

Community Threads: Weaving Social Bonds through Fashion

By. Sarah DiCosmo

Despite being perceived as the epitome of individual expression and style, fashion holds a power to bring communities together. Nowhere is this more evident than in the dynamic scene by the Fashion Show Production class at Marist College. Beyond garments and runway exhibitions, the class embodies the spirit of collaboration, interconnectedness, and community building.

This year, the Fashion Show Production class has selected “Interlinked” as the theme for the 38th annual Silver Needle Runway show. With a mission to debunk the notion of individual separation and instead celebrate the profound unity of human existence, the Fashion Show Production class stands as an embodiment of this theme.

At its core, Silver Needle Runway is a testament to the strength of togetherness. Every spring, students, designers, models, local vendors, and organizers unite, each bringing their unique skills and perspectives to the table. It serves as a platform for individuals to come together, share their creativity, and forge lasting bonds. Through months of teamwork, they craft a harmonious showcase that not only captivates audiences, but also fosters a sense of belonging and pride within the community. This collaborative effort is a reflection of the interconnectedness that lies at the heart of fashion itself. With that being said, the fashion show at Marist College is more than just a display of creative designs; it is a celebration of community spirit and a thread that weaves people together in a seemingly divided world.

Moreover, the interconnectedness fostered within the Fashion Show Production class extends far beyond the college campus. Alumni of the program often find themselves interconnected in the professional world, leveraging the connections and experiences gained through the class to navigate the fashion industry. Communications Director Sarah Jacobs shares her experience with this saying, “I was able to intern at Saks Fifth Avenue last summer through a connection I had from SNR.” Whether it's through job opportunities, collaborations, or mentorship, the bonds forged in the classroom continue to flourish long after graduation.

In an industry often criticized for its individualistic tendencies, the FSP class and its annual runway show serve as a powerful counter-narrative. It reminds us that fashion is not just about trends and glamor. It is about people coming together, supporting one another, and creating something meaningful. Through collaboration and community, we can defy the notion that

fashion is solely about self-expression and instead embrace its potential as a tool for building bridges and fostering unity.

As we appreciate the student designs on the runway this May, let us also pause to celebrate the true essence of the Silver Needle Runway Show: the connections it forges, the communities it strengthens, and the bonds it weaves. In a polarized world in need of unity, fashion emerges as a powerful force for change, reminding us that when we come together, we are capable of creating something truly extraordinary.