



Jess Tibbits



Felder Felder a/w 2012



The finale at Maria Grachvogel a/w 2012

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JASON LLOYD-EVANS, PRESS ASSOCIATION, STILL LIVES THROUGHOUT BY DENNIS PERSEN.COM, IAN OLIVER WALSH.COM

MY FIRST-EVER FASHION WEEK

InStyle's beauty assistant Jess Tibbits had never been to London Fashion Week, so we sent her backstage to brave the havoc, heat and hairspray

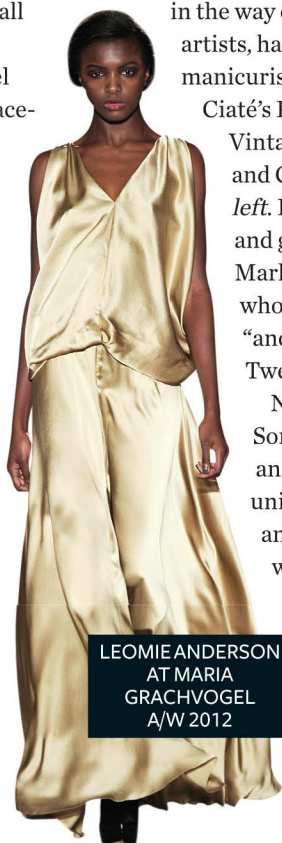
It's two days before my first-ever fashion week and I'm having a major meltdown. My Dictaphone is broken, I have the uncoolest closet in the whole of London and I've left it too late to book in for the one beauty treatment I can't live without - my lash extensions. I'll be backstage interviewing some of the world's top make-up artists, hairstylists and nail pros with half a set of balding lashes. Not a good look. On the plus side, at least I can try out all the new-season mascara trends...

I panic-dash to Topshop and feel slightly better after buying a Versace-inspired silk jacket and a pair of studded nude flats (I've been told that heels are a complete no-go when you're backstage; running around London in Louboutins is a recipe for disaster). Next day in the office is manic as we're going to print, so I have to cancel the mani and blow-dry I was relying on to look presentable. Great. I stay late sorting my 41-show schedule, then head home for a long bath, mentally prepping for the five days of madness ahead.

DAY ONE

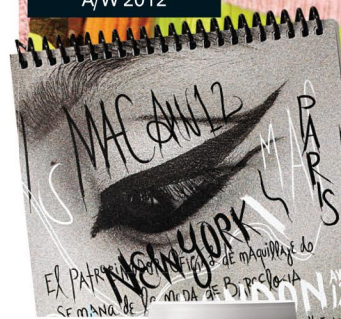
A gentle introduction, with only two shows today: first, Maria Grachvogel at The Savoy. Backstage, I'm hit by the smell of hairspray and noise of 15 hairdryers. I'm surprised at how small it is - wherever I stand, I'm in the way of make-up artists, hairstylists and manicurists applying Ciaté's Paint Pots in Vintage and Apple and Custard, *below left*. I love the hair and grab stylist Mark Hampton, who tells me it's an "androgynous, futuristic, Twenties-inspired bob".

Next up, Felder Felder at LFW's Somerset House hub. It's like an *Alice in Wonderland* parallel universe. Fashion students, models and bloggers rush around and it's wall-to-wall cameras and paps. ▶



LEOMIE ANDERSON AT MARIA GRACHVOGEL A/W 2012

MOSCHINO CHEAP AND CHIC A/W 2012



Jess's LFW stats

- 41 catwalk shows
- 621 photographs
- 154 pages of notes
- 15 bottles of Vita Coco
- 23 coffees

Her essentials

- London A-Z (£6.95, Geographers' A-Z Map Company)
- Umbrella
- Flat shoes
- Bottles of water
- Aqua Allegoria Lys Soleia eau de toilette, *above right*, £37, Guerlain (01932 233 887)
- Cleansing Facial Wipes, *right*, £3.20, Simple (boots.com)



From right, Pro Longwear Concealer, £13.50; and Prep + Prime Skin, £18.50, both MAC (0800 074 6905)

Paint Pot in Apple and Custard, £9, Ciaté (ciate.co.uk)