



it's always romantic at charles nolan

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Charles Nolan always has a story to tell with his collection, and for Fall 08, with a nod towards technology, a hit of Eighteenth Century France and a touch of MSNBC his story begins...

In his show notes, Nolan compares and contrasts the structure of the clothes we associate with Eighteenth Century France – marveling in how the hoops and boning were made back then - with what's available today: taffeta's constructed with 'memory' and recycled industrial mesh. Nolan used these new technologies in his own shorter, shimmering and decidedly modern versions of hoop skirts.

But Girlawhirl always looks for pieces she can incorporate into her very own wardrobe. And she found quite a few. Stretch jeans are a staple, and these skinny numbers in charcoal corduroy or plum velvet might be just the thing for her. In contrast to these slim pants, most of the other pants in the collection were full and slouchy. A fabulous seamed skirt that created the perfect combination of fit and flare came down the runway in several colors, from light heather grey to black and espresso.

Printed dresses had Girlawhirl starring the looks numbered in her program as she followed along and marking 'so chic' in the margins. From an abstract pattern in a combination of mellow browns on jersey, to grey dots on shiny satin, she wants them all.

Coats are always an important part of Nolan's fall collections, and this season was no exception. Textured fabrics like ottomans to birds-eye were added to the soft double-faced wools that Nolan has used in season's past. Sweater coats added to the mix of layers. He showed everything from a black wool and mohair shawl collar belted jacket to a plum double breasted cardigan coat.

Vibrant solid colors came down the runway as well – like the sleeveless cerise sack coat or the reversible black/rose dinner jacket. Proportions were perfectly balanced. Fuller tops

were paired with skinny bottoms: a scarlet double faced caped weskit and a plum double breasted coat cardigan cinched with a skinny gold belt were wore with the aforementioned charcoal stretch cord jean tucked in riding boots.

On the opposite side of the spectrum, slimmer tops were paired with full skirts or wide leg pants: a lean kelly green button cardigan was worn with a full floral skirt and a wide leg navy crepe pant was paired with a tight Scarlet satin corset camisole.

It's always a family affair at a Charles Nolan show with the crowd cheering for the children and real-people models, which along with the champagne and nibbles turned the whole affair into a party atmosphere, which, Girlawhirl suspects was Nolan's objective all along.

