

HESPORT Designers get sporty for Spring, and the look is oh, so chic.

For more on the trend, see pages 12 and 13.

AGAIN "Lilith" pencil dress (\$150). MI-PAC metallic backpack (call for pricing).

www.apparelnews.net

fashion gets down to busin

Advanstar sold for \$972M ... p. 2 Industry Focus: Finance ... p. 6

Finance Resources ... p. 20

Eco Resources ... p. 20

TRADE SHOW REPORT

By Alison A. Nieder Executive Editor

brands as well as new designers.

cloth, Black Halo and American Apparel.

Sundance at 25:

a Curatorial Eye

INSIDE

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Brand Building With

The Sundance Catalog is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year with a series of one-of-a-kind products and a sweepstakes drawing for an all-expenses-paid trip to the Sundance Resort in Salt Lake City. Sundance Village was developed by actor, director and independent-film proponent Robert Redford on a tract of land he purchased in 1969 at the base of Mount Timpanogos in Utah's Wasatch Mountains and was turned into an

art community anchored by the Sundance Institute and the Sundance Film Festival. Visitors to the village would often drop by the tiny general store, which carries a variety of apparel and gift items made by artists and craftspeople from around the U.S. and around the world. The catalog was founded in 1989 after visitors who had returned home would call asking about purchasing items from the store.

LA Textile Show Draws

Brands, New Designers

After a slow start, traffic steadily picked up at the Sept. 29-Oct. 1 run of the Los Angeles International Textile Show at the California Market Center in Los Angeles, where exhibitors said they met with both well-known

Designers and representatives from BCBG, Bebe, Current Elliot, Juicy Couture, Tommy Bahama, Karen Kane, Vince, Tianello, Elisabetta Rogiani, Chip Foster, Calvin Rucker, Peter Cohen, B Green, Bruno Duluc and Trend Chasers were spotted shopping the show. Other companies who turned out included Just Fab. Gap Inc.. Andrew Christian, New Era Cap, Nasty Gal, 7 For All Mankind, Twelfth Street by Cynthia Vincent, Joie, Citizens of Humanity, Ella Moss, Perry Ellis, JCPenney, Pacific Sunwear, Disneyland Resort, Skechers, Mod-

► LA Textile Show page 16

Sundance page 18

Mix of Established

Advanstar Sold for \$972 Million to U.K.-Based UBM

Advanstar Communications Inc., producer of the biannual MAGIC Marketplace trade shows in Las Vegas, the biggest apparel trade show in North America, announced on Oct. 1 that it will be acquired for \$972 million by London-based media company and events producer UBM PLC, which owns PR Newswire, a prominent outlet that distributes press releases.

Advanstar, headquartered in Santa Monica, Calif., forecasted that the deal would close by the end of the year, depending on if UBM stockholders approve the deal. Joe Loggia, Advanstar's chief executive officer, confirmed that he would remain at Advanstar for a transitional period after the deal closes. Along with acquiring MAGIC, UBM also picked up Advanstar's New York shows, such as **Coterie**; Advanstar's pharmaceutical trade shows, which are produced by its **CBI Group** division; and digital properties such as MAGIC's *Shopthefloor.com*.

The deal would make an already big show become even bigger, Loggia said. "With greater scale across key international geographies, the combined company will be strongly positioned to continue expanding into dynamic, vertical markets. Together with UBM, we will be a global leader with a well-established portfolio of highly regarded trade shows, attracting exhibitors and retailers from all over the world and providing enhanced opportunities for customers to share insights, build critical connections and drive commerce," he said in a prepared statement.

Tim Cobbold, UBM's CEO, noted that the acquisition will give his company access to the U.S. fashion industry, which he described as a "new vertical for UBM."

"[The acquisition] strengthens UBM's

core events business while balancing and complementing UBM's strong events portfolio in emerging markets. UBM will become the largest events organizer in the U.S.," Cobbold said in a statement.

Serving as financial advisers to Advanstar in this deal were Goldman Sachs & Co. and Moelis & Co. Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP and Slaughter and May provided legal counsel. J.P. Morgan Cazenove worked as the financial adviser to UBM, and Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP served as its legal adviser.

The news that Advanstar might become part of an international business could create a path toward more opportunity for manufacturers, said Ilse Metchek, president of the **California Fashion Association**, a Los Angeles-based trade group.

"American manufacturers' participation in world trade shows is sadly lacking," Metchek said. "The ability to grow and reach more markets is truly a win."

A bigger player on the trade show business might also make for a more compelling trade show experience, Metchek said. "Bigger means it is a must see," she said. She also noted that trade shows remain a crucial part of the fashion industry. It is where a great majority of manufacturers go to exhibit and where retailers might find brands not on anyone's radar screen and may help them gain an edge.

The sale might foster a change in the family of MAGIC Marketplace shows, which include **Project**, said Jason Bates of the **Derelicte** showroom. He is a veteran exhibitor at Project and other high-profile trade shows. "Ideally, this merger will bring more European retailers to the U.S. market, so



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American brands will not be so reliant on fledgling U.S. retailers. I would be really excited to see a solid effort to bring more international buyers into the fold."

Bates also hoped that it could inspire change with how the MAGIC Marketplace is managed.

"[MAGIC] has been losing ground for the past several seasons, and there have been other shows doing a much better job primarily, the **Liberty Fashion & Lifestyle Fairs** in the U.S. are hands down the show to look at in terms of quality on all fronts," he said.

Diane Merrick, owner of the pioneering self-named boutique **Diane Merrick** in Los Angeles, has been going to MAGIC Marketplace shows since the 1970s. She said MAGIC remains a vital part of the fashion business.

"MAGIC is unbelievable," Merrick said. "I never have enough time there. I love the energy. There's a lot of color." She goes twice a year to the Las Vegas shows to see what fashions are trending and where the market is heading.—*Andrew Asch*

Specialty, Major Retailers Try New Mix of Boutique and E-commerce

For 15 years, Erica Dee Thomas believed that success for her series of boutiques in exclusive Corona Del Mar, Calif., came from being community fixtures, places where fashion people could gather. Now she believes the path to success goes through her clients' doorsteps.

On Sept. 30, the veteran retailer closed her bricks-and-mortar shop, called **Harper's**, which she had run at 2610 E. Coast Highway since 2009, and expanded her VIP drop-off service. It's an omni-channel division of her ecommerce business (*www.shopharpers.com*). Call the VIP service a bridge between stylist/ concierge retail and the same-day service **Macy's Inc.** recently launched.

With the website's VIP Service, drivers drop off boxes of contemporary clothes for her clients at their homes or offices, mostly in South Orange County. Clients have 48 hours to try on the clothes and make purchases—or return them through the website's drivers. If they make a purchase, they are charged on credit cards, which Thomas keeps on file.

When Thomas started experimenting with the VIP service last year, the reaction was immediate. The new service typically earned more than 30 percent over the

boutique. Despite being located on the main drag of well-off Corona Del Mar, retail traffic was far from predictable.

"Business for the boutique was so up and down," Thomas said. "Certain days were busy, certain days were slow. It depended on people's schedules and whether they could find parking."

While she had an emotional attachment to bricks and mortar, Thomas was glad to not worry about rent when she closed her boutique. She had paid \$6,500 in rent each month. She transferred her operations to a warehouse near **John Wayne Airport** in Santa Ana, Calif., for which she pays \$1,000 each month.

Thomas employs two drivers and a staff of four salespeople. She forecasts that she will be

able to expand the VIP drop-off service past South Orange County into San Diego and Los Angeles counties eventually. Currently, 60 percent of her business comes from e-commerce sales and 40 percent from the VIP service.

Retail operations similar to Thomas's VIP service are gaining prominence. On July 31, **Nordstrom Inc.** acquired **Trunk Club**, a personalized clothing service for men. Trunk Club sends out suits, shirts and high-end clothes from brands ranging from **Rag & Bone** to **Salvatore Ferragamo** and **John Varvatos**. The trunks are delivered to men's offices and homes, and Trunk Club's clients can try the

fashions on at their leisure and then purchase or return them.

In San Francisco, **Stitch Fix** requests their clients to build a profile of their tastes, and the company's stylists choose clothes they think a specific client would like. Serving on Stitch Fix's board are Marka Hansen, a former **Gap** brand chief, and Julie Bornstein, chief marketing and digital officer of **Sephora**.

Bungalow, a Las Vegas company, started business in

2013 and has clients across the United States. Its business model also mixes e-commerce and stylists, said Meital Bronstein, a co-founder of the company. She said Bungalow's business model is gaining popularity because it mixes the best of the boutique shopping experience with the convenience of e-commerce.

"It is more personal than going to a bricksand-mortar store," she said. "We follow up with how customers like their clothes and service."

The business model is very beneficial to the retailer, Bronstein said. With dropping off clothes to browse every week or month, customers are put on a schedule where they pay attention to the retailer's merchandise. "It is different than waiting for people to walk into a store," she said. —A.A.

Westernwear Shop Boot Barn Files IPO

Erica Dee Thomas

Boot Barn Holdings, a western apparel and footwear retailer headquartered in Irvine, Calif., wants to go public.

It announced that it had filed a registration statement on Form S-1 with the **U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission** with news of its proposed initial public offering.

It has applied to list its stock under the ticker symbol "BOOT" on the **New York Stock Exchange**.

A press release announcing the IPO noted that the number of shares and the price range of the offering had yet to be determined. However, an article on a website maintained by **Renaissance Capital** (*www. renaissancecapital.com*), which describes itself as an SEC-registered investment adviser, noted that Boot Barn plans to raise up to \$86 million.

Boot Barn started selling western clothes and boots in 1978. In December 2011, it was acquired by **Freeman Spogli & Co.**, a private-equity firm that runs an office in Los Angeles. Freeman Spogli also invested in **El Pollo Loco Holdings Inc.** The Costa Mesa, Calif.–based fast-food company announced an IPO in July.

Since being acquired by Freeman Spogli, Boot Barn's store count has increased from 85 stores to 150 locations. It offers jeans brands such as **Wrangler**, Levi's, Miss Me and Cowgirl Tuff.—*A.A.*

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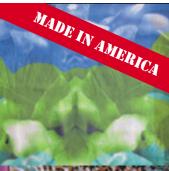


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LA Company to Make CBGB Live Again

The styles inspired by the scene at the CBGB nightclub in mid-1970s New York, one of the world's first punk clubs, made a big impact on global fashion, but the club closed in 2006. It has since become the site for a John Varvatos boutique, but it's not the last word on CBGB. There is an annual CBGB Music and Film Festival in New

spotted at rock concerts for decades. It will offer other merchandise, which includes hoodies, footwear and unique capsule collections inspired by CBGB. Some of those new looks include graphics from the original CBGB site, such as the club's unique graffiti. "You can't go there now, but you can wear it," Boylan-Riddles said.



PUNK MERCH: The exterior of CBGB with logos of the club's big acts on the awning.

York, and Los Angeles-based branding and licensing company Epic Rights plans to make CBGB a notable fashion name in the current era

Epic Rights announced recently that it was named as CBGB's global branding, licensing and rights-management representative. Juli Boylan-Riddles, Epic Rights' executive vice president of global strategic partnerships and licensing, said her company's CBGB-licensed gear will include T-shirts with the iconic CBGB logo, which has been

She forecast the first delivery of CBGB merchandise will be in high-end specialty stores for Spring/Summer '15.

> Epic Rights started business in January 2014 and is led by Dell Furano, one of the pioneers of the rockmerchandise business. In the early 1970s, he started selling merchandise at Grateful Dead shows. He turned

the guerrilla business into a multi-milliondollar company, Signatures Network Inc., which worked with artists such as Madonna and U2.

In 2007, he sold Signatures to Live Nation, a publicly traded concert-promotion company, for \$79 million. Furano ran Live Nation's merchandise division for five years.

Epic Rights also holds licenses to make licensed gear for acts such as Kiss and Aerosmith.—Andrew Asch

Oct. 7

Textile Design & Fashion Knitwear Design Show FIDM Museum Promenade, third floor Los Angeles

Los Angeles Majors Market California Market Center Los Angeles Through Oct. 8 <u>Oct. 7</u>

LA Fashion Council Maker City Los Angele Through Oct. 9

"Discover, Cultivate, Monetize: A Digital Influencer Lab," presented by Fab Counsel Real Office Center Santa Monica, Calif. "The 50-Minute Marketing Plan" webinar, presented by Fashion Business Inc. online

Oct. 8 FashioNXT Station Place Portland, Ore. Through Oct. 11

Oct. 11

Concept LA

Los Angeles **Oct. 12** Los Angeles Fashion Market California Market Center Gerry Building Los Angeles

Ace Museum

Through Oct. 15 LA Kids' Market California Market Center Los Angeles Through Oct. 15

Calendar

Oct. 13 Los Angeles Fashion Market Cooper Design Space The New Mart 824 Building Lady Liberty Building Primrose Design Building Academy Awards Building Los Angeles Through Oct. 15 **Designers and Agents**

The New Mart Los Angeles Through Oct. 15 Select Transit California Market Center Los Angeles

Through Oct. 15 LA Men's Market California Market Center Los Angeles

Through Oct. 14

Brand Assembly Coeur

Cooper Design Space Los Angeles Through Oct. 15

Lazr 200 E. Ninth St. Los Angeles Through Oct. 15

Oct. 14 Fashion Business Inc.'s fourth annual "All Aboard Fashion Show' Union Station Los Angeles

Project Ethos Avalon Hollywood

Oct. 15 Infor Fashion Meet-n-Learn California Market Center, C855 Los Angeles

Style Fashion Week I A Live Los Angeles



For calendar details and contact information, visit ApparelNews. net/calendar

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Oct. 6

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The Opportunities and Challenges of International Sales

Apparel brands looking to grow their distribution are considering looking for new business overseas. Exporting is a great opportunity to build a brand with a new international clientele, but it's not without challenges. *California Apparel News* Senior Editor Deborah Belgum recently caught up with several experts to discuss how an apparel company should proceed when expanding its businesses beyond U.S. borders.

With more apparel companies looking to export overseas to boost revenues, how difficult is it to get factor financing on these overseas accounts, and what things should apparel labels be aware of when exporting?

Sydnee Breuer, Senior Vice President/Business Development, Rosenthal & Rosenthal

In general, a factor will be willing to finance export re-

ceivables so long as the customer can be credit protected/ credit insured. In addition to the usual credit information needed for domestic customers, export receivables would also depend on to which countries the client exports and the legal, political and social conditions in those countries.

Well-established companies in stable countries are more likely to be credit approved, whereas the companies in struggling economies are less likely to get factor approval. Also, it's generally easier to get credit information about bigger foreign distributors and large overseas retail chains, and, therefore, it's easier to factor such accounts compared with smaller, mom-and-pop stores. Apparel companies should be aware of the laws, and social and political issues of countries in which they want to do business.

Mitch Cohen, Western Regional Manager, CIT Commercial Services



From CIT's viewpoint, the apparel industry centered in Southern California does take a global approach to business. Many of our clients are seeking to expand internationally as they build a worldwide brand.

"Created in California" provides an excellent benefit since California companies are thought to be among the more innovative brands in the industry and the leaders in certain categories such as high-end denim. As a factoring leader, we understand the need to support our clients and their customers domestically and internationally.

Our clients distribute through many models to many countries, from licensing to distributors to selling individual retailers overseas. CIT has many different ways to obtain credit data internationally, including by going directly to the international retailer or working with one of our correspondent factoring relationships where we utilize a factor in that respective country to obtain the necessary information to help us mitigate and approve the credit.

Financing depends on both the model and the country. If we can underwrite the international customer's financial ability to pay, we can typically include that account receivable into our factoring program's borrowing base as we support our client's international growth initiative.

A vendor should realize that obtaining credit data from overseas accounts could be a much slower process. Furthermore, the ability to get factor financing on these overseas accounts is directly affected by country risk.

Ron Garber, Executive Vice President/Regional Manager, First Capital, Western Region

The determination as to whether a manufacturer can obtain factor advances on exports is essentially based on what form of payment methodology was established prior to shipment.

Were the exported goods shipped subject to a documentary or standby letter of credit, credit insurance policy, broker or agent intermediary, reciprocal arrangement with an international factor exchange such as FCI, open terms to a recognized major customer such as Walmart Canada Finance page 8 E NEW MART

0039 Italy

3 J Workshop

A New Kind

Abyss By Abby

A La Mode Showroom

A.V. Max Accessories

2(x)ist

35MM

Able

Acrobat

Adelyn Rae

showrooms & lines

Agave Denim Collection Aijek Akela Key (Paris) Alashan Luxe by Alashan Cashmere ALC Alexis Jewelry Alexis n' Ryan All Things Fabulous allen allen USA American Vintage Amy Matto analili Anatomie (USA) Andrew Marc Belts and Wallets Angel Eye London Angel Iglesias (Barcelona) Ann Ferriday Anne-Marie Chagnon Annie Griffin Aratta Ariella Arnold Zimberg Atina Christina Auden Australia Luxe Collective Babette **Baci** Collection **Banaris Scarves** Banjanan Banjo & Matilda Barbara Gerwit Barbara James Showroom Bariano BB Dakota Beach Rays Beach Riot **Beautifully Couture** Beauty Fashion Hats Beckley by Melissa Before & Again T's Bela NYC Belford Bernadette Mopera & Co. **Beth's Addiction** Betsey Johnson Handbags Betseyville Beyond Yoga Bishop + Young BIYA Black Moon Black Swan Bloom Blue Tassel Blue Velvet Bo Bel Bob Ditchik & Assoc./ The H.E.M. Showroom Bobeau Boho Me Bonage

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Jacob Gray Agency James Jeans J<mark>ame</mark>s Perse Janna Connei JARLO Ibrand Jennifer Michelle Sales JET by John Eshaya li Oh Jimmy Taverniti Jimmyjane Jitni Joed Belts Joe's Jeans John and Jenn John Varvatos Johnny Was Joie Joken Style Showroom Josie Joules fr<mark>o</mark>m the UK JtheWay Jude Judith Autumn Mann Sales **IWLA** Kaos (Italy) Karen Capil Karen Kane Karlita Designs Karma Kreations Kathy Walker Sales Kelly Wearstler Kerisma Kersh Kid Tails Kische KLA/Karen L. Anderson Kling Knitted Dove/ Love Dove KOA Swim Kokomo unlimited Kokun Cashmere Koral - Activewear Kray Kut from the Kloth La Natura La Rue Showroom LA Soiree Label + Thread Lace & Whiskey Lacoste Lahco of Switzerland Lamade Lan laenicke Lancaster Landa Sales Lapis LATS Laura J Designs Laurie Hasson Showroom Lavender Brown Le Tanneur Leatherrock Lemieux Letters of Intent Level 99 Liberty Sage Lilla P Lily Line Liquid Metal by Sergio Gutierrez Lisa Freede LIT STUDIO LIV Livefree Showroom Liza Stewart, Inc. Lodis Handbags, Belts & Small Accessories Lola Jeans Lolly Lori Jack Love Nail Tree Love Quotes Love Sadie Love Token

Lucky 7 Tees Lucky Brand Luii Luli Fama Lumier by Bariano Luv Aj Luz de la Riva Lynn Girard Showroom Lvsse M Group Showroom M Made in Italy Mad Mac Maison Close Margaret O'Leary Marie Chavez Marseilles Mary Hardie Massana Matty M Mavi Jeans May The Label McGinn Mel by Melissa Melody Mia and Moss Michael Kors Mickey & Jenny Mila Bikinis Milk The Goat MINNE Minty Mirlo Miss Me Mo:vint Mod-O-Doc Mofi Mother Moyuru My Other Bag My Pakage My Tribe Nalukai Nana Nucci (Italy) Nanavatee Nanette Lepore Nation LTD Neesh.... By DAR Nesh NYC Niche Showroom Nick & Mo NIKKI Rich Nor (Denmark) Notify Novemb3r O2 Collection Oats Cashmere Off The Chain Old Gringo Boots Olive & Oak Om Girl One Teaspoon OneOddBird **Only Hearts** Onzie Oober Swank Oonagh by Nanette Lepore Orange Beld Socks Others Follow Paige Paige Hamilton Designs Pam and Gela Paper Heart Paperwhite Parker Smith Patrons of Peace Peace Love World Peace of Cloth Penelope Chilvers Pepa Loves Pete and Greta Philine Piece of My Heart Pink Lotus Pistil PI Luxe PJ Salvage Porto

the new mart

Press Private Archieves Private Arts Project DL Pulse Showroom Pure Karma Quintsoul Rachel Pally Rae Vavre Raffaello Rossi (Germany) Rag Royalty Ramune Piekautaite Rande Cohen Showroom Raviya RD Style **Rebels** Footwear **Red Haute** Red Monkey Red23 Repeat Representing Showroom Revolution by Edwin RG Jeans Rieley Riller and Fount Robert Graham Roberto Cavalli Class Handbags Rock Revival Rolla coster Rose Gonzales Rosemunde Rowan Reed Rubber Doll By Design Rubber Ducky s.a.m Showroom San Francisco City Lights Sanctuary Clothing Saraswati Jewelry Designs Scrapbook Search for Sanity See Thru Soul Sequoia Paris Sheri Bodell Showroom 903 Showroom Shift ShowroomFive21 Sigalie Jewelry Signorelli Silver leans Simply Irresistible Single Sita Murt Six Degrees Skif Skinny by Jessica Elliot Skinny Tees SKUNKFUNK Sky Sloane & Tate Smash Snowman Sock It To Me Solow Soludos Soul Mates Spanx Spirithouse Splendid Intimates Stacey Rhoads Sales Stacy Keyes Showroom Stacy Sterling Stateside Steve Madden Streets Ahead Belts & Bags STS Blue Studio Two Clothing Sue Goodman Showroom Sugar Bean Jewelry Sugar High Sunday in Brooklyn Sunlight (Paris)

Susanne Karlsson Suzi Roher (Toronto, Canada) Swatfame T. Smith & Co. T2Love Talia Hancock Tanya Taylor Tee Ink TFNC London The 2 Bandits The Bank - 10eleven The Chic Bags The Natural the residency. Formerly Renee & Company The T Refinery The Village Showroom The Vonderheide Showroom Three Dots Three of Something Timberland Timka Jewelry Tommy Bahama Tommy Hilfiger Luggage & Backpacks Tracy Evans Transmission Trend Request, Inc. Trendline by Raffaello Rossi Tricots lean Marc True Grit True Religion Brand Jeans TSUBO UGG Australia Umano Undercover Underella by Ella Moss Union of Angels Urban Fitting Room Vast Velvet Heart Velvet Torch Vicious Venom Viereck Vigross Denim Vince Vince Men's Vintage Highway Vintageous Volunteer VPI wallpapHer Want Need WAYF West Bank Clothing Western Fashion lewelry Wet White + Warren White Crow Whitney Eve Wild Angels Willow & Clay Wilma & Ethel Wilt Winston White Wooden Ships by Paola Buendia Workshop XCVI Yana K Yerse Yoana Baraschi Yoshi Yoshi by PJ (Tokyo, Japan) Yosi Children Yosi Samra Z Supply Zacasha Zelda Zimmerli of Switzerland Zina Kao Jewelry Zoa Zoe Couture

Sunset 31

INDUSTRY FOCUS: FINANCE

cial wherewithal has been vetted by the exchange and deter-

but I would reserve that for only the most recognizable

retailers in existence, such as Walmart, Target, Costco or

Macy's. If any of these methods are followed, it shouldn't

be difficult to convince your factor to provide financing, but

keep in mind it will probably be more costly and certainly

create a greater amount of time and paperwork to ensure

timely collection in comparison to selling a customer around

Insofar as apparel labels, especially brands selling over-

Lastly, there is always the basic open-terms arrangement,

mined to be able to meet its credit obligations.

Finance Continued from page 6

or Costco Mexico, or any combination thereof?

Most factors will work with their client to provide advances under any of these arrangements, but the manufacturer must be aware of certain differences between domestic and foreign sales that are assigned.

Firstly, if a letter of credit is utilized, it must be issued by either a U.S. bank or subsidiary in U.S. dollars. If it is a documentary instrument, there will be very specific requirements that must be met to successfully negotiate the letter of credit.

effectively. They are less burdensome than a documentary

letter of credit, but they might require an annual policy to

could provide the necessary comfort level to ship a customer on open account, but this would not be my preference. Some

U.S. domestic factoring companies belong to a worldwide

network of other factoring companies, such as FCI, who will

provide counter-party risk for buyers located in their own

specific foreign customer from a local factor whose finan-

In those cases, your factor will obtain a guarantee for a

A trusted middleman such as a foreign broker or agent

cover all your accounts rather than a single order.

I suggest that the manufacturer speak with their bank or lawyer to become familiar with these requirements. I suggest, if available, that a standby letter of credit be the way to go. They're much less restrictive and require very little in the way of paperwork.

An insurance policy issued by a strong international company such as Coface or Atradius also can be used very

country.

Sydnee Breuer, Se-Mitch Cohen, Western Regional Manager, CIT Trade Finance

nior Vice President, Business Develop-ment, Rosenthal & Rosenthal



the corner.

tive Vice President/ Regional Manager, First Capital, Western Region

prosecute.



Rob Greenspan, Owner, Greenspan Consult Inc.

seas, the best advice I can offer is to make sure you have

retained a good trademark attorney to protect your interest

in the event of knockoffs or name infringement of product

that starts to infiltrate foreign markets. There are many op-

portunists out there who attempt to make a quick buck and

believe the manufacturer won't take the time or expense to

When exporting your products, you should first make

certain you have done all the necessary legal due diligence

to get your trademarks and trade names registered in each

Rob Greenspan, Owner of Greenspan Consult Inc.

country where you will be selling.

Sunnie Kim, President and

Chief Executive, Hana Financial

David Mault, Retail Credit Manager/Vice President, Prime **Business Credit**

You don't want to find that you don't own your trade name

In terms of factor financing, many companies find dis-

tributors in the foreign countries. They sell exclusively to

the distributors, who in turn sell to the local retailers. The

distributors take and finance the credit risk on their sales.

Typically, the U.S. exporter sells, at a discount, to the foreign

distributor. The foreign distributor pays the U.S. exporter

roughly 50 percent of the wholesale price before the goods

are put into work. The remaining 50 percent is paid before

or trademarks where you are doing business. You might soon

find out that someone else now owns your mark and they

could prevent you from doing business in that country.

tor financing for their export sales. If the U.S. exporters do ship their products to retailers in these countries,

the goods are shipped.

In these types of cases, the U.S. exporter

does not need any fac-

there are a number of ways they can protect themselves to ensure payment. Their U.S. factor may have factoring affiliates or

other factors in the foreign country. If they do, their factor can help facilitate a factoring agreement for these sales.

Additionally, U.S. exporters can buy foreign credit insurance to protect themselves from any nonpayment issues or bad debts. There are a number of insurance companies that specialize in this type of coverage.

Sunnie Kim, President and Chief Executive, Hana Financial

Actually, with more options available to companies looking to export-whether by traditional or non-traditional

Finance page 9



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www.merchantfactors.com

8 CALIFORNIA APPAREL NEWS OCTOBER 3-9, 2014 APPARELNEWS.NET



Coast, Bibby **Financial Services** have knowledge of

Continued from previous page

means-obtaining financing for those orders is easing [in difficulty].

However, the companies to which the manufacturers are selling do come into play. Obviously, Canada or some European countries are much easier to receive financing support versus other locations. Not just limited to apparel companies, but anyone exporting must be keenly aware of a multitude of issues, including the political stability, economic considerations, tariffs, culture, specifications and currency exchanges.

David Mault, Retail Credit Manager/Vice President, Prime Business Credit

Shipping to international accounts has always carried an increased risk versus domestic apparel companies, and this has not changed in 2014. There are thus many variables that must be considered before shipping overseas and much to consider before financing the A/R. Of course, companies must be aware of the political risk and stability of the government associated with the country in which their customer is located and also avoid shipping to the many countries that are currently in the midst of severe financial crises. A company must also be aware of the country's trade laws and regu-

lations, potential tariffs and import fees, and foreign exchange rates that would increase their costs and negatively impact their margins.

Once an apparel label is comfortable with the country they will ship to, they then must look into the condition of the company itself. Of course, before exporting, a company should initially request prepayment before shipping, preferably by wire transfer, but if the customer insists on terms, then this requires a more thorough examination of the customer. This customer analysis is similar to what must

be done on a domestic company, including thorough examination of its financial condition and operating history. Due to increased freight costs and shipping logistics, a history of returned merchandise and disputes is especially important when assessing an overseas account. Also, one must keep in mind that simply from a geographic standpoint, collections could become an issue should financial or other issues arise.

In recent years, it has become more difficult for apparel companies to obtain factor financing on these overseas accounts. The financing decision on these A/Rs is often dependent on the customer credit decision on the customer. If the account is credit approved then this provides assurances on the strength of the company and collectability of the A/R, and typically the funding on the A/R is at a percentage similar to the funding on a domestic account that has been credit approved. Due to an increasingly volatile international climate and issues related to the areas described above, overseas accounts are becoming more and more difficult to credit approve, thus limiting the potential for funding against their A/R. If orders are not approved and invoices factored at recourse, then it is difficult to fully fund against the A/R. Also, because of the increased amount of risk involved, we have seen a decrease in orders from international companies.

Apparel labels would be best served to take these and other things into consideration when contemplating whether to ship overseas and, as always, make the proper risk/reward decision that is in line with their philosophy and needs.

Robert Meyers, Managing Director for the West Coast, Bibby Financial Services

Some companies, such as Bibby Financial Services & DS Concepts, specialize in providing export factoring to new and established apparel companies located throughout the U.S. and Canada. Both firms regularly work with commercial finance companies and traditional banks to provide add-on, export-only credit lines where required if they are not comfortable with the overseas trading.

The finance options are very reduced on the international factoring side as several lenders will be uncomfortable with the credit risk or will offer reduced financing amounts.

Factoring internal customers can be easy for the correct lender, but they will typically need to make sure they are in approved countries without political/government risk.

Factoring overseas typically requires approved credit insur-

ance limits for each specific customer you will trade with.

Factoring overseas is also typically done on receipt by the end customers versus on shipment, so funding is slightly delayed depending on the shipment method.

The terms offered by customers will vary by country, so thorough review of the vendor agreement and purchase orders is required—i.e., net 60, net 90 and sometimes longer depending on the country.

Understanding the currency involved and making sure your lender can receive payment in the major currencies such as euros and pounds ster-

ling, the Japanese yen, etc.

Depending on where you are trading, lenders that maintain operational offices throughout the world can help collect debt in the local language and currency, utilizing the local customs as well.

Understand time-zone differences-for example, your lender needs to be able to collect debt in Asia despite the 14-hour time difference. Also, any import tax/duty obligations.

Don Nunnari, Regional Manager, Merchant Factors Corp.

It is not difficult to get financing from a factor on export receivables. We have clients selling throughout the world who get the security of getting paid by the factor along with financing to assist their cash flow.

Through the International Factors Chain (IFC) or other international consortiums of bank-owned factors, a seller can use a factor to credit check, guarantee and collect foreign receivables. Make sure your factor is aligned with international factors to provide this service.

Banks will work in conjunction with factors, whereby the factor guarantees the foreign receivables and the bank will lend against them. The seller should consult with Finance page 10





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Paul Schuldiner, Managing Director of Business Commercial Corp. Development King Trade Capital



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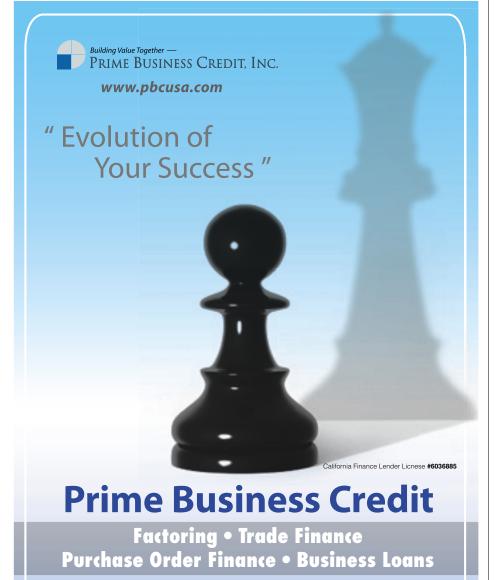
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Finance Continued from page 9

their factor before exporting. They should discuss with the factor the countries they are thinking of exporting to. Ask questions such as, Does the factor know the creditworthiness of the distributor or store? How do they pay their bills, and will they be factor approved?

The seller must know the different terms and conditions for factoring in different countries throughout the world. They must read carefully any foreign amendment to their factoring agreement, which spells out the fees and coverage (like any insurance policy). U.S. territories—such as Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam—are factored the same as a U.S.-based buyer, normally with the same terms and fees. Canadian customers might be subject to an additional factor commission.

Sellers should know all of their options to grow their international business. They should be aware of currency risks. Selling in the past year to Argentina in pesos would have cost the seller about 40 percent in lost profit due to currency changes. It is highly recommended to bill the buyer in U.S. dollars.

Factoring your export accounts receivables, along with letters of credit and cash deposits, are very common ways to export and be assured you will be paid. Your factor should be able to assist you in handling letters of credit from your foreign customers, if necessary. Unless you are familiar and comfortable understanding documentary letters of credit from your customers, it's best to consult with your factor.

Dave Reza, Milberg Factors

It is not difficult to get financing for credit-approved receivables from foreignaccount debtors. At Milberg Factors, we approve many foreign accounts based in Canada, Latin America, Western Europe and the Caribbean directly based on our knowledge of and experience with certain debtors.

In other countries, we partner with thirdparty credit-insurance carriers who provide us with coverage, which we in turn use to provide our clients with credit coverage and financing on export sales.

We recommend that clients engage either a local agent or importer/distributor to help ensure that all the requisite "i's are dotted and t's" are crossed.

Paul Schuldiner, Managing Director, Business Development, King Trade Capital

It is important for the apparel company that is exporting to understand the customer base that they are selling to. Very often, U.S. apparel companies will work with local distributors who may or may not be able to be factored by either a U.S. factor, a foreign factor, or even have payment risk mitigated by credit insurance.

If the U.S. apparel company is selling direct to retailers in foreign countries, there should be an understanding of the local regulations, such as value-added taxes, local customs and import rules. More importantly, they should understand where title passes to the end customer (i.e., are the terms of sale FOB Asia or FOB USA for where the goods are made or does title pass to the end customer in the foreign country where the retailer or distributor is located?).

If a foreign customer can't be factored or credit insured, the apparel exporter may want to consider selling on terms that require the foreign customer to provide a letter of credit to secure its purchases or sell on documents against payment terms where a bank can be used to release title documents against payment by the foreign customer.

The apparel exporter should work closely with its factor or trade finance source, an outside accountant and/or an attorney specializing in international trade. Lastly, a strong customs broker/freight forwarder who can assist in navigating the waters of exporting and assess business risk as well as credit risk of the foreign sales opportunities should be considered.

Ken Wengrod, President, FTC Commercial Corp.

Financing shipments to customers in developed countries should be a non-issue. Lenders should also have a detailed understanding of international trade practices and be open minded to change with the times.

With the expansion of globalization, we apply similar rules of open credit extension and financing for international customers as we do for domestic customers.

There are many factors to consider when we look at the overseas customer, including financial condition, longevity in business, credit references, or payment history and terms of sale. As long as we can gather enough information about the overseas customer, it is not difficult to obtain financing against these accounts.

In today's environment, customers around the world are seeking open credit terms and are very concerned with protecting their integrity and payment record. There are numerous methods of gathering information on foreign buyers to support clients' sales and financing. Obviously, it's much more difficult to apply the same set of rules against the customers in the developing countries. However, an organization such as U.S. EXIM Bank provides further assistance to lenders like us in this arena. FTC is one of the few authorized delegated lenders of the U.S. EXIM Bank, which provides various programs and guarantees lenders to encourage the financing of foreign accounts.

From my prospective, it's not necessarily the ability of attracting financing for export sales that prevents the expansion but the aversion of U.S. companies to broaden their reach to international markets, where 95 percent of the customer base resides. In essence, they are limiting themselves and competing for only 5 percent of the world's customers. Entrepreneurs who have expanded their international markets realize the strong benefits, including going direct to the foreign retailer/Internet sites or using a distributor. Today, Europe and Asia are craving apparel labels that represent the California lifestyle and also manufacture their products in the U.S.

For example, U.S. exporters need to understand that each country in the European Union represents different subcultures in terms of customer sizing, color preferences and paying habits. Also, the U.S. exporter needs to identify a contact person who is able to answer any questions about rules and regulations of the country they are planning to sell into. Finding and developing a close relationship with a specific contact within the Commercial Service at the U.S. Department of Commerce and with its customs broker is a first step to starting the export process. The Gold Key Program at the Commercial Service charges a nominal charge, and the U.S. government will provide data and vet buyers for the U.S. exporters. The current administration has placed a high priority on assisting U.S. companies to export and, in turn, increase jobs in the U.S.

The U.S. exporter should also be cautious about knockoffs. The European Union has tougher intellectual-property laws than the U.S. in terms of protecting designers. China is an entirely different story.

Many shrewd young contemporary designers are initially power branding their image/lifestyle in Europe and parts of Asia by selling to key accounts in that region. U.S. retailers visit those foreign accounts to scope out new directions and lines so that they can contact these U.S. designers to buy their merchandise at home, in the U.S.

Avery Dennison Opens RBIS Design Center in LA's Arts District

Apparel designers, retailers and manufacturers looking for branding inspiration have a new resource in the Arts District in downtown Los Angeles with the opening of Avery Dennison Corp.'s Retail Branding and Information Solutions (RBIS) Customer Design and Innovation Center.

On Sept. 25, the RBIS team hosted a party to celebrate the opening of the 15,000-squarefoot space. Guests had a chance to tour the facility, which houses a library of branding and research materials. Visitors can browse through RBIS's custom embellishments and analysis tools to help create "intelligent, creative and sustainable designs that help communicate the power of their brand." There's also a ping-pong table downstairs and views of LA's burgeoning Arts District on the second floor.



RBIS team members can work with companies to create innovative branding solutions for their products.



The ribbon and labeling materials library at the Avery Dennison RBIS Customer Design and Innovation Center

Shawn Neville, president of Avery Dennison RBIS. said he wants the new design center to help companies explore "the future of mass customization" and "inspire them to push the envelope."

According to Neville, apparel represents 3 percent of all consumers' purchases, and that's something he hopes to help change by encouraging apparel makers to step up their branding by creating "innovative and unique packaging, labeling and embellishments."

"We want to push every

brand to create something exciting," he said. "We're a branding company, not a labeling company."

Visitors to the space can see some of Avery Dennison RBIS' new and propriety technologies, such as AgilityStretchable Blocking Black, a proprietary heat-transfer technology that eliminates excess dye and discoloration in sublimation-printed fabrics without impacting stretch and recovery. The company's Denim Durable solution is applied to pocket materials prior to washing and finishing, which allows the brand to affix a permanent logo to a pocket. Denim Durable solution gives manufacturers the opportunity to brand a product without using removable tags or labels.

Avery Dennison RBIS also has sustainable

solutions for packaging for apparel, footwear and accessories, such as a plant-based bioplastic, which can be used in place of petroleumbased polyethylene (PE). The company also can create branding products with 100 percent recycled polyester yarn and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)-certified paper. All of these are showcased at the LA design center, along with Avery Dennison's Greenprint tool, which helps customers understand of the environmental impact of their branding and packaging

"The CDIC is a place where our customers can integrate art, science and sustainability through our proprietary trends and creative services while leveraging our leading edge capabilities, including brand protection, RFID and high-definition digital graphics," Neville said.



The LA Design Center's denim inspiration room



The Avery Dennison RBIS Customer Design and Innovation Center library



Shawn Neville, president of Avery RBIS

"We do this through the lens of our Greenprint sustainability tool, which helps customers reduce their environmental impact.'

Center joins Avery Dennison's two existing Design Centers. The Miamisburg, Ohio, center, which opened in 2010, focuses on information solutions, such as RFID (radio-frequency identification). The Sprockhövel, Germany, center, which opened in 2011, showcases all of the

as the model for the LA center, which features specific spaces dedicated to denim, surf and active apparel.

gives Avery Dennison RBIS a strong platform to partner with the unique California design community and helps elevate all aspects of apparel and footwear branding," said Deon Stander, vice president and general manager, global commercial and innovation, Avery Dennison RBIS.

"It's also for our people," he said. "I want them to be inspired."-Alison A. Nieder

Calendar

Los Angeles Fashion Week Calendar: Spring 2015 Collections

Los Angeles Fashion Week runway shows get underway on Oct. 8. Events and details are still being finalized. We will add events to the online calendar at ApparelNews.net as they are announced. Please note most Fashion Week events are invitation-only unless otherwise specified. Additional details can be found at www. fashionweekla.com.

Oct. 8 Odylyne runway show

Los Angeles Fashion Council Maker City LA For information: fashionweekla

com 5 p.m. Open Runway Runner Up:

L'enfant Terrible runway show Los Angeles Fashion Council Maker City LA

For information: fashionweekla com 1.30 p.m.

Open Runway Winner: Sania Josiah runway show Los Angeles Fashion Council Maker City LA For information: fashionweekla

com 2 p.m. Sauri runwav show

Los Angeles Fashion Council Maker Citv LA For information: fashionweekla

com 4.30 p.m. Stella Proseyn runway show Los Angeles Fashion Council Maker City LA For information: fashionweekla

com 4 p.m. William Bradley runway show Los Angeles Fashion Council Maker City LA

For information: fashionweekla com 3 p.m.

<u>Oct. 9</u>

Colton Dane runway show Los Angeles Fashion Council Maker City LA For information: fashionweekla com

2 p.m. Linden runway show Los Angeles Fashion Council Maker City LA For information: fashionweekla

com 1.30 p.m.

Rochelle Carino runway show Los Angeles Fashion Council Maker City LA

For information: fashionweekla com 1 p.m.

That's Totally Fine by Rose La Grua runway show Los Angeles Fashion Council Maker City LA For information: fashionweekla.

com 3 p.m Galina Sobolev, Sea of Pearls LA, FBF By Checka, Nina B. Roze and Andre Soriano runway shows Day to Night at the W Hollywood in

Association with Dress For Success W Hollywood Hotel 6:30 p.m. (red carpet), 8-11:00 p.m. (runway shows) For information: www. parkerwhitaker.com

Oct. 11

Mike Vensel informal presentation . Concept Los Angeles ACF Museum For information: conceptshows com 6 p.m. Mathiasen informal presentation **Concept Los Angeles** ACE Museum For information: conceptshows

com 6 p.m. J Burgos informal presentation

Concept Los Angeles ACE Museum For information: conceptshows. com

6 p.m. **Emily Daccarett runway show Concept Los Angeles** ACE Museum For information: conceptshows. com

7 p.m. CM2K informal presentation Concept Los Angeles ACE Museum For information: conceptshows.

com 8 p.m. Alexandrino informal

presentation **Concept Los Angeles** ACE Museum

For information:conceptshows.com 8 p.m.

Aeneas Elrking informal presentation Concept Los Angeles ACF Museum For information: conceptshows. com

8 p.m.

The Italian Cultural Institute presents: Prelude for a Symphony in Black by Matteo Levaggi | Corpicrudi with a live performance by Von Haze featuring designs by Frances Caine

Concept Los Angeles ACE Museum For information: conceptshows.

com 9 p.m.

Art Hearts Fashion Art Hearts Fashion in Support of AIDS Walk LA opening reception featuring fashion installations by Kicka Custom Designs, Dan Richtars and ViggoFashion.com W Hotel Hollywood For information: rsvp@ artheartsfashion.com 6 p.m. (doors open)

<u>Oct. 12</u>

Designer Showcase featuring ViggoFashion, Dan Richtars Courtney Allegra, Kami Shade and Consort 62 Art Hearts Fashion Art Hearts Fashion in Support of AIDS Walk LA W Hotel Hollywood For information: rsvp@ artheartsfashion.com 7 p.m.

Designer showcase featuring Tumbler and Tipsy. Hallie Sara. Walter Mendez, Tribute To Couture with Jun Escario, Maya Hansen and Zhang JingJing Art Hearts Fashion Art Hearts **Fashion in Support of AIDS** Walk LA W Hotel Hollywood For information: rsvp@ artheartsfashion.com 9 p.m.

<u>Oct. 13</u>

Designer showcase featuring Artistix Jeans, M The Movement and more to be announced Art Hearts Fashion Art Hearts Fashion in Support of AIDS Walk LA Taglyan Cultural Complex For information: rsvp@ artheartsfashion.com 7 p.m.

<u>Oct. 14</u>

All Aboard...LA's Fashion Platform, featuring Love on a Hanger From Stony, Stop Staring!, Sam & Lavi, Johnny Was, CWST, Becca Swimwear, Marika Kenson and the winner of the Moss Adams Fashion Innovator Award and Emerging Designer of the Year, presented by Fashion Business Inc. Union Station

6 p.m. (red carpet), 7:30 p.m. (runway show) For information: cdavis@ muchandhousepr.com

Designer showcase featuring Mister Triple X, R'Michelle, MT Costello and Michael Costello Art Hearts Fashion Art Hearts Fashion in Support of AIDS Walk LA Taglyan Cultural Complex For information: rsvp@ artheartsfashion.com 9 p.m.

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Avalon Hollywood

7 p.m. (doors open), 8 p.m. (emerging designers runway shows), 11:30 p.m. (Nicole Miller show) Cost: \$20–30 for general admission, \$60-\$100 for VIP tickets

For information: projectethos.tv

Oct. 15

Sue Wong "Fairies and Sirens" Spring 2015 runway show Style Fashion Week LA L.A. Live 5:30 p.m. (red carpet). 7 p.m. (fashion show)

For information: sara@suewong. com

<u>Oct. 17</u> Maggie Barry runway show

LA Fashion Corner Boulevard 3 7 p.m. (red carpet). 9 p.m. (fashion

show)

Cost: free before 8 p.m., \$10 general admission at the door until 10 p.m., \$20 general admission/ after-party after 10 p.m., VIP tickets \$25 in advance, \$40 at the door For information: www. lafashioncorner.com

Oct. 18

Los Angeles Fashion Week **Design Competition Event** featuring "Project Runway" winner Dom Streater's collection and the 10 LAFWDC finalists' collections Cost: \$45 general admission, \$65 VIP For information: www.lafwdc.com 7 p.m.



RBIS capabilities and served

The Los Angeles Design

"Our new center in the heart of Los Angeles

The new space, which is now the base for about 30 RBIS employees, was also designed with the entire Avery Dennison team in mind, Neville said.

FEMME SPORT

Sportswear takes a femme turn with floral prints, tennis skirts, matching sets and plenty of crop tops. Game on. –*N. Jayne Seward*





SAM & LAVI "Lexi" top in "Palm Drive" (\$72). J.O.A metallic short (\$23).



WHITNEY EVE "Golden Shower" top (\$56) and "Nuns Orchid" short (\$45).



THE FIFTH LABEL "Roadhouse Dress" (\$46).





WHITNEY EVE "Awapuhi" top (\$36) and "Manfern" skirt in "Bungalow" (\$63).



OUT INCORPORATED "Femme Fatal Bodysuit" (\$113). MCGINN "Axton" bomber jacket (\$90).

DIRECTORY: Please note all prices are wholesale.

AGAIN, Los Angeles, (213) 599-3128; CYNTHIA VINCENT, Cooper Design Space, #422, (213) 225-2687; ERIN KLEINBERG, The Lady Liberty Building, #201, (213) 955-6116; J.O.A, Cooper Design Space, #1130, (213) 243-0741; MCGINN, The New Mart, #700, (213) 229-8700; MI-PAC, CMC #B479, (408) 507-0002; OUT INCORPORATED, Newport Beach, Calif., (310) 948-8838; SAM & LAVI, The Lady Liberty Building, #201, (213) 955-6116; THE FIFTH LABEL, Cooper Design Space, #1130, (213) 243-0741; WHITNEY EVE, The New Mart, #700, (213) 229-8700 PHOTOGRAPHER: LESA AMOORE/WWW.LESAAMOORE.COM; CREATIVE DIRECTOR/STYLIST: N. JAYNE SEWARD/WWW.NORMAJAYNE.COM; MODEL: KATRINA HUNTER with WILHELMINA LOS ANGELES; MAKEUP: GARRET GERVAIS at OPUS BEAUTY using MAC COSMETICS; HAIR: ASHLEY LYNN HALL at ONE REPRESENTS using AMIKA; PHOTO ASSISTANT: GABRIEL SALAZAR

Amour Vert: Making Eco Fashion Stylish and Profitable

By Andrew Asch Retail Editor

San Francisco–based **Amour Vert**'s creative director, Linda Balti was invited to become a member of the **Council of Fashion Designers of America** recently, and Balti has an official green light to hob-nob and possibly brainstorm with celebrated designers in CFDA, such as Mary-Kate Olsen, Calvin Klein, Tom Ford, Juan Carlos Obando and Shea Parton of downtown Los Angeles– based brand **Apolis**.

But the CFDA invite also could be a vote of confidence in Amour Vert's particular niche—sustainable fashion. It's a category that some saw as being unable to mount a comeback since its major surge of activity before the Great Recession. Others say that fashion with a sustainable edge went beyond a niche category long ago and has become mainstream. Powerful retailers such as **Walmart** sell clothes made out of organic cotton, and **H&M** produces and sells special eco collections.

Christoph Frehsee, Amour Vert's chief executive officer and Balti's husband, said that CFDA membership also happened to present an opportunity to show what he believes is the real eco fashion.

"There are urban legends out there, and we are proving them wrong," Frehsee said. "Eco is itchy and looks bohemian is one legend. We are proving that sustainable clothing can be totally fashionable."

Fashion and sustainability will be in demand, Frehsee said. "Consumers will demand more responsible products," he said. "Millennials are asking for aspirational and responsible product. Only the companies that authentically respond to new demands will succeed in the 21st century."

Eco fashion started to increasingly register on the apparel business's radar screen at the turn of the 21st century. Many small, independent fashion businesses did research

and development for the category and produced sustainable lines. Many of these indie companies went out of business after the Wall Street meltdown of 2009, but Rob Jungmann, founder of hemp line **Jungmaven**, said the fashion world took notice of the category. Fashion with a sustainable edge became part of many prominent lines' collections.

"In the early '90s, [eco fashion] looked like Rastafarian coffee-bag hemp. By 1999, we started seeing more taste. It has arrived in the past three years. It's a lot more mainstream. It is what needed to happen," he said. Jungmavenbrand T-shirts have recently been placed at **Nordstrom's Pop-In** @ **Nordstrom** shops.

Amour Vert is the first fashion venture for Frehsee and Balti. They met while working defense-industry jobs in Europe. Balti wanted to make eco clothes

that she would want to wear. Both wanted to make a point that the apparel business could operate in a much more environmentally friendly way. They moved to San Francisco and started learning the business.

By 2014, Amour Vert was enjoying success. Frehsee said that the company had doubled its staff to more than 25 employees in the past year. In summer, about the same time they got the CFDA invitation, they opened a boutique in San Francisco's Hayes Valley neighborhood. The boutique received a lot of press from Bay Area fashion bloggers. Frehsee plans to open more boutiques in the next few years.

The line's look is a sporty casual, Balti said. The line is made eco-friendly because of the materials the line works with and how it is made. Its pieces are constructed out of ecofriendly material such as organic cotton and a ponté fabrication made out of wood pulp. The company lowers its carbon footprint by producing domestically. The label's garments are sewn in factories in San Francisco, cut in Oakland and knit in Los Angeles. It transports fabrics from Los Angeles to the Bay Area through a partnership with a Northern California wine company. In the past, the wine company's trucks would drop off wine in Los Angeles and return to San Francisco with no cargo. Now it makes return trips with Amour Vert fabrics.

Amour Vert also works with factories that waste as little fabric as possible, Freehsee said. The factories also pay their workers relatively high wages, he added.

Amour Vert's wholesale price points range from \$30 to \$75 for its T-shirt line and \$65 to \$150 for its collection.

"It is not more expensive to be sustainable," Balti said. "Wasting less means running a business under a lean supply chain and getting good margins."

Amour Vert also started a tree-planting program. With a purchase of an Amour Vert T-shirt, the brand plants a tree in the U.S. The label partnered with **American Forests**, a nonprofit company that advocates for expansion of forests. By 2015, the brand forecasts, it will plant 100,000 trees.

NEWS

American Apparel Names Interim CEO and CFO

American Apparel Inc. has a new interim chief executive officer and a new chief financial officer following the resignation of John Luttrell, who took over the two positions in June after the company's board asked founder Dov Charney to step down.

Scott Brubaker, who is a managing director at business management advisory firm Alvarez & Marsal, has been named interim CEO, and Hassan Natha has been named executive vice president and chief financial officer. Natha served as chief financial officer at Fisher Communications Inc. and Jones Soda Co. and spent 10 years in finance and operations at **Nike**'s **Bauer Nike Hockey Inc.**

Like Luttrell before him, Brubaker "affirmed his support for American Apparel's sweatshop-free, 'Made in USA' manufacturing philosophy and commitment to maintain the company's manufacturing headquarters in Los Angeles," according to an American Apparel statement.

The company also promoted longtime employees Patricia Honda and Nicolle Gabbay to president of wholesale and president of retail, respectively.—*Alison A. Nieder*



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LA Textile Show Continued from page 1

Phil Fox, owner of Los Angeles–based **Fox Fabrics**, returned to the show after several years to show his collections of high-end fabrics from Italy, Japan and China.

"It's been quite good," Fox said on the last day of the show. "Yesterday at 2 p.m., it was standing room only."

Fox estimated that he saw more than 90 companies at the show, including a mix of key accounts and potential new ones.

"Trade shows never hurt," he said.

Studio Bert Forma was another company showing again after several seasons away. Kevin Maldonado, co-owner of the Los Angeles-based company, said the show was a good opportunity to showcase the company's stock **Tencel** denim yardage.

"The biggest thing for me is [promoting the LA stock] and meeting with people I haven't seen in a long time," Maldonado said, just as designer Peter Cohen walked into the showroom.

Warren Zaretsky, vice president of sales with Los Angeles mill **Mansfield Textile**, was another returning exhibitor after several years away.

The first day was slow, Zaretsky said, but after sending out a few emails to several customers, the second day of the show was "fabulous."

Mansfield's business has grown 20 percent, Zaretsky said. The company recently added several jacquard machines and has been doing well with low-gauge sweater knits. "They're on fire," he said. "It's not just for sweater lines. They're being used for casualwear and coverups."

The athleticwear trend is also helping drive business for Mansfield's activewear fabrics made from Tencel, **Supima** and bamboo.

Not as many first-timers

Many exhibitors said the show attracted fewer start-up companies than in past years.

"The last show we saw a lot of new companies. This show,

it's a lot of current accounts," said Gina Valdez, who represents U.K.-based **Liberty Art Fabrics**, which was showing in the European Collections Pavilion.

"It was a bit slow on Monday, but that's to be expected," she said, adding, "It was rather busy on Tuesday."

Valdez said designers were looking for newness but were still very price-conscious.

"I feel everyone is being very conservative again," she said. Returning exhibitor Josi Severson also noted a change in



TREND SCOUTING: Large brands and independent designers were among the attendees at the Los Angeles International Textile Show, where exhibitors reported stronger traffic on the second and third days of the show.

the turnout at the show.

"You're used to talking to new companies starting out, and it feels like I'm not even seeing many of those," she said on the second day of the show. "At the last show I had so many more contacts by now. But today is busier than yesterday. There's been a decent flow of people."

David Sasso, vice president of sales for **Buhler Quality Yarns**, also noted that apparel makers have become more cautious.

"Everybody is controlling inventory," he said. "There are no projections. They want to know what's the price."

Still, Sasso said, the show provided important insight into his customers' business.

"The nice thing about the show is getting to see the regulars, and it's an opportunity to see our customers at one time," he said. "You never know what's going to happen just by having a conversation. You learn what's new, what they're looking for, what the business conditions are."

Andy Long, vice president of sales and marketing for **Tuscarora Yarns**, said after a slower-than-expected start on Monday that he and his team contacted some key clients and invited them to the show.

"That's made it worthwhile," he said on the second day of the show, adding that several booked appointments for the last day, as well.

"If I can come to LA and see [several customers] in one place, that's great," he said.

Long said trends are "all over the map," but added, "The one common current we see is texture, whether that's physical or visual or what we call color texture."

Another new development on the horizon is coarser-weight fabrics after years of finer-weight fabrications.

"They're asking, 'Can you make it in 16-, 12-, 14-[gauge],' which we haven't had in a while," he said, adding that Tuscarora has added more spinning frames in the last year to keep up with demand.

Buhler, Tuscarora, Mansfield and Studio Bert Forma were part of a group of 23 companies showing in the Lenzing Innovation Pavilion, organized by **Lenzing**, the maker **enzing Model**

of Tencel and Lenzing Modal.

Return of the Korean Pavilion

After a season away, **Global Korea Textile Week** returned to the CMC's Fashion Theater. Organized by **KOTRA** (the Korean Trade-Investment Promotion Agency), the show featured nearly 20 Korean textile resources.

For D. H. Kong, president of **A Jin Corp.** in Kyeong-Do, Korea, this was the first time showing at the Los Angeles textile show although his company already works with several West Coast apparel makers.

Kong said he met several potential customers for his company's textiles, which include lace, jacquards and prints LA Textile Show page 17

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EVENT

Fashionable Fundraising and Casino Games at Fashion Industries Guild Gala

Members of the fashion and textile industry turned out on Sept. 20 at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles to raise funds for the Fashion Industries Guild Congenital Heart Laboratory and the Hal Kaltman Fashion Industries Guild Congenital Heart Research Endowment at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

Organized by Fashion Industries Guild of Cedars-Sinai and dubbed the Black Tie or Spy Gala, the event kicked off with casino-style gaming played with Fashion Industries Guildissued play money, followed by dinner, a comedy routine by Judy Tenuta and dancing to music provided by the Citrus College Nightshift band.



Carol Sachs Goldman and Michael Goldman

The event was dedicated to Charles F. Simmons Jr., MD, the chairman of Cedars-Sinai's department of pediatrics and director of the hospital's neonatology division.

Howard Leeds, who introduced Simmons, called the doctor a part of the apparel-industry family. In ac-

TRADE SHOW REPORT

cepting the honor, Simmons said, "This organization means a tremendous amount to me and to the children in Southern California.

Chemistry and technology entrepreneur Michael Lefenfeld was the gala's honoree. Lefenfeld is the founder and chief technology officer of SiGNa Chemistry, a company that employs a chemical process Lefenfeld discovered for a variety of industries, including oil recovery, clean energy and other chemical manufacturing processes.

"I think I'm the first science nerd to be up here," Lefenfeld said, adding that "this charity has been fantastic" and pledging to continue raising funds for this year's projects.-Alison A. Nieder



Charles Simmons Jr. and Howard Leeds



Michael Lefenfeld



lise Metchek and Vera Campbell



Steve Needleman and Jessica Needleman Lewensztain

LA Textile Show Continued from previous page

in cotton and polyester.

Steve Barraza, owner and chief executive officer of Los Angeles-based Tianello, was browsing the lines in the Korean pavilion on the hunt for knits and silks. Barraza said his company buys a lot of fabric from Korean mills but added that he was at the LA textile show on the hunt for more Los Angeles resources, as well.

Growing interest in USA

Both Buhler's Sasso and Tuscarora's Long noted a growing interest from large companies in producing in the U.S. or in the Western Hemisphere.

We're getting hints of inside information about tremendous programs coming to this hemisphere," Sasso said. "What's driving that? The answer is speed—speed within reason. And they're willing to pay more-but not that much more-for it. When you start calculating it out, the real cost between East and West is not that far apart."



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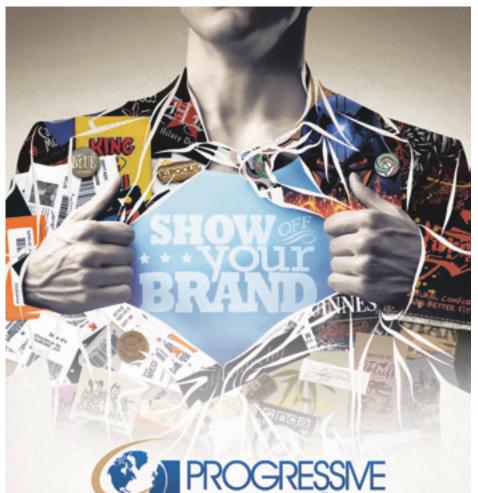
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RETAIL Q&A

Sundance

Continued from page 1

Today, in addition to the catalog, the company operates retail boutiques in Lone Tree, Colo., and Corte Madera, Calif., as well as an outlet store in Salt Lake City.

California Apparel News Executive Editor Alison A. Nieder recently caught up with Sundance Catalog Chief Executive Officer Matey Erdos to talk about the company's customers, its unique product mix and its plans for the future.

Who is the Sundance shopper?

She has great personal style that is ageless, unique and artistic. She is geographically diverse in her location and aspires to hold the Sundance lifestyle and values of independent and creative expression in her life.

How does Sundance source the product it carries?

With a very curatorial eye.

We source our products through our longstanding relationships with select designers and artisans from all over the United States and the world. At the same time, we are always looking for what is new and undiscovered.

Does the company view itself as a catalog retailer first and then an e-commerce retailer? Is there a distinction between the two?

Sundance views itself as an aspirational-lifestyle multichannel retailer across catalog. Web and retail. Each channel is as critical as the other as we market to our customer through an omni-channel customer experience. While the business launched 25 years ago as a cataloguer, our customers have evolved as a Web-savvy consumer who chooses to transact frequently on the Web and on multi devices. While the catalog is a key driver to the Web, we see the e-commerce platform as a tool for merchandising, marketing and customer service that goes beyond what the pages of the catalog can achieve.

Has it changed in recent years?

Our customers' expectations and shopping behaviors have changed, and that directly places pressure on technology and data-analytics requirements. Our customers are gravitating toward the Web at a far







Matey Erdos

The retail experience is a natural extension of the direct side of the business, bringing the Sundance brand and life-

customer loyalty.

How do the company's

faster pace than previous

years and, in particular, across devices. Developing state-of-

the-art systems and analytics,

which enable us to offer our

customers a seamless and fast

experience, is simply critical

in creating and preserving

bricks-and-mortar stores fit

into the overall business?

style to life. Retail expansion beyond our two existing full-price stores is definitely in our future plans.

Are there specific challenges to catalog retail that differ from traditional bricks-and mortar retail?

There is always the challenge of free shipping that haunts many cataloguers. While this is a real cost to the company. there are several customers that steer clear of purchasing through the direct channel.

What advantages does having three channels-catalog, email and boutiquesgive you over retailers with one or two channels?

Our brand awareness can be greatly enhanced by achieving a greater footprint in bricks and mortar, as well as enhance the catalog reach to new potential customers in that trade area. They both can work symbiotically with a targeted marketing and merchandising strategy. Three channels also enable us to support a greater omni-channel experience.

Many California brands sell to Sundance with success. What advice do you have to apparel and accessories designers looking to sell to Sundance?

Keep it special, unexpected and of great quality.

FCI Hosts Fall '14 Student Collections

Fashion Careers International, the downtown Los Angeles design school that specializes in shortterm training, hosted Fashion Tribes, a runway event



featuring the Fall '14 collections of several FCI students.

Held Sept. 18 at the Church of Scientology's Celebrity Centre International in Hollywood, the show featured the work of nine designers showcasing everything

evening apparel.



Kentaro Kameyama

from sportswear and dresses to menswear, bridal and

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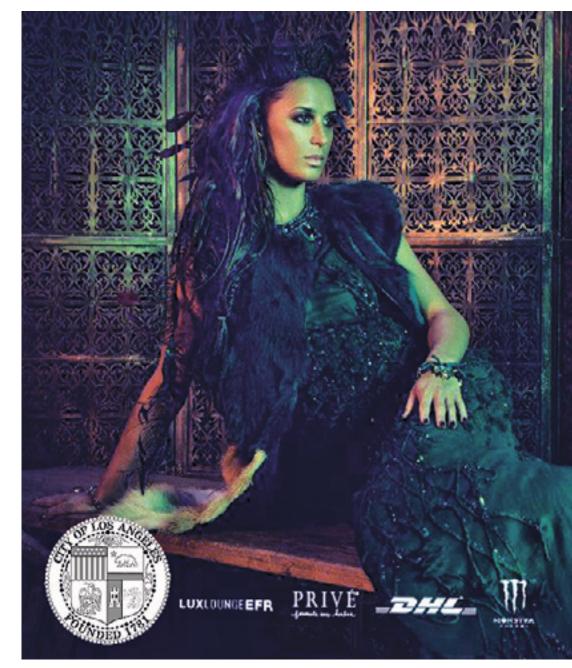
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Must have 2 yrs. Experience with website & retail store orders, problem solving, internet sales, strong retail, computer, and great verbal and written communication skills. Must have AIMS, Magento, QuickBooks and POS experience to maintain inventory, & analyze sale reports. Send resumes to: jobs@robinsjean.com or fax: 562*231*0742

SENIOR DESIGN ASSISTANT

Los Angeles-based women's apparel manufacturer is looking for an experienced team player to manage all design-through-production related projects for its major private label customer, Chico's FAS, Inc. Since this is a senior level position, candidates MUST have proven experience working on product development and production for Chico's. To apply, send resume and salary history to jobs@xcvi.com

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TECHNICAL DESIGNER

Must have at least 2 yrs. experience in creating intital tech packs, emphasis on flat sketches, proto specs & construction details. Assist in fittings, ability to communicate comments/changes in a timely manner. Create technical illustrator sketches where needed. Assist in developing newlines. Excellent attention to detail. Strong organizational and time management skills required to keep up in a fast paced environment.

Email resume along with salary requirement to: rosemary@sanctuaryclothing.com

SENIOR SALES EXECUTIVES -Junior & Kids Division

LA-based Jr Dress Manufacturer is seeking 2 dynamic Sales Executives to join their sales team. This is a great opportunity for performance-driven individuals who have strong backgrounds working with specialty chains and major department stores. Business savvy; and strong knowledge of current juniors trends.

Proven ability to drive business

- Both analytical and creative, hardworking & innovative - Ability to travel frequently
- Please send your resume to: baileybluehr@gmail.com



PRODUCTION PATTERNMAKER

Min 5 yrs hi end garment constrn exp. req. Must possess exclnt draping/tailoring skills, knwledge workg w/ delicate fabrics (chiffon/gazar etc) & be able to create/edit patterns by hand in Gerber. Must have basic understandg of grading. Email resume/salary histry to hectorg@moniquelhuillier.com





CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE Growing US Manufacturer of Premium Knitwear garments seeks experienced Customer Service Rep for wholesale business. Min of 3 years experience in either wholesale or retail sales or customer service. Good computer skills and communication a must. Please send resumes to USBlanks@gmail.com

BELLA DAHL ASSOCIATE CONTEMPORARY BOTTOMS DESIGNER

2+YRS EXP IN DENIM & GARMENT DYE CAD/Graphics, linesheets, lookbooks, sample maintenance, Photoshop & illustrator a must organized & detailed. E-Mail: hr@belladahl.com

To place a Classified Ad Call Jeffery 213-627-3737 Ext. 280 or jeffery@apparelnews.net

Jobs Available

Credit Person

Minimum 3 to 5 years experience in the garment industry, must be knowledgeable in all phases of credit processing. Excellent ability in dealing with factors and company customer. Must be organized, flexible, hardworking with good communication skills.

Customer Service

Major Women's Clothing Company is seeking for an individual with minimum 5 years experience in the garment industry. Duties include: strong follow up ability with customer, process credit card payments, filing, must be able to handle to multi-task in a fast paced environment. Email resume to ROSE@bboston.com

Sales Representative

Import company looking for sales representatives for our Junior woven lines. In house and free lancer are both welcome. Minimum 3-5 years junior line import sales experience. Having existing customers/accounts are prefered. Email: steven@hncapparel.com

BELLA DAHL E COMMERCE MANAGER

5+ yrs exp. Online sales, cust srv, order & inventory maintaince, shipping follow-ups, maintain website Contact: hr@belladahl.com

Dress Designer

Commerce based manufacturer looking for an experienced Dress Designer in wovens & knits. Salary commensurate with experience. Pls send your resume to: samilee@nycalinc.com

PIECE GOODS ASSISTANT

Three Dots seeks a candidate whose primary duties are to: maintain Company's fabric inventory, fill fabric requests, ensure fabric is free from damages or errors & perform fabric shrink tests. Must have exp. with knit fabrics, Excel & AIMS.

APPLY: resumes@threedots.net or 714-698-1365

JUNIORS PRINT ARTIST POSITION. Wholesale Fabric Co. Translate trends original designs, repeat patterns, color ways. Variety of techniques, repeats, color matching. Verbally articulated concepts & represent it visually. Manage multiple on-going projects & setting priorities Submit a Portfolio & resume: apply@elegantextiles.com

ASSOCIATE TECHNICAL DESIGNER: -5 yrs exp. in swim/knit, knowledge in grading. Basic patternmaking. Computer sketch/illustrations a must -must be team player, highly organized & detail oriented

PRE-PRODUCTION ASSISTANT -Entry level. Send resume to: info@rwdesignsinc.com

Jobs Available

Design Assistant

Seeking design assistant for contemporary women's clothing. Strong photoshop, illustrator, in design, & social media skills required. Please send Resume with Salary History to :

hrjobshp@gmail.com

Office Assistant Needed

Must be organized, experience in a professional small business environment, attention to detail, ability to multitask, reliable transportation, able to lift boxes, organized. Part time to start, flexible schedule, no fashion experience required. Email resume to info@JacobHolston.com

SALES ASSISTANT

Well established L.A. based missy apparel manufacturer seeks detailed andf motivated persons to work with Western Regional Sales Manager: Sales Assistant - min. 1 year experience Fax or email resume & salary history to: 323-277-3227, Attn. Kris or email to: hrapparel@gmail.com

Sales Representative

Domestic & Import Company looking for sales reps for our Junior, Kids, and Missy lines. We specialize in Top, Dress, Bottoms, and Lingerie. Candidates must have 3-5 years of experience with current/established relationships preferred. Send resumes to longrusewing@gmail.com.

Spec Tech

Responsible for spec'ing and approving preproduction samples and TOP's, and releasing patterns. Must be a team player and have excellent verbal/written communication skills. Please submit resumes to resume@trixxi.net.

Junior Fashion Designer

Domestic production manufacturer seeking for a full time Junior Fashion Designer with minimum 5 years experience. Must have a good eye for trends, have established relationship with fabrics/trims companies and good attitude to work closely with sales team. Please contact Lillian@rollacosterinc.com

Sales Rep

L.A. based Womens Contemporary Brand is seeking an experienced independent sales rep with current customer relationships at established accounts. Attractive commissions available. Email: Nikahale@mac.com

Accounts Receivable / Customer Service

Contemporary manufacturer has a position available for Accounts Receivables / Customer Service. Duties include: Chargebacks and disputes, return authorizations, credit memos, submit Factor orders and invoices, reconcile customer accounts Email: apply@lagarmentindustry.com

Jobs Available

Sales Rep - Kids

Seasoned L.A.-based rep with a track record of success in Girls 7-16 dresses. Experience with Burlington, Marmax, Justice, Kohl's, Macy's, Belk, and Dillard's. Please submit resumes to resume@trixxi.net.

Jobs Wanted

35 yrs Exp'd 1st/Prod. Patterns/Grading/Marking and Specs. 12 yrs on Pad System. In house/pt/freelance Fast/Reliable ALL AREAS Ph. (626)792-4022

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- throughout the San Fernando Valley. * Retail and office space also available just
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 - 213-626-5321 or email info@anjac.net

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Unique single story Building - Great for Apparel Showroom, or Design Studio. Updated with hardwood floors, Natural Light,sec.system, high speed internet ready, cent air. Agent-Melinda(818)389-6823 melinda@myvalleyhomes.com

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