

James Ferreira's love for India and 'Khadi'

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Collection, fabric and colour palette: The garments were a blend of traditional and contemporary styles quite evidently. The show began with models entering the ramp in basic grey saree made of soft Khadi, with glittery sequined borders and Pita embellishments on the 'pallu'. Soon came in the boat-neck silk kurtis with asymmetrical hemlines paired with modern churidars and dhoti-style pants, and jodhpurs turned into jumpsuits.

We did not mind the transition from traditional drapes to more Western silhouettes such as short 'dhoti' skirts with silk blouses, knee-length Khadi kaftans bearing shimmer from the sequins, easy slip-on short dresses and pleated skirts. All of these were a brilliant fusion of the two fabrics - Khadi and silk.

A one-of-a-kind showstopper garment not just reverberated but etched the concoction of two cultures in the minds of the audience with the model dressed as a hybrid bride. On one hand she wore an embroidered georgette saree in fresh summer shade of greyish white and on the other covered her head and face with a veil that extended as a train of a Christian bride.

Accessories: The models strutted in gold stilettos and sported small sling bags with gold straps and netted sequined stoles. They also wore the 'neta' cap, the former 'Nehru topi', which in today's day is fondly called the 'Anna topi'.

By the end of the show, patriotic sentiments had been jabbed in thoroughly. James reiterated his sentiments post the show by saying, "Khadi is the most beautiful fabric in India and I wanted to bring it back. I simply printed chiffon and georgette with it to give it a new life."

Rating: 6.5/10