

Watch Your Step

“Dressing Through the Decades” Fashion Show, 1910-1960s

\$800 Grant from the Alex “Tink” Wilson Legacy Fund - April 2017

On October 22, 2017, at the Avalon Ballroom, **Watch Your Step** (WYS) and friends put on a successful event! We had 50 reservations for the show, with an actual attendance of approximately 70 people.

People involved in making this work included:

- 18 models, 6 of whom are not WYS members
- 4 volunteer dressers, 2 WYS members as dressers
- 1 volunteer doorman
- 4 WYS members on support – audio, tech, set-up and take-down
- 6 on food & decor– 1 paid, 2 from WYS, 3 volunteers. Homemade cookies were prepared and donated by 5 people.



Kitchen volunteers who created the food and settings, and Ingvar, who assisted as doorman



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Models dancing in to show period clothing with music of the era.

The show was advertised to: Jim Borzym’s email list, Susie’s email list, Wednesday, Waltz, Etc., the monthly Tea Dance, Swing Dance Saturdays, Grey Wolves, two Boulder retirement communities, local vintage clothing stores, and social media – the Avalon group site, FB and the **Watch Your Step** page, and through our members’ efforts. Three women brought clothing to sell in the lobby and one brought a table of jewelry.

Doors opened at 1:30PM, and open dancing followed, as people helped themselves to tea and goodies, and found seats. The show itself lasted 1 hour and 10 minutes, and in addition to garments, it included dance segments for each decade. After the show, people mixed

about and danced. We closed the hall at 4PM, and had all cleanup of ballroom, North Lobby, and kitchen complete within ½ hour.

--Report from Susan Reisser

Following are some comments from attendees:

EXCELLENT JOB EVERYONE!!!! This was a delightful event! There were so many memorable events and impressions...but I'd



Some of the models, ready to go

have to say my favorite was Mo with her jello, blowing the hair out of her face! Ah! The mundane! But the whole presentation was very well executed and it all looked so beautiful - every detail! Congratulations to your team!

-- Karen Nelson

The Vintage Fashion Show at the Avalon Ballroom was a remarkable and fine performance. Short of a museum, no ordinary mortals could put on such a fabulous display. The script and elucidator were fantastic. The use of the space - the stage and floor - were terrific. The bits of dance shown at the onset of each decade of fashion was so harmonious with the Avalon setting. The costumes were terrific, as were all the models. I learned a few new words to add to my vocabulary about dress!



Lined up on the ramp for the show

I was glad to see that the group incorporated several people who are not part of their inner performance circle, and I know that these 'extras' enjoyed their experiences. I could see that the audience contained dancers from several community dance groups, but I think a majority were people from beyond our usual crowd. The ballroom was welcoming, with good lighting plus natural daylight to give the fabric colors good rendition. Snacks and hot beverages were welcome. The sociable dancing at beginning and end were quite sweet. I could see a lot of people having happy discussion during the final hour, and folks meeting new folks.



Some of our attendees with models

I suggested to the organizers that they produce this show again in a Denver venue, to reach a potentially wider audience. This was a novel and delightful performance and I would enthusiastically support further presentations. I was asked during the planning of this show of the size of audience that I would expect, and it was exceeded by 40%! I have already sent my congratulatory remarks to the organizers but I will repeat the core word here –Bravo!

-- Jim Borzým
American Vernacular Dance