

Manchester Fashion Week Returns After a Decade, Spotighting Conscious Fashion and Innovation

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Manchester: After a **ten-year hiatus**, Manchester Fashion Week has returned with a bold, future-facing agenda. The three-day schedule, running until September 11, places “**conscious fashion**” at its core, blending **catwalk showcases**, **sustainability panels**, and **innovation workshops** to reimagine the future of fashion.

Executive producer **Gemma Gratton** explained:

“Manchester leads when it is practical, honest and bold. We built this programme around learning as much as showing. Education, workshops and open debate sit alongside the runway because that is how real change lands.”

Day One Highlights

The opening day set the tone with **catwalks and conversations** that emphasized creativity, responsibility, and community-driven design.

- **Mariusz Malon** – The Manchester-based designer, known for dressing **Doja Cat** and **SZA**, unveiled a **Spring/Summer 2026 collection** that elevated outerwear into wearable art. Sculptural silhouettes, modular layering, and technical fabrics took center stage, with a live performance by local singer-songwriter **Phoebe Green**.
- **Adoraflora by Drew Kent** – A playful exploration of identity through **crochet and knit**, blending **soft pastels, violets, and neon accents**.
- **Indilisi** – Showcased **clean tailoring and sculptural cuts** in **organic and Fairtrade cotton**, setting a benchmark for ethical luxury.
- **Elite Pre-Loved** – Brought **circular fashion** to life, transforming **second-hand garments** into bold, contemporary looks.

Beyond the Runway

The week is more than just a spectacle. Day one featured:

- A **panel hosted by Eco Age**, with **Mike Stolls of Private White V.C.**, focusing on sustainability and the business of fashion.
- A **public book launch** at Waterstones for *The Nature of Fashion* by **Carry Somers**, co-founder of **Fashion Revolution**.

A City of Makers and Innovators

John Higginson, chief executive of Eco Age, emphasized Manchester's unique role in shaping the industry:

"Runways matter, but measurable impact matters more. If we leave this week with clearer commitments on local production, circularity and fair work, then we have done our job."

By combining its **industrial heritage** with **cutting-edge innovation**, Manchester Fashion Week 2025 is proving that the future of fashion must be as **responsible as it is creative**.

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