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Photos courtesy of Raf Simons

Style

# Raf Simons Lights Up London with his 2023 Ready-to-Wear Collection

The legendary designer goes back to his roots at his latest fashion show

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Thousands of young students, fashion fans, artists, and designers gathered at a euphoric show in London to see the debut of icon Raf Simons 2023 ready-to-wear spring collection. The show took place Thursday, October 14th at Printworks, an old post-industrial newspaper factory that had been converted to a nightclub venue- which was perfect for the designer, who envisioned the bars in the venue to become a runway.

The underground, dystopian feel of both the venue and the looks reflected the designer's early days when he faked his way to get into fashion shows. Simon's youth experiences and the energy of London inspired his designs for the show, stating "So I thought, let's not do that. Let's not have 300 people sitting in rows. This is a show that's pure democracy. No hierarchy. A London explosion of youth, life, dancing, and being together. So," he added, "I was thinking a lot about the body, in relation to dressing up and going out and performing." The collection featured tailored jackets, prints of scrawled art from the late artist Phillipe Vandenberg, and onesies that Simons had once created with Miuccia Prada reappeared, but this time knitted and more shrunken on the models, creating a more chic and bold look.



Photo courtesy of Raf Simons



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London has had a hectic past few years, with Brexit, political troubles, and the pandemic. However, Simons was able to create a unmatched energy for his audience while presenting his latest designs, “you feel London, and the country is a hurt animal, but it’s an animal that’s ready to go out. There’s something positive within the negative. I saw it again, this week, going to galleries. Somehow people mix up here, start conversations. Coming to the city, the streets, the community is always inspiring.”