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FASHION IN NEW YORK: PAST AND PRESENT

In a bit more than a century and a half, New York has become one of the world's fashion capitals, rivalling cities as prestigious and steeped in history as London, Milan, and Paris. New York nowadays is the trendsetting city par excellence, with its own distinctive style, combining elegance and modernity with practicality and comfort.

If American fashion had to be given a birth year, 1850 would be a reasonable choice, when Isaac Merritt Singer (1811–1875) developed the first straight-stitch sewing machine, called Standard 1. While Singer's company was founded in Boston, he promptly relocated his operations to New York in 1853, whence Singer's sewing machines would conquer households around the globe in two decades. They would also transform the fate of many Central and Eastern European Jews, who fled poverty and discrimination in their home countries and set up in America throughout the 19th century. Among these fresh immigrants, skilled workers with knowledge of clothing manufacture constituted a sizable group. In fact, it is estimated that by 1890, more than 70% of New York's clothing factories were owned by German Jews. By the turn of the century, around 75% of the city's garment-industry workforce was Jewish.

NEW YORK CITY ON THE CATWALK



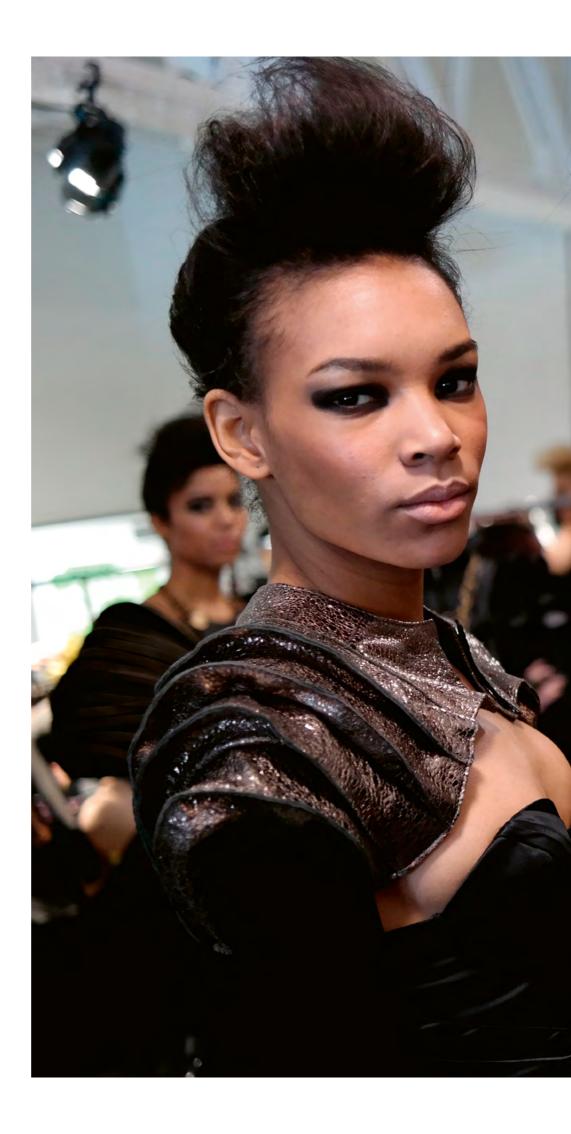
















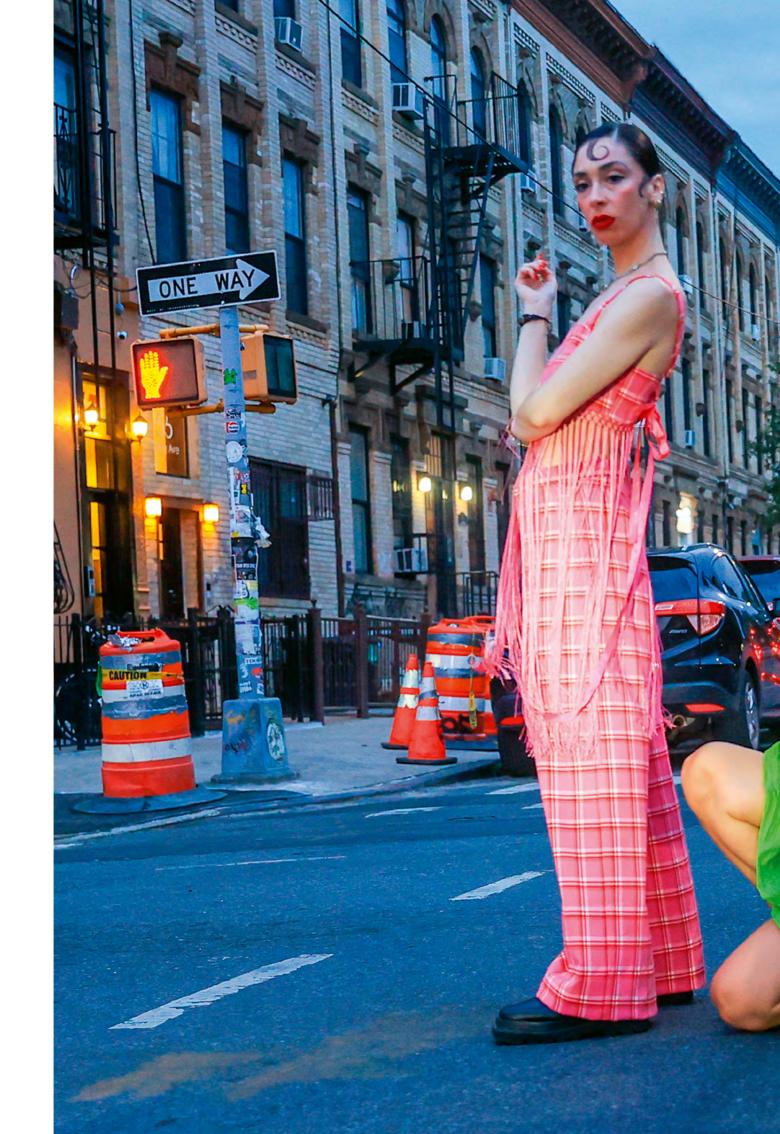














"NeW YORK is truly the fashion capital of the world. There is a new look around every corner, down every block."

MICHAEL KORS

Experience America's fashion capital, a city that influences the world. Be inspired by the sharpest outfits, discover all things urban-chic, and sit front-row at the coolest of catwalk shows. Stroll through the streets that never sleep, among the brownstones and towering skyscrapers. All without leaving your own home.





