

ELIZABETH'S
SOCIAL CIRCUIT

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Models looked great,
and guests did, too

Young, stylish crowd turns out at boutique's fashion show for charity

Jonny Imerman and his charity, Imerman Angels, know how to draw a crowd. One of the hallmarks of his success is picking the right partners, and his knack for perfect pairing was evident when he teamed with Chicago mega-boutique Akira for a fashion show and cocktail party.

More than 1,500 glam guests were on hand for the sixth annual "Garden of Eden" fund-raiser at Galleria Marchetti, a beautiful outdoor venue at 825 W. Erie, on a sunny but cool afternoon. The crowd was plenty cool, too, composed of the usual Imerman demographic of good-looking young professionals.

The afternoon began as partygoers

sipped Belvedere concoctions in the garden while perusing the silent auction offerings that included a helicopter ride and a weeklong trip to Colorado. After cocktails, the show (emceed by "CBS Morning News" anchor **Michelle Gielan**) began. Ford models strutted down the runway in fall fashions from Akira — full skirts, rocker ripped jeans, and skinny pants ruled — by Serfontaine Denim, JUMP, PF Flyers, Melissa, Bronx and Michael Antonio.

Hip-hop violinist **Lee England Jr.** (who had been booted from the previous episode of MTV's reality show "Making His Band") wowed during intermission with his signature classical-meets-contemporary style. Following

the show, Joffrey principal dancer **Fabrice Camels** and **Valerie Robin** treated the crowd to an elegant ballet performance.

Tickets to the event were economical; they were pre-sold at \$15 per person and went up to \$20 if you procrastinated and bought them at the door. For those who wished to splurge, \$100 VIP packages were available that included prime seats at the show and VIP access to the after-party at Lamen (839 W. Fulton Market).

All proceeds from the ticket sales and silent auction prizes went to benefit the Imerman Angels cancer charity and its mission to provide one-on-one support to cancer sufferers.



Laura Alexander (left), event director for Imerman Angels, with Akira co-owners Erikka Wang and Jon Cotay.



D.C. Crenshaw, Mutinda Maitha and Marcus Riley.



Imerman Angels volunteers Vinnie Wroblewski and Emily Lottman.