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New Bravo of JERS

STYLE

By Ashley Howard

The Young and the Seamstress

One difference about this fashion show is that the models actually smile—and when they do, some of them reveal braces. Frequent cries of, "That's my daughter!" fill the air as the girls, ages ten to seventeen, model clothes they have personally designed and sewn.

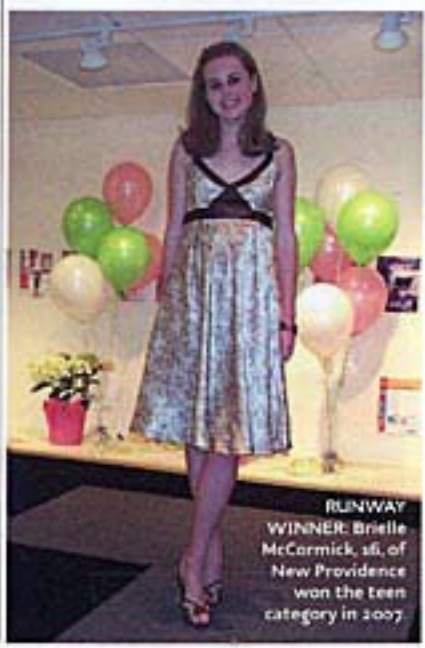
"It's our version of Bravo's Project Runway," says Nancy Plominski, education coordinator for Fabricland, sponsored by the North Plainfield fabric megastore (fabricland.com). Plominski, a graduate of the Fashion Institute of Technology, guides the girls through classes in which they design and create their wardrobes.

This year's theme, "Make it International," requires contestants to base their designs on the style and seasons of another country. The fashion show and competition will be held on May 3 at 10 AM (call 908-755-4700 for more information). A teen (13-17) and a pre-teen (10-13) winner will be chosen, and prizes and supplies totaling \$1,500 will be awarded. "It's about learning how to execute your own ideas, build confidence, and create new and long friendships," says Plominski.

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RUNWAY WINNER: Brielle McCormick, 16, of New Providence won the teen category in 2007.

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