

event

Crimson silk Parisian Bustle Skirt,
red velvet Mirella Top and a full
length hooded cape in scarlet
lace embellished with row upon
row of gleaming red satin.
Photo: Circle 23 Model: Jola
Designer: Kambriel

CONVERGENCE 13

Designer: 2 Die for Designs
Photo: Circle 23

an article by **ACID** POPTART



Designer: Original Sin
Photo: Circle 23

penny if it touched their lavishly ornate creations. Emerging designer To Die For Designs was set up and taking measurements for custom sizes of their new line which would debut at the Phoenix Parade fashion show.

Miscommunications seemed to run rampant among some having direct dealings with the committee, resulting in bruised egos and power plays. Committee members came and went, without much notice or clarification leaving some very bewildered designers in their wake. Trying to piece together the fashion show was quickly losing importance as the heads of Convergence 13 threw an increasing amount of focus on how many bands they could cram into one weekend and let the time allowed for the always noted fashion show to be steadily cut down. Designers, who begin sewing far in advance, were told how much time and outfits they would be allotted and then suddenly found themselves with drastic time cuts as they were informed devoted time for the fashion show had to be slashed in order to make room for the increase of bands. Time dwindled more and more each week until frustrated designers dropped out of the show... and a rebellion was had.

From the ashes rose a new fashion show, unrelated to the official Convergence 13 activities. Spearheaded by the resourceful Kambriel, designers banded together and quickly found a venue and settled on a time. The Someday Lounge gracefully played host to the aptly named, Phoenix Parade. With only a few weeks to spare, time slots were lined up, rehearsals planned and designs finalized. The grassroots effort spawned a Livejournal community (because we live on that thing!) where questions were raised and answered and last minute details hammered out. The end result was nothing short of stunning. Being an unofficial event, there were no shuttles to bus models or attendees here and there. Many had flown in and were without transportation. But that did nothing to stop the dedicated force that had spawned such a rebellious act. Many were

volunteering rides, offering carpools, eagerly giving directions. My party took probably four or five trips to get everyone to the venue, where we rushed backstage, half dressed and did a quick run through of our number just to get a feeling of how the stage was laid out. It was a hot and crowded area, both backstage and out front as the Someday Lounge quickly filled up until they reached a full house. The applause was nearly deafening when the show first opened and Kambriel's designs hit the stage. Mange la Mode, Dark Industry, Arsenic, Original Sin, Three Ravens and To Die For Designs delighted the audience with fantastic



Monica Richards on stage
Photo: Darkman

steam inspired fashions. Escaped dolls from the asylum came out to music of the Dresden Dolls, to wrap up the second half of Kambriel's presentation. Abandoning any catwalk predictably, she encouraged us to rush the stage in an over dramatic fashion, acting out each verse of the song. The show was an astounding success and cheers and applause rose up as the curtain fell.

On the official front, the ethereal Crystal Ballroom played host to energetic performances by Frontline Assembly, Skinny Puppy, Faith and the Muse and the atmospheric Abney Park (a steam inspired band?). In between sets, Batty's Hippodrome entertained with jugglers and contortionists, affable showmen and a slightly dangerous fellow with a bullwhip and a unicycle.

Although some bands served as a good time to get some air or sample the deejays downstairs on the next floor, the absolute stars of the convention coupled with fantastic sideshow acts made suffering through the heated crowds in a corset worth the trouble. Or so I hear- I opted for my deathrock fall back of PVC pants, ripped up tee and big hair! ♦

[Editor's note] For the list of Web sites for the designers and bands listed in this article please visit:

gothicbeauty.com/c13.html

Convergence buzz starts pretty early as there is a lot of planning to be done by committee members and many watching their decisions to what events are planned and what bands will be playing. Attendees are either planning their schedules or their wardrobes or both at this time. Pre convention buzz was no different for Convergence 13, heating up a few months before as time drew nearer. But Livejournal (oh you know you do) was heating up with a different tone. Let's not kid ourselves; drama is nothing new on the Goth scene. On any scene and even the lack of a scene, there is drama. Jerry Springer has banked on this for years. Trailer parks and beers or cloves and platform boots, it's usually the same drama- it's just we wear black and look better (or is that more melodramatic?) doing it.

Friends at the Tea Party
Photo: Curse



It was the fair city of Portland, Oregon that won this year's bid, with the enthralling theme of a Dark Victorian Dream. Bustles, parasols and top hats would dot the city's landscape as tours were planned of the Pittock Mansion and the Shanghai Tunnel. Or travel at your own pace and explore the many gardens the Rose City has to offer.

As with every Convergence there is a spattering of panels and the vendor's room (which always has a horrible habit of being open the same time wondrous tours are taking place). It's hard resisting at least one trip into the vendor's room where you get a chance to see the things you might have been lusting for online. Many designers will even have brand new items that haven't been uploaded onto their site yet. You could sample fragrances from Black Phoenix Alchemy Lab, such as their exclusive and aptly named convention scent, The Crumpet Rebellion. Fabric and feathered fantasies in hair clips and pasties covered Gothfox Designs' table, right next to some intriguing hats from newcomer, Noxenlux Chapeaux. Drooling was free at the Lace Embrace booth, although it might cost a pretty

Kambriel.com



photo of Jofa taken by Carstman

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Clothing & Accessories
for Femme Fatales
& Decadent Gentlemen*