

Spring forward at fashion show

BY BAILEY DICK

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It's the opportunity of a lifetime for six of Chicago's newest names in fashion.

Wednesday night in Millennium Park, six emerging designers, along with eight other established designers, present their Spring 2013 collections at the The Macy's Chicago Fashion Incubator Runway Show as part of Fashion Focus Week.

The runway show is the cornerstone of a yearlong program called the Chicago Fashion Incubator, a non-profit organization that helps emerging fashion designers in the Chicago area.

Six of the designers showing their collections are Designers in Residence at the Incubator. As part

of the program, they rent out a workspace at the Macy's on State Street, where they attend workshops on the fashion industry, and work alongside other designers.

"It's a safe environment of up-and-coming

designers to learn the business of fashion," said Lauren Dolan Rapisand, a spokesperson for the Incubator. "The designers work as a cohesive group and bounce ideas off of each other."

The six Designers in Residence showing at the event are RFD by Rachel Frank, Sarah Church, Elizabeth Smith Fashions by LaTonya Williams, Lagi Nadeau, Christina Karin by Christina Monley and Blank Nation Apparel by Brooke Conrady.

The show also features eight Incubator alumni, including Anna Hovet, Modahnik by Kahindo Mateene, CFAN Design Inc. by Christina Fan, Cettina by Concetta Cipriano, Miriam Cecilia by Miriam Cecilia Carlson, Zamrie by Ashley Zygmunt, Gidi by Tanea-sha Prunty and Crystal B. Designs by Crystal Simms.

"They're now all successfully running their own lines," Rapisand said. "The key is that we strive to keep these designers in Chicago, and we like to highlight them at our show."



Sarah Church makes final preparations before the Macy's Incubator fashion show. | ANDREW A. NELLES PHOTOS-SUN-TIMES MEDIA



Christina Monley and Lagi Nadeau are two of the designers presenting their collections at the Millennium Park tents Wednesday night.

The show looks toward spring fashion. "You're going to see a lot of lightweight fabric and spring colors. You're going to get a feel for the design elements that will be on trend this spring," Rapisand said of the show. "But each of the collections is really very different from the others."

Unprotected concern for

Dear Abby: My 15-year-old stepson, "Justin," doesn't drink or do drugs. For the most part, he stays out of trouble. The problem is, he has been caught for the third time having unprotected sex.

My anger isn't at Justin so much as at his parents, obviously his father. Justin has lied repeatedly about this. His father lets him get away with many things, for the most part minor. But this is different. A 15-year-old boy can't take care of a baby, and having sex with multiple partners means exposing everyone involved to STDs.

My husband is a smart man, but for some reason he seems to think this will end well. I worry about his son becoming a father too soon and missing out on his full potential. Am I overreacting? If not, what can I do that won't cause a huge blowup with my husband?

Alarmed in Chicago

Dear Alarmed: You're not overreacting. Your husband is doing his son no favors by enabling his irresponsible behavior instead of asserting himself and acting like a parent. Justin may think that fathering a child will make him a "real man." But unless your husband can



DEAR
ABBY

TALK SHOWS TODAY

"Windy City Live" (9 a.m., Channel 7): Coach Mike Ditka; chef Chris Macchia.

"Live With Kelly and Michael" (9 a.m., Channel 9): Actress Kaley Cuoco; musician Jason Aldean.

"The View" (10 a.m., Channel 7): Actress Valerie Bertinelli; actor Jeremy Sisto.

"Anderson Live" (1 p.m., Channel 32): Guest co-host Rachel Dratch; actress Julie Andrews.

"The Ellen DeGeneres Show" (3 p.m., Channel 5): Actor Matthew Fox; musician Ellie Goulding.

"Katie" (3 p.m., Channel 7): Commentator Bill O'Reilly.

"Chelsea Lately" (10 p.m., E!): Musician Fergie.