

Ralph Lauren's SS26 Collection "Strength and Sensuality" Sets Him on Course for 10th CFDA Womenswear Designer of the Year

Published on 18 Sep 2025 | By IFI Correspondent



Ralph Lauren's SS26 "Strength and Sensuality" Opens NYFW in Style

New York, September 2025 – As **New York Fashion Week SS26** drew to a close, one truth became increasingly clear: the **Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA)** may once again crown **Ralph Lauren as Womenswear Designer of the Year** — for an **unprecedented tenth time**.

Lauren opened NYFW with his **SS26 collection, "Strength and Sensuality,"** a deeply evocative show that reaffirmed his status as the master of American style.

? A Cultural Statement in Cloth

In a moment when the definition of **American identity** is being questioned, Lauren offered a wardrobe that felt both timeless and forward-looking. His clothes reflected the **duality of American life** — the raw energy of New York City alongside the leisure and elegance of the Hamptons.

The collection struck a delicate balance between **masculine tailoring and feminine grace**, embodying the cultural resilience and quiet power Lauren has honed across decades.

? Key Highlights from the Runway

- **Look 8** stood out: a black-and-white striped shirt layered beneath a ribbed cricket vest, paired with a **black silk menswear tie** for sharp contrast. Wide-leg trousers, tied kimono-style at the waist, epitomized effortless modernity.
- Another standout swapped the vest for a **tailored white jacket**, with a **bandeau top** replacing the shirt — a study in sleek sensuality.
- Fluid silks, menswear references, and Lauren's signature monochrome palette underscored the collection's **strength-meets-softness** narrative.

? Star Power Front R OW

The show's cultural weight was matched by its star-studded audience. **Hollywood icons Laura Dern, Naomi Watts, and Jessica Chastain** were seated front row, cementing the event as one of the week's most anticipated spectacles.

? **Legacy in Motion**

For Ralph Lauren, SS26 wasn't simply another collection — it was a reaffirmation of his **iconic role in shaping American fashion**. Should he take home the **CFDA Womenswear Designer of the Year Award** yet again, it would mark a milestone unmatched in the industry.

With “Strength and Sensuality,” Lauren continues to prove that true innovation doesn’t always mean chasing trends — sometimes, it means reimagining timeless codes for a changing world.

DISCLAIMER: THE VIEWS/CONTENTS EXPRESSED/PRESENTED HEREIN, WITHIN THIS ADVERTORIAL AND PROMOTIONAL FEATURE ARE THE SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE RESPONSIBILITY OF INDIVIDUAL CLIENTS/EXPERT/THEIR AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVE/VISHAL KHAIRNAR, TO WHICH EFFECT, PUBLICATION HOUSE/ITS REPRESENTATIVES/AFFILIATES ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE/LIABLE WHATSOEVER.