

## Flair for Fashion

By Kenrick Bobb

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Designer Kenneth "KAS" Flanagan struts among his design models as he acknowledges the crowds applause. Photos: Kenrick Bobb

"A FLAIR for fashion" that is how the CEO and Designer of KAS Collection Inc Kenneth "KAS" Flanagan, is described. And although some may think of those words as cliché it epitomizes who he is without a doubt.

Woman Express had the pleasure of meeting up with this driven individual at the recently concluded New York Fashion Week held at Westin Times Square Hotel.

"My motivation and vision was really influenced by my mother, who was a stylist herself." Kas explained.

But who exactly is KAS? He simply replied "KAS is couture, not just regionally, but nationally and internationally".

KAS designs are influenced by the 1920's .



This Washington, DC native by way of New York City, discovered his love for fashion while in middle school when he made a shirt out of jeans pockets.

"It created quite a stir," he recalled with a laugh.

With a genuine love of fashion and the visual inspiration of seeing people wearing his creations KAS said he was motivated to invent what would eventually become his own unique signature style.

Sexy flowing silhouettes showcasing a woman's curves are his signature.

He also designs for the confident man. "My designs are for the well-groomed man, a man who pays attention to

details. A key ingredient is that he must love himself. With these designs he will show off his success in this world."

In existence since 1996, KAS was named 2001 Up and Coming Designer, "Hot Designer of 2003" by Nofic, 2004 International Designer of the Year (3rd Place winner out of 250 designers from around the world), 2004 Urban Independent Music Awards "Designer of the Year", and 2005 Timmy Awards (Talent in Motions Magazine) Designer of the Year (for New York, London and Paris).

Talent in Motion Magazine has a distribution of over 400,000 nationwide, and the award is chosen by the readers. KAS also won the 2005 America's Prince of Fashion Award and was nominated again for 2006 Designer of the Year by CFDA (Title: Next big breakthrough). KAS Collection is definitely the hot pick of many top athletes.

R&B and Hip Hop stars, music video models, Jhnta Austin of SOSO Def Records, Tyra Bank's hit TV show America's Next Top Model Niama Mora (Cycle 4 winner), who is also the spokes model for KAS Collection's Sak's Fifth Avenue campaign, R&B sensation Trey Songz, BET's own Melissa Ford and Jared Henry of Lift Every Voice, Fashion Fights Poverty Fashion Show, all wear his designs. Members of the Congressional Black Caucus, the 2001 NBA All-Star Fashion Show, NBA superstar Allen Iverson all white party and fashion show, Big Tigger of BET all white party and fashion show, Co-Host for the Martin Luther King Parade all endorse his designs.

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