



Jesse Barkley, senior producer at ET Canada.

Jim Searle and Chris Tyrell.

Divine Brown and Traci Melchor.

Stacey McKenzie.

Camille Moore and Amanda Brugel.

Veronica Chail.

Hilary Farr.

Jenna Bitove.

Kirk Pickersgill, Amoryn Engel and Stephen Wong.

Farley Chatto and John Bradley.



Joanne Smith.

citylife

THEY DARED, AND THEY WON

The Stephen Lewis Foundation inspires new heights of couture



AMORYN ENGEL

Dozens of Canadian celebrities and their favourite designers recently teamed up for a fun night of fundraising at the Dare to Wear Love Gala. The beneficiary was the Stephen Lewis Foundation, which puts the spotlight on trying to eradicate AIDS in Africa.

It was a sea of do-gooders from the fashion community who lent their considerable talents to ready the "models" for their moment in the spotlight. Hair! Makeup! Stylists! Designers! Jewelers! They all worked together in the backstage frenzy to create something quite special. The likes of **Stacey Mackenzie** and **Aliya-Jasmine Sovani** put their best foot forward on the runway in the most inspired frocks made from an array of colourful African fabrics. Participating designers included Canadian favourites Brian Bailey, Comrags, Damzels in This Dress, David Dixon, DylaniumKnits, Farley Chatto, Greta Constantine, HD Homme, Hoax Couture, Izzy Camilleri, Lida Baday, Linda Lundström, Mikael D, Pat McDonagh, Peach Berserk, Rodney Philpott Couture, Shelli Oh, Susan Dicks, Travis Taddeo and Whitney Linen. Canadian songstress **Divine Brown** opened the show with a stellar musical performance, while **D'Bi Young** garnered a standing ovation from the audience with her inspiring and powerful words.

Another of the highlights of the night was a performance by **Lorraine Segato** of Parachute Club fame who had everyone cheering her on as she sang an a cappella version of her memorable hit, "Rise Up." Launched in 2009, Dare to Wear Love is an annual gala fundraiser and runway show celebrating the talents and commitment of Canada's fashion design community. Initiated by Jim Searle and Chris Tyrell, designers and founders of Hoax Couture, the innovative platform helps raise funds and awareness for the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

"The fact that 16 million children are orphaned by the AIDS pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa and often left to be cared for by their grandmother struck an emotional chord with me, as I was orphaned at an early age and raised by my grandmother," said Tyrell. "Another powerful motivator was when we learned that all the projects supported by the SLF are thought of by the communities themselves and run by the people in that community. We thought that this gave dignity to the people being helped, that we were supporting something they themselves developed and needed and not forcing our western ideas of development on their communities."

More than \$270,000 (a record breaker) was raised, thanks to the support of title sponsor BMO Financial, runway sponsor Cineplex Media and platinum sponsor Mantella Corporation. A huge shout out to co-chairs **Salah Bachir**, **Kate Alexander Daniels** and **Nada Ristich** for getting everyone on their feet! Rise Up, indeed!

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PHOTOS BY GEORGE PIMENTEL



Eden Baylee.

Winy Bernard.

Catriona Smart.

Moe Kelso and Melani Chong.

Lorraine Segato and Ilana Landsberg-Lewis.

Mike Bradwell and Aliya-Jasmine Sovani.

Jessica Phillips.

Izzy Camilleri.

David Daniels, Maddy Daniels and Kate Alexander Daniels.

Victoria Ford.

Ise Kloosterman.

Danielle Brown.