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NYFW: Why Betsey Johnson's Front Row Attendees had the Best Time Ever

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Photo: Getty Images

Betsey Johnson taught us a thing or two Wednesday night about having fun.

Consider this question: what are the odds that when you're age 71, Sky Ferreira will have deejayed your prior birthday party (at which Cyndi Lauper performed "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun"); Rihanna, Nicki Minaj, and Lil' Kim are wearing your clothes, and club kids are clamoring to get into your fashion show?

Did we mention that the former cheerleader is still doing catwalk cartwheels?

If anything, Johnson's fifth decade as a designer has jet-propelled her into fresh creativity: last night she played up the rocker look. The models strutted, shimmied, skipped, swirled, and sashayed down the runway to hip-hop tracks in frothy pink wigs, pencil and full tulle skirts in leopard and black, and punky spiked accessories.

"I live a simple, happy life, and love my work and my family," Johnson said about the keys to her joy. "That, and I eat Italian food every night!" Of her collection, she said, "I design the clothes that I want to wear. They're my formula, my capsule collection. Pretty always wins, and I feel I'm more punk than ever."

In tribute to the designer (who wore a shirt reading "Lipstick & Diamonds and Champagne and Rock & Roll") we asked her front-row guests a very important question:

What—second only to Betsey Johnson's show—was the most fun you had during New York Fashion Week?

DJ Becka Diamond: "For me, the most fun during Fashion Week (besides attending Betsey's show, of course!) was collaborating with designers on music direction for their collections. This season, I created soundtracks for the shows of Titania Inglis and Katie Gallagher. Spinning them live for a crowd was thrilling."

Natalia Kills: "The night before Betsey, I got my driver to take me and all my friends to a dive bar downtown to celebrate my album, *Trouble*. They played all my singles from the jukebox and we danced until 5 a.m.!"

Nina Agdal, Victoria's Secret and *Sports Illustrated* model: "Next to Betsey, the second most fun would have to be the Made for Peroni Young Designer Awards. It was a really beautiful event that supports upcoming talents, and they had great beer!"

Paris Hilton: "I've loved wearing Betsey Johnson since I was 12 years old. I grew up wearing her. She has so much energy; I love her. I also had a lot of fun at Lady Gaga's party at some underground club."

Stylist Phillip Bloch: "Styling Susan Lucci for my NFL show with 33 designers to kick-off fashion week."

Iggy Azalea: "Eating tacos yesterday across the street!"