

Christian Siriano

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CHRISTIAN SIRIANO

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PEOPLE ARE PEOPLE

Since winning Project Runway (Season 4), Christian Siriano has rapidly become a rising designer in the fashion industry. On February 11th, Siriano showcased his Fall/Winter '17 ready-to-wear collection at the Plaza Hotel for NYFW. The nearly fifteen minute show consisted of flirty fringe, edgy metallics, and elegant silhouettes. For years Siriano has celebrated diversity and body positivity, which ultimately led to the theme of this show, entitled "People are People." In efforts to prove that fashion can and should be for everyone, he casted five plus-size models to strut some of his designs down the runway.

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Christian Siriano is known for taking luxurious fabrics and turning them into stunning designs appropriate for both day and night. Inspired by his trip to Fire State Park in Nevada's valley, the collection consisted of pink, orange, and blue *hues*. These pieces were *balanced* out with Siriano's edgier black and metallic garments. The *juxtaposition* of fringe, lush velvets, and sheer organza all demonstrated Siriano's ability to take anything, and as Tim Gunn would say – "make it work!" To unify his *composition*, all models wore bold copper eye shadow and nude lips. The *rhythm*, of each garment walked down the runway guided one's eye from the model's face down to the shoes she's wearing, in which Siriano opted for square-toed shoes as opposed to the typical pointed shoes seen on the runway. One eye-catching ensemble was worn by plus size model Alessandria Garcia Lorido. She graced the runway wearing a sheer metallic turtleneck and flowy silver high-waist pants. Towards the end of the show, there was another dominant look that got a lot of people talking, mostly because it wasn't what people were used to seeing from Siriano. Model Jasmine Poulton turned heads as she walked down the runway in a silky pink floor-length skirt with a *curved* thigh high slit representing femininity. The silky skirt was paired with a simple black t-shirt that read, "People are People." This top was actually designed by Siriano's husband, Brad Walsh. They were inspired by Depeche Mode's song *People are People*, which was played in the background during the final looks, *repeating* the overall theme of the show yet again.

Not only was Siriano's Fall collection noticeably diverse, but so were the people in attendance. There were plenty of familiar faces in the front row, including Alexa Chung, Coco Rocha, Alicia Silverstone, Morena Bacarran, and Juliette Lewis. Other front row faces such as "Orange Is The New Black" actresses Samira Wiley and Danielle Brooks, and transgender YouTube star Gigi Gorgeous all contributed to the overall theme of the show. With Christian Siriano's attempt to bring diversity to the runway, it is in question whether or not other designers will follow suit in the years to come.

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