

New York Fashion Week 2025: Celebrities, Bold Statements, and a Return to Grit & Glamour

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On Manhattan's breezy piers, inside golden-hour lit warehouses, and even in a historic church, **New York Fashion Week** kicked off the fashion month with an eclectic mix of settings and styles. While some marquee names like Ralph Lauren, Carolina Herrera, and Marc Jacobs opted out of the official calendar, the city still delivered star power, creative energy, and moments that celebrated both fashion's spectacle and intimacy.

Celebrities Light Up the Front Rows

NYFW's front rows were as dazzling as its runways. At **Michael Kors**, Gwyneth Paltrow and "White Lotus" star Leslie Bibb drew paparazzi flashbulbs, while **Calvin Klein** brought global star power with **BTS's Jung Kook**, Lily Collins, and Rosalía — fans lining the streets just to catch a glimpse.

Alexander Wang's return was one of the most talked-about moments. Staging his show in Chinatown, Wang announced plans to convert a former bank into a cultural hub for Asian arts. Cardi B, her daughter Kulture, and Martha Stewart were among the VIPs seated at mahjong tables that doubled as the runway stage. The collection — a mix of risqué tailoring and Y2K clubwear — marked a bold re-entry for the designer.

Community, Culture, and City Spirit

Designers leaned into storytelling that celebrated New York itself. **Off-White's Ib Kamara** presented a 1970s-inspired show on a high school rooftop basketball court, complete with graffiti tributes to the city's boroughs. Coach's **Stuart Vevers** built his collection on New York grit and morning light, with oversized workwear, plaid blazers, and playful accessories like clutches shaped as miniature books.

Meanwhile, **Tory Burch** highlighted the "complexity of women" with designs that balanced delicacy and strength — slingbacks adorned with dainty barbed wire became instant conversation pieces. **Collina Strada** delivered a politically charged vision, where models walked in pairs: one in vibrant hues, the other in all-black "shadow" looks symbolizing humanity's darker impulses.

Fresh Talent and Evolving Legacies

The week wasn't only about legacy brands. **Rachel Scott**, founder of Diotima, began her consulting role for **Proenza Schouler**, signaling a fresh perspective for the label. **Nicholas Aburn**'s debut at **Area** fused streetwear with theatrical drama, ending with models enveloped in metallic tinsel and gift ribbon — a spectacle that captured New York's high-low energy.

At **Khaite**, Cate Holstein doubled down on the label's signatures — exaggerated shoulders, sleek tailoring, and rich leathers — with Kendall Jenner making her season's first runway appearance. Meanwhile, **Eckhaus Latta** embraced deconstruction with sheer knits and gender-neutral looks, reminding audiences of their avant-garde core.

A Duality That Defines New York

If one theme ran across the week, it was the **duality of New York fashion** — grit and glamour, high and low, chic and outrageous. As Nicholas Aburn of Area summed up backstage:

“That's what makes New York special. There is this duality: high and low, chic and crazy, cheap and rich.”

With Europe's fashion weeks around the corner, New York has set the tone: a reminder that the city's magic lies not only in its global stars, but in its ability to reinvent itself — while staying unmistakably New York.

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