

Fashion's Night Out with Lauren Conrad's New Line, Paper Crown



By Ashley DelBello

Need a new date outfit? As cities around the world participated in Fashion's Night Out on Thursday, September 8, we are reminded about the importance of picking the right outfit to wear when you're dating. Finding something comfortable, yet sexy while allowing your personal style to show through can be a daunting task. In Los Angeles, Cupid's Pulse stopped by Nordstrom at The Grove for the launch of Lauren Conrad's new clothing line, Paper Crown. Conrad was busy signing autographs for her fans, but we were able to walk

through the collection with her best friend and co-founder of Paper Crown, Maura McManus, to show us a few great options for a first date.



Pictured here is the Katherine pant in eclipse blue coupled with the Camilla sweater in dark grey – a great outfit for something more casual like a wine tasting, brunch or a simple walk in the park.



If you want something a bit more dressed up and sexy, then McManus says to go with the Lola dress – while flirty and very flattering, the material is quite stretchy allowing you to maintain comfort and is knee-length so you're not exposing

too much on that first date!



A fun option that would be great for dinner and drinks is the Piper top paired with the Sophie skirt. Still trendy, yet flowy and comfortable.

Speaking of comfortable, remember while looking fabulous is essential on a first date, what's even more important is that you're comfortable in whatever you wear and that it reflects your own style.

Visit Paper Crown's look book to get inspired for what to wear on your next first date. Paper Crown is available at Nordstrom, Ron Herman, Planet Blue, and several boutiques around the United States.

Swag or Peacocking? Rappers Use Big Bling to Show Off

Clout



By Steven Zangrillo

As August winds down and we start to tuck away our beach bodies, once again the focus returns to Fall fashions and lifestyles for 2011. It's interesting to see how the dating world is affected by our turbulent economy. Since we now need to tighten the strap, we also need to re-evaluate the way we spend money on that special someone – you know the drill... flowers, drinks, dinner, a new outfit. That new outfit, in particular, can really bust the bank and cause a headache or two. However, if you reside in the “young and wealthy rapper” demographic, chances are that you can still use that chunk of bling to woo the lady of your dreams.

It's difficult for most of us to work up the cash to don a

\$3000-\$8000 chain and pendant. Rappers of the right means, however, have the ability to display their fiscal clout. Financial stability displayed through ostentatious mediums is a tried and true recipe for romantic success (although it may not always attract the right partner). Psychologists call this bold style of dress for the purpose of attracting a romantic partner “peacocking”, but if you ask a rap artist... they’ll flash a gold and diamond encrusted smile at you and utter one word.

“Swag.”

According to Andrew Streyer, Director of Evaluations at **Pawngo.com** – the new online pawnshop by the founders of **Groupon** at **Lightbank** – you might be surprised at the cost for some of these pieces.

Below are three signature styles, the MCs who popularized them, and the estimated worth of each piece:

Rapper: Nelly

Bling in Question: Silver (iced) nameplate and St. Louis Rams Chain

Estimated Appraisal: \$6000+ each

The “Grillz” hitmaker and St. Louis native is known for showing his NFL team pride in concerts via his signature 18-inch pendant, which he couples daily with an 18-inch nameplate pendant. Further showing his taste in high-end luxury, Nelly said in a 2000 interview, “Where I’m from, this Rolex could take care of the whole block for a year. It’s crazy like that, but this is something you work for.” Also, just to clarify, Nelly’s aforementioned hit song about grills wasn’t expressing the love of a fine hibachi. Which brings us to...

Rapper: Kanye West

Bling in Question: Permanent Gold and Diamond Stud Grills

Estimated Appraisal: \$5000+ not including dental work

Artist. Producer. Songwriter. *Metalmouth?* In 2010, Kanye West followed in the steps of friend Lil Wayne by having custom-made permanent grills, or molds, imprinted on the bottom row of his teeth. Kanye premiered them on *The Ellen Show*, insisting that the diamonds were real and not cubic zirconia, as rumored. While it's unclear whether this gold is the "40 Carats" dropped in his Lil Wayne collaboration, gold is nevertheless one of the safest precious metals to have in one's mouth, as it's relatively non-toxic and rustproof. Who knew?

Rapper: Lil Jon

Bling in Question: Various handmade studded glass and Metal Pimp Cups

Estimated Appraisal: \$1000-\$2000

Lil Jon often calls upon Chicago artisan Debbie "The Glass Lady" Harrison to create lavish signature glass-blown and 24 Karat gold chalices exceeding the thousand-dollar price range. He made no exception for his second annual Crunk Cup Ball in Las Vegas in 2008. The Atlanta rapper and *Celebrity Apprentice* contestant premiered a custom gift from Debbie that was molded from metal and sported Debbie's encrusted name, with imprinted crystals on the handle and a studded crown on top. Of course, all of the cups are fully drinkable and non-toxic. For protection, Lil Jon uses a custom padded carrying case to tote each of his goblets when traveling.

About Pawngo:

Pawngo is the first full-service online pawn shop in the US and allows individuals immediate access to the cash they need for life's countless unexpected moments without leaving the comfort of their homes. As evidence of the market for this unique lending model, the company to-date has funded over \$2

million in 46 states. Pawngo is venture-backed by Daylight Partners, Access Venture Partners and Lightbank, the \$100 million fund started by the founders of Groupon

‘Project Runway’ Judge Michael Kors Gets Married



Fashion icon Michael Kors recently tied the knot with longtime partner Lance LePere in stylish Southampton, NY. According to People, the private ceremony took place on Dune Beach and was officiated by Southampton Mayor Mark Epley. Shortly after

same-sex marriage became legal in the state of New York, the 51-year-old fashion designer announced on *Project Runway* his plans to marry LePere. As Kors told *Women's Wear Daily*, "To marry someone as wonderful and special to me as Lance barefoot on a glorious beach is more than I could have dreamed of."

How do you know when you're ready to tie the knot?

Cupid's Advice:

Knowing you're ready for marriage is more of a feeling than anything else. You have to be ready to completely commit. Here are some strong indicators:

- 1. When your eyes sparkle:** The moment your eyes begin to sparkle more than your engagement ring is the moment you should walk down the aisle.
- 2. Your partner is always on your mind:** If your mate is all you can talk, think and dream about, it's time to put on that white dress.
- 3. You can't stop smiling:** One can always spot a person in love from his or her radiant smile. If your smiles outweigh your frowns by a long shot, you might consider tying the knot.

When did you know it was time to make it official and get married? Share your thoughts below.