

DZINER

Spotlight: jeana kolson

JOCELYN TEECE

Student Designer Jeana Kolson just finished walking the catwalk at DZine2Show's Spring Fashion Show, but when she finished, the show wasn't over.

"I hope everyone liked my designs!" she says to me after the show.

A student designer for three years at Penn, Jeana is comfortable with the hustle and bustle of showing her clothing on the runway, but not the criticism or praise that comes with it. One look at her designs proves there is nothing to worry about.

"I began designing and sewing clothes for my stuffed animals when I was in elementary school." Self-taught, Jeana continued designing clothes throughout her childhood, but began thinking on a grander scale once she joined DZine2Show. Since joining the organization her freshman year, she has set her sights on the fashion industry. Whether it is clothing design or buying, though, she has not yet decided. Her giving spirit would serve

her well. In her free time, Jeana assists other designers in learning designing and sewing techniques, and holds weekly sewing socials to increase skill. When things got down to the wire and clothing needed to be finished for the show, Jeana was there to help everyone else finish their work.

Jeana designs clothing that she says can be worn by anyone, with comfort and classic style in mind. Inspired by past cultural trends, Jeana often finds herself updating silhouettes from previous decades. This spring, however, Jeana infused her line with feminine details and subtle edge. On her taupe cocktail dress, she placed an exposed zipper running down the back, much like those seen in Phillip Lim and Proenza Schouler's Spring/Summer 2009 collections. Though she says she usually designs dresses, this season she perfected a pair of harem pants, a difficult task. They fit the model perfectly, gliding with her legs as they parade across the runway. She utilized

an understated floral fabric on two dresses, one a drop-waist and another a one-shoulder, which she says "brings out the spring in the collection." For yet another look, Jeana paired a striped bubble-hem skirt with an eyelet top. To add flair, she created a flower out of skirt fabric, which she used to round out the hem in the back. "I'm definitely taking more risks in my designs, so who knows what we will see next season. I'm already looking at fabrics, but I can't tell you any of the designs. But they'll come to me."

This summer, Jeana has an internship in the MMG division in Product Development for Macy's, which she hopes will teach her more about the business side of fashion. "DZine has opened so many doors for me. I never dreamed I would be thinking about pursuing clothing design as a career, but more and more I find myself thinking about it."

I, for one, would be a loyal customer.



Jeana (center), not only designed and created her entire collection, but also modeled one of her pieces for this spring's Fashion Show show.