

## Who will wear what tonight? Well ...

Sylvia Rubin

Sunday, March 5, 2006

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Bronzer alert: Just idly wondering if [Charlize Theron](#), both a nominee and a presenter at tonight's [Academy Awards](#) show, will ease up on the bronzer this time.

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On the fashion front, she's been all over the map lately; she wore a silver lace mini-dress by Collette Dinnigan to the "North Country" premiere in Sydney; she chose a short, sheer tulle and embroidered black Dior for the Golden Globes in January, then turned it completely around a week later at the [Screen Actors Guild Awards](#), in an ultra-low V-neck, unembellished black Armani gown with a train. I'm thinking something long, lacy and white for tonight?

I hope supporting actress nominee Amy Adams dresses younger this time; her black Carolina Herrera Golden Globe gown, covering her up with sheer net on the bodice and shoulders, seemed a bit mature. Best actress nominees Keira Knightley and [Reese Witherspoon](#) will probably go with color, since they've both done a lot of black and white lately.

I think we'll see lots of lace, both black and white -- a big spring trend -- and more short dresses on the younger stars, some deep blues, burnt oranges, greens and chocolate browns, and minimal jewelry. The exception to that rule, is the wonderfully overdone Dolly Parton (who will sing the nominated song from "Transamerica.") Can't wait to see her outfit, and I'll bet [Isaac Mizrahi](#) can't wait, either.

Local angle: Ralph Barbero, luxe handbag designer of April in Paris on Clement Street, created black alligator clutch with a diamond thumb ring for Best Actor nominee Terence Howard. "He said he'd definitely be carrying it on Oscar night," she says. S.F. designer Lily Samii's created two dresses for tonight. A white gown with ruched black tulle overlay will be worn by Denise Cutler of Sausalito, who is accompanying John Myhre, nominated for art direction for "Memoirs of a Geisha;" and a merlot and moss lace bustier over a chocolate wool floor-length skirt will be worn by Cheryl Spooner of Berkeley, wife of Dan Krauss, nominated director for the documentary short subject "The Death of Kevin Carter."

Speaking of L.A.: San Francisco designer Joseph Domingo secured a spot at Los Angeles Fashion Week (March 19-23), for his first big runway show (March 20), in the biggest tent he could afford, which happens to be the smallest (\$5,000 to rent).

He'll show 35 to 45 looks for fall 2006, with what he calls a "Safari Rose" theme, with leopard print fitted cashmere sweaters shown over three-layered, flowy velvet skirts; black and brown slim pantsuits and fitted coats with flared hems; for evening, he continues the theme with animal print chiffon evening gowns; there will be a few menswear items.

"It's a different level for me," he says. "This will be more about trying to sell to the buyers rather than just designing for my private clients." Last week when we talked, he said he was in good shape. "I have two weeks left at this point; about one-third of the collection is sewn up; the menswear is still being cut right now. I'm not pulling my hair out yet."

[Project Runway](#) party: Bravo Network's "Project Runway" wraps up Season Two at 10 p.m., Wednesday with Chloe Dao, Daniel Vosovic and the ever-watchable Santino Rice vying for the \$100,000 prize. Debra Messing will be a guest judge. Turns out that Seattle is nutty for the show; it's the No. 1 city in the ratings; San Francisco ranks 6th.

Locally, Steven Lemay of Retrofit, on Valencia Street, hosts his own version, "Project Lameway." The

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challenge: "Travel." The materials: Two vintage garments, a roll of ribbon and two extra-large white T-shirts. The contestants: Ten local designers with a dream, including Tria Connell, an alternate for the real show. The prize: \$100.

The fashion show is free, at 8:30 at the shop on Wednesday night. Afterward, the "Project Runway" finale will be shown on a big screen. (A silent auction benefits the Destination Foundation, a local nonprofit that offers dream trips to those with a life-threatening illness.)

The first season's winner, Jay McCarroll, who turned down the money, hoping instead for a licensing deal, and who already had his own TV special, will show his first collection at Fashion Week in September.

We doubt he's having any heart-to-hearts with host [Heidi Klum](#), who asked him to design her dress for the Emmys on short notice. McCarroll called on his friend, San Jose costume designer Tommy Marquez to help. Klum then abruptly canceled the order at the last minute, leaving the big guy in tears. (McCarroll's rooting for Santino, he has said.) P.S. Marquez's feathery burlesque creations will be on stage later this month in "Gypsy" by the American Musical Theatre of San Jose.

Not a real Oscar gift bag, but still: Ten dollars gets you in the door at the latest multilabel spring sample sale from the duo at Appel & Frank. It takes place from 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Thursday at the Regency Center on Sutter and Van Ness.

Twenty bucks gets you a gift bag with samples from Kiehl's, and OPI nail products and other stuff.

The last of these sales, organized four times a year by Karen Appel and Jody Frank, was held in December and drew about 500 shoppers. The offerings can be hit-and-miss, but you can usually count on cute graphic T-shirts and tons of affordable jewelry. Go to [www.appelandfrank.com](http://www.appelandfrank.com).

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