sharpen her eye on the world's most exciting emerging trends.

Christine de Lassus's global approach to fashion allows her to perfectly combine art and a modern vision of fashion with business and clients demands, making her an invaluable asset to her collaborators.

International Fashion Ambassador DEVYN



DEVYN

“It is an unexpected honor being selected as UCOF’s newest fashion ambassador.”

UCOF is excited to have Devyn, our International Fashion Ambassador, represent us at the 2013 Annual Gala. 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.

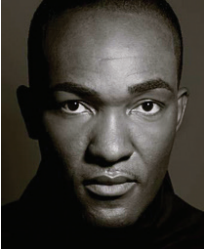
During high school, she was scouted by an agency in New York and learned to balance her classes with the demands of working as a model. Since graduating, Devyn further developed her interest in photography, hosted a professional photography exhibit, and created a short film which was recognized at the TriBeCa Film Festival. Recently, Devyn was awarded the title of being the first official winner of *The Face* reality TV modeling competition.

Devyn admires how United Colors of Fashion empowers youth through fashion. “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,” says the Ambassador.



UCOF President, Chairman & 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 by his parents. 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.

UCOF Supporters

ZAC POSEN



United Colors of Fashion

would like to thank **Zac Posen** for dressing the Soprano
for our Grand Finale Performance

BIBHU MOHAPATRA



United Colors of Fashion

would like to thank **Bibhu Mohapatra** for donating
a dress for the Silent Auction



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GET INVOLVED ➡



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 New York and South Africa. If you're committed to making a difference in the lives of young people through fashion, there's a team 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

Grateful Acknowledgements from our President

Thank you to the following companies, supporters and individuals who constantly contribute to the success of the organization. We are indebted to all of you. Your support, time and talents help us to write history as the first registered 501 (c)(3) in the nation to offer free fashion education to under-resourced youth in New York.

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Fern Mallis

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Staff, Volunteers and Board of Directors

Thank you for donating your time for the 3rd year to make the project possible.

I wish to show sincere gratitude to the following people who go above and beyond the call of duty to ensure the success of the organization:

Jan Malan, during my teenage years, you were one of my role models in the fashion industry in New York. I never thought one day you would be working with me to empower youth through fashion. You come to New York yearly to assist with the project, and go to Soweto to help us with the children, and never ask for a dime. You are a true humanitarian.

Eramene Clerjuste, the love of my life, I find more reasons to love you every single day. You challenge me to come up higher, and see the best in every situation at UCOF. You were the first donor to the organization and have been the most faithful contributor for 36 consecutive months. You have assisted me a great deal in making this project possible, and for that I'm grateful.

Sandi Bass, Lovely Atis and Claire Livingstone, thank you for your dedication and continued support.

To all the designers: thank you for your support in making the gala possible.

Saunak Shah, thank you for being such a great director and for passionately leading our marketing team in taking UCOF's branding and all of its designs to the next level. Your dedication is greatly appreciated and priceless.

Gemma Gaisano, thank you for your hard work, you are an Angel. We thank you for all that you've done for the Marketing team.

Wladimir Gilbert, thanks for your exceptional passion, commitment and positive attitude toward UCOF and as part of the Marketing team. We couldn't have done this without you.

Debbie Louis, thanks for being such a great assistant.

Eunice Omole, thank you for selling the most tickets for the gala.

Models, thank you for donating your time yearly to make this event a success. You are loved.



Fashion Benefit Committee

Sandi Bass
Saunak Shah
Gemma Gaisano
Inna Iosenkina
Barbara Koning
Wladimir Gilbert
Michael Monroe
Hugo Uys
Victor Dacruz

Devyn
Debbie Louis
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Acknowledgement to our Sponsors

United Colors of Fashion would like to thank our generous sponsors for making our 3rd 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 three 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. On a local level, you have helped provide hands-on, educational opportunities in the fashion industry to under-resourced youth in New York City. On a global level, you have helped us provide financial assistance, food, and clothing to youth in South Africa who are living with HIV/AIDS, sickle cell anemia and paralysis. We look forward to continued partnership with our sponsors and we promise an incredibly passionate and rewarding journey ahead.





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SA188	TANZANIA	ON TIME
SA208	SENEGAL	ON TIME
SA054	ANGOLA	BOARDING
SA048	ZAMBIA	BOARDING
SA184	KENYA	ON TIME
SA060	NIGERIA	ON TIME
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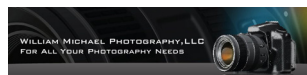
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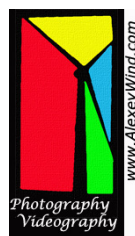
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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

United Colors of Fashion holding Annual Gala & Fashion Benefit at Lexington Avenue Armory in NY

NEW YORK, NY (October 9th, 2013) – United Colors of Fashion (UCOF) is holding its Annual Gala at the historic Lexington Avenue Armory starting at 6:30 p.m. Fern Mallis, fashion industry leader and the renowned creator of New York Fashion Week, is the Honorary Chair for the event. Legendary supermodel Pat Cleveland, who walked the runway for UCOF's gala last year and has made invaluable contributions to the worlds of fashion and the arts, is being honored with the 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award. This black tie affair includes an international runway show featuring top models and acclaimed designers from around the world, including David Tlale (South Africa), Naked Ape by Shaldon Kopman (South Africa), Ron & Ron (Haiti/USA), Kosibah (United Kingdom), Sukeina (USA), and Marc Bouwer (USA). UCOF is also excited to have industry veterans overseeing the runway show: Jan Malan is the Producer, and Sandi Bass is the Casting Director. Supermodel Devyn, the first official winner of *The Face* reality TV modeling competition, is the International Fashion Ambassador who will represent the 2013 Annual Gala.

United Colors of Fashion is a New York City-based non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization with a mission to Empower Youth through Fashion. UCOF works to achieve its mission through two initiatives: (1) locally mentoring under-resourced youth in New York City about the fashion industry through hands-on training in fashion education; and (2) offering provisions of financial assistance, food, and clothing to youth in South Africa who are living with HIV/AIDS, sickle cell anemia and paralysis.

This year's gala theme is: FAITH. HOPE. FASHION. As the name suggests, this year's gala is a celebration of what United Colors of Fashion stands for: remaining *faithful* that UCOF's mission will launch the careers of its under-resourced interns, while providing *hope* for their futures and for the children in South Africa through the transformative medium of *fashion*. All proceeds generated from ticket sales and 100% of public donations

are being used to fund the costs of running UCOF's Fashion Education and Charity Care programs for the upcoming year.

In addition to the international runway show and awards ceremony, gala attendees are being shown the progress UCOF has made through the first collection by Sade Solomon – the Fashion Education program's top intern and UCOF's Achiever of the Year – which is also being presented. "I have learned so much in my past three years of working with UCOF," explains Sade. "I have also grown as a person and as a designer. UCOF to me is people helping people: helping children in South Africa with AIDS and HIV, and also helping emerging designers like myself."

The gala brings together a global community from the worlds of fashion, business, the arts, and philanthropy – all of whom believe in the vision of UCOF. According to Ciano Clerjuste, UCOF President & Chairman: "The annual gala allows us to provide our interns the most extensive and intense training in design, textiles, marketing, management, event production, media and communications. We offer the training at no cost. The talented youth selected get an opportunity to turn their dreams into reality by working with the best in the industry. Our youth are the future leaders of our communities. As we empower them through fashion, we are investing in the upcoming groundbreakers in our country."

For additional information please contact:

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Director of Marketing

United Colors of Fashion

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Email: saunak@unitedcolorsoffashion.org

Website: www.unitedcolorsoffashion.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/UCOFINC



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 passion to locally mentor under-resourced youth in New York City about the fashion industry through hands-on training in fashion education; and offer provisions of financial assistance, food, and clothing to youth in South Africa who are living with HIV/AIDS, sickle cell anemia and paralysis. The core mission of our organization is to Empower Youth Through Fashion.

UCOF



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