



Dayton's Downtown Minneapolis department store event files

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AN EVENING OF FASHION AND ART

DAYTON'S OVAL ROOM™ AND

THE FRIENDS OF THE INSTITUTE FASHION BENEFIT FOR THE MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ARTS.

FEATURING THE BILL BLASS COLLECTION AND A PERSONAL APPEARANCE BY BILL BLASS.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, AT THE MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ARTS,
2400 THIRD AVENUE SOUTH, MINNEAPOLIS.

VALET PARKING FOR \$4.00

6:00 P.M. RECEPTION, CASH BAR IN SCULPTURE COURT

7:00 P.M. FASHION SHOW IN PILLSBURY AUDITORIUM

7:45 P.M. DINNER IN THE GALLERIES

TICKETS \$65 PER PERSON (\$40 TAX DEDUCTIBLE)

ADMIT ONE

TABLE _____

FASHION AND ART

DAYTON'S OVAL ROOM™ AND THE FRIENDS OF THE INSTITUTE INVITE YOU TO
AN EVENING OF FASHION AND ART
TO BENEFIT EDUCATION PROGRAMS PROVIDED BY THE MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ARTS,
FEATURING A SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY BILL BLASS AND HIS FALL COLLECTION.

FASHION AND ART

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, AT
THE MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ARTS, 2400 THIRD AVENUE SOUTH, MINNEAPOLIS.

GENERAL TICKETS: \$65 PER PERSON (\$40 TAX DEDUCTIBLE)
BENEFACTOR TICKETS: \$125 PER PERSON (\$90 TAX DEDUCTIBLE)

5:30 P.M. BENEFACTORS' RECEPTION AND TOUR
6:00 P.M. GENERAL RECEPTION
7:00 P.M. FASHION SHOW IN PILLSBURY AUDITORIUM
7:45 P.M. DINNER IN THE GALLERIES
(TABLES SEAT 8)

PLEASE CALL 375-3300 TO RESERVE YOUR TICKET
(MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, BETWEEN 9 A.M. AND 5 P.M.).
RESERVATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13.
TICKETS MAY BE CHARGED TO YOUR DAYTON'S OR VISA® ACCOUNT.

FASHION AND ART

THE FRIENDS OF THE INSTITUTE INVITE YOU TO BE A SIGNIFICANT
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BENEFACTOR TICKET PRICE IS \$125 PER PERSON AND INCLUDES A
CHAMPAGNE AND HORS D'OEUVRES RECEPTION AT 5:30 P.M.,
FOLLOWED BY A SPECIAL TOUR PRESENTATION FEATURING FABRIC,
FASHION, TAPESTRIES AND PAINTINGS LED BY LOTUS STACK,
CURATORIAL CHAIR, MIA, AT 6:00 P.M.,
VALET PARKING AND PREFERRED SEATING.



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Lesley Ackenberg

Cynthia Courtney

Timothy Fleming

Kathryn Glessing

Billie Jean Kammerer

Nancy Lindahl

Patricia Longtin

Scott Moses

Marilyn Stillman

Steven Ward

Sue Zelickson

Carol Burton, Friends' President

DAYTON'S

DAYTON'S AND THE FRIENDS OF THE INSTITUTE
PRESENT AN EVENING OF FASHION AND ART
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1996

FASHION AND ART

DAYTON'S IS PLEASED TO PRESENT
FALL 1996
BILL BLOSS USA
AND
BILL BLOSS CULTURE

THE BILL BLOSS STORY

BILL BLOSS LEFT HIS HOMETOWN OF FORT WAYNE, INDIANA AS A YOUTHFUL 17-YEAR-OLD TO ENTER THE WORLD OF FASHION IN NEW YORK. HIS TALENT APPARENT EVEN THEN, HE QUICKLY LANDED A JOB AS A SKETCHER, FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER AS A FLEDGLING DESIGNER. THEN THE BOMBS FELL. BLOSS SERVED 3½ YEARS IN THE U.S. ARMY ARMORED CORPS IN EUROPE DURING WORLD WAR II. LATER, RETURNING TO DESIGNING MUST HAVE SEEMED SOMEWHAT SURREAL. HOWEVER, HE EXCELLED...FIRST WORKING FOR OTHERS, THEN AS OWNER OF HIS OWN COMPANY, BILL BLOSS, LTD.

BILL BLOSS HAS WON NUMEROUS AWARDS FROM THE FASHION INDUSTRY, RETAILING, PUBLISHING, THE CITY OF NEW YORK AND TWO HONORARY DOCTORATE DEGREES, ONE FROM THE RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN AND ANOTHER, INDIANA UNIVERSITY'S DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS. THESE AND OTHERS RECOGNIZE HIS DECEPTIVELY SIMPLE, ALWAYS EXQUISITELY PROPORTIONED CREATIONS, AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO HUMANITY ITSELF.

WE ARE PROUD TO WELCOME BILL BLOSS TO MINNEAPOLIS, DAYTON'S AND THE MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ARTS.

THE EVENING

5:30 P.M.

BENEFACTORS' RECEPTION AND TOUR

6:00 P.M.

RECEPTION, CASH BAR, SCULPTURE COURT

7:00 P.M.

FASHION SHOW IN PILLSBURY AUDITORIUM

7:45 P.M.

DINNER IN THE GALLERIES

THE EXHIBITS
OF THE
BANK OF AMERICA AND TRUST
COMPANY
OF NEW YORK
AND THE
FARMERS' TRUST COMPANY
OF NEW YORK
AND THE
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AND THE
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Patricia Longtin

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Steven Ward

Sue Zelickson

Carol Burton, Friends' President

DAYTON'S

DAYTON'S IS PLEASED TO PRESENT
FALL 1996
BILL BLASS USA
AND
BILL BLASS COUTURE

MR. BLASS WILL MAKE A PERSONAL APPEARANCE
IN THE MINNEAPOLIS OVAL ROOM,
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
FROM 12:00 NOON-1:00 P.M.
INFORMAL MODELING OF HIS FASHIONS
WILL TAKE PLACE FROM 11:30 A.M.-1:30 P.M.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

HAIR AND MAKEUP PROVIDED BY THE ELIZABETH ARDEN SALON
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(CASH OR CHECK).

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NANCY & MARK WILSON
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*AS OF PRINTING DATE

BILL BLASS, LTD.

BIOGRAPHY

Bill Blass, born June 22, 1922 in Fort Wayne, Indiana, came to New York at 17 to work in fashion, first as a sketcher and then as a fledgling designer. World War II intervened and he spent 3 1/2 years in the U.S. Army armored corps in the European campaigns.

On returning home, he resumed his career in fashion as staff designer for Anna Miller and later for the prominent Seventh Avenue firm of Maurice Rentner, a post so successful that his was one of the first American designer names to appear on a label. When Maurice Rentner retired in 1979, Bill Blass became owner of the company, renamed Bill Blass, Ltd. As one of the most widely acclaimed American fashion designers today, with two collections, Bill Blass Couture and Bill Blass U.S.A., Blass also licenses his designs and name to forty-one domestic and fifty-six worldwide licensees, creating collections of menswear, women's sportswear, dresses, swimwear, coats, activewear, jeans, loungewear, accessories, home furnishings, hosiery, jewelry and fragrance.

Bill Blass has won numerous awards: The Coty American Fashion Critics' Award (1961, 1963 & 1970), the first Coty Award for Menswear (1968), Coty Hall of Fame (1971) and Coty Hall of Fame citations for continuing achievement (1982 & 1983). He received the "New Yorker for New York" Award (1984) from the Citizen's Committee for New York City. His many other awards include the Neiman-Marcus, Martha, and I. Magnin awards, the Gentlemen's Quarterly "Manstyle" Award and the Cutty Sark Hall of Fame Award for menswear design. Bill Blass holds two Honorary Doctorate degrees: the Rhode Island School of Design (1977) and Indiana University's Doctor of Humane Letters (1984).

Blass was one of the founders of the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA), the society's honorary President from 1979 to 1981 and currently a member of both its Executive Committee and Board of Directors. In 1987, the CFDA gave Blass its Lifetime Achievement Award and in February 1996, he will receive the CFDA Dom Pérignon Award for Humanitarian Leadership Beyond Fashion.

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan appointed Blass to the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities. Since 1986, he has served on the Board of Trustees of the New York Public Library and in January 1994, the BILL BLASS PUBLIC READING ROOM was dedicated to commemorate Mr. Blass' \$10,000,000 endowment to the library.

BILL BLASS, LTD.

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Among the world's best known clients of Bill Blass are: Mrs. Walter Annenberg, Mrs. Vincent Astor, Mme. Rosamond Bernier, Mrs. William F. Buckley, Jr., Mrs. Carter Burden, Mrs. George Bush, Ms. Claudia Cohen, Mrs. Marvin Davis, Mrs. Brooke Douglass Ocampo, H.R.H. Princess Firyal of Jordan, Sra. Paulo-Tarso Flecha de Lima, Mrs. Katharine Graham, Mrs. Nina Griscom Baker, Mrs. Henry Grunwald, Mrs. Mark Hampton, Ambassador Pamela Harriman, Mrs. Randolph Hearst, Ms. Kim Hersov, Ms. Angelica Huston, Mrs. Deane Johnson, Mrs. Henry Kissinger, Ms. Mary Tyler Moore, Mrs. Emil Mosbacher, Ms. Jessye Norman, Mrs. Charles Price III, Mrs. Chessy Rayner, Mrs. Ronald Reagan, Mrs. Abraham Ribicoff, Ms. Carolyne Roehm, Mrs. Patty Hearst Shaw, Ms. Liz Tilberis, Ms. Cosima Von Bulow, Ms. Barbara Walters, Mrs. John Whitehead, Ms. Oprah Winfrey, Ms. Anna Wintour, and Mrs. Oscar Wyatt.

* * * * *

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**DAYTON'S FALL FASHION SHOW TO FEATURE
DESIGNER BILL BLASS**

Dayton's, in partnership with the Friends of the Institute, will present Dayton's Fall Fashion Show featuring designer Bill Blass at The Minneapolis Institute of Arts on Wednesday, September 25, in the Pillsbury auditorium. Blass over his long career has received his industry's highest honors for his design talent and humanitarian leadership. Blass characterizes his Bill Blass USA fall 1996 collection as "a showing of clothes not to shock or even dazzle, but to be worn with pleasure and assurance. Classic clothes for now and evermore."

The evening will begin with a benefactor reception and general ticket reception. Dayton's will present Bill Blass' fall collection in the Pillsbury auditorium at 7:00 p.m. Following the fashion show, dinner will be served in the galleries. Proceeds from the fashion show and dinner will benefit the Friends of the Institute, which provides support for the museum's programs such as school tours, weekend family events and teaching exhibitions.

Tickets will be available August 20 by calling 375-3300 between 9:30 and 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday. Benefactor tickets are \$125 and include a private reception beginning at 5:30 p.m. and a special tour of selected works of art. General tickets are \$65 and include the reception beginning at 6:00 p.m. All tickets include dinner.

###

Judy

Heads up

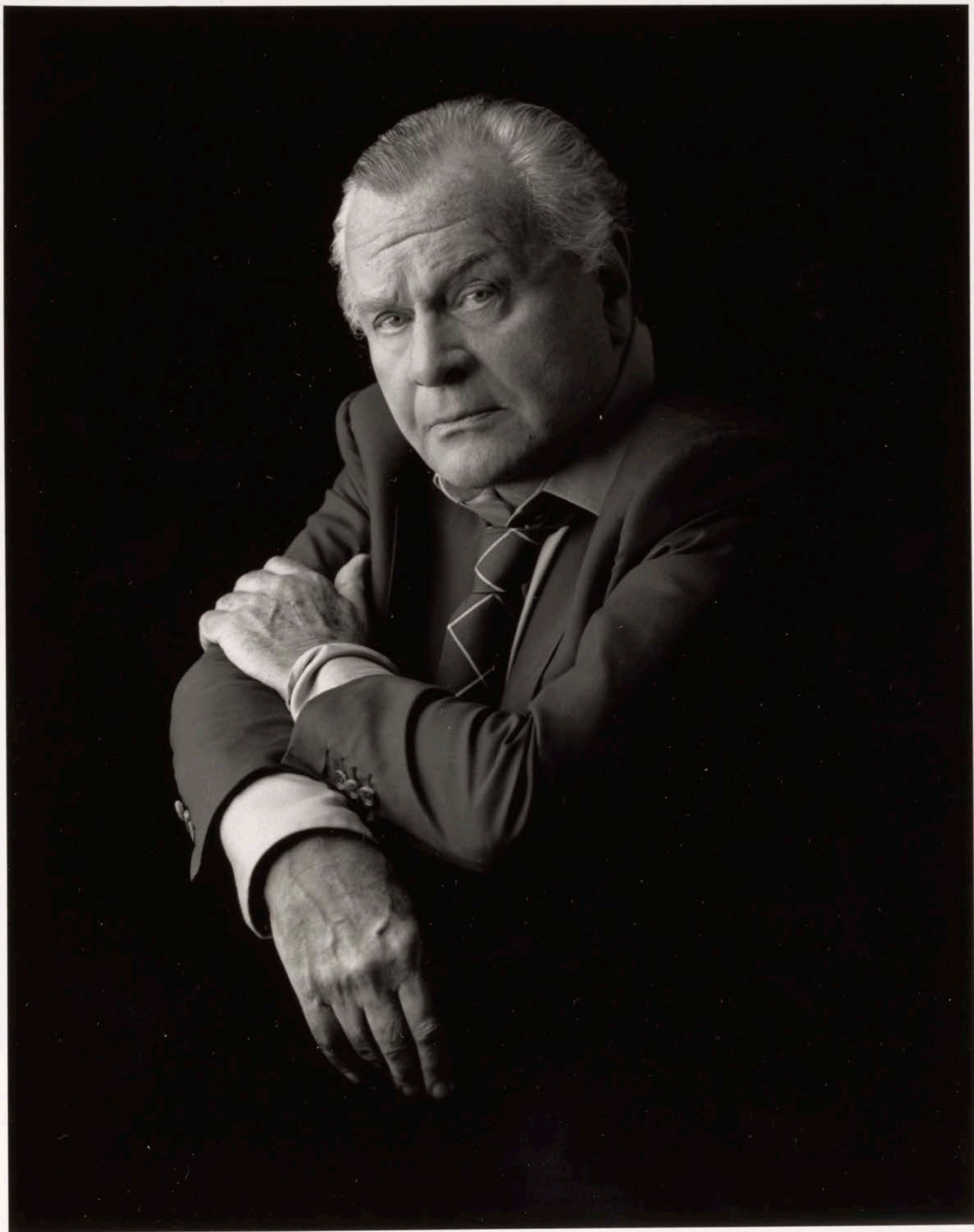
Bill Blass Blast

This year Bill Blass will be bestowed with a bouquet of roses at the close of Dayton's gala fall fashion show benefit at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts Sept. 25. The 73-year-old designer, known for the wearability of his collections, has received a multitude of awards for his design talent over his long career including being inducted into the Coty Hall of Fame in 1971 and the Lifetime Achievement Award and Humanitarian Leadership Award from the Council of Fashion Designers of America.

His fall Bill Blass USA line of classic American sportswear — wool peacoats, turtlenecks, trousers and jackets in blanket plaids, houndstooths, checks and timeless color combinations — will be modeled on the Pillsbury Auditorium stage along with other Dayton's designer collections.

- **What:** Dayton's Fall Fashion Show and benefit for the Friends of the Institute.
- **When:** 7 p.m. Sept. 25. Dinner follows the show.
- **Where:** Pillsbury Auditorium, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, 2400 3rd Av. S.
- **Admission:** Benefactor tickets \$125 include a private reception at 5:30 p.m.; other tickets \$65 with a 6 p.m. reception.
- **Call:** 375-3300.

— *Lynn Underwood*



OF THE MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ARTS
AND BENEVOLENCE. BY TRACY BAUMANN

Blass



ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATIONS BY BILL BLASS FOR TODAY SPECIAL EDITION

Foremost on this year's agenda is Blass's personal appearance. As he mingles and circulates, guests will have an opportunity to chat with this fashion icon who listens carefully to his customers' fashion interests.

Born in 1922, Blass began sketching for New York's Seventh Avenue manufacturers while still in high school. After a stint in WWII, he returned to New York's fashion scene and has never left. His name was one of the first American names to appear on a label. Today, he has two collections, Bill Blass Couture and Bill Blass USA. Products

ranging from home furnishings to fragrance — even cars and chocolate — have sported his signature back-to-back Bs.

Blass's devoted coterie of fans includes first ladies, ambassadors, socialites, and Hollywood stars. His success at unerringly creating clothes that his customers want has made him a permanent fixture in the fickle world of high fashion.

The Oval Room show is symbolic of Dayton's commitment to the community and the arts. Over the years, show proceeds have supported a variety of educational pro-

Masterpiece Collection

Top designers who have graced the Oval Room Fashion Shows:

NETTIE ROSENSTEIN, 1950 & 1953
MR. JOHN, 1954
JAMES GALANOS, 1960
PAULINE TRIGERS, 1961
NORELL, 1962
BEN ZUCKERMAN, 1963
BILL BLASS, 1964, 1972, 1979, & 1996
RUDY GERNREICH, 1965
EMILIO PUCCI, 1966
GEOFFREY BEENE, 1968
OSCAR DE LA RENTA, 1969
DONALD BROOKS, 1970
CHESTER WEINBERG, 1971
ANNE KLEIN, 1973
HALSTON, 1974
RALPH LAUREN, 1975
GEOFFREY BEENE, 1976
CALVIN KLEIN, 1977
ANNE KLEIN, 1980
DONNA KARAN, 1980
LOUIS DELL'OLIO, 1980
ALBERT NIPON, 1982
YSL COLLECTION, 1983
GEOFFREY BEENE, 1989
WORKERS FOR FREEDOM—RICHARD NOTT &
GRAHAM FRASER, 1990
MARY MCFADDEN, 1991
LINDA ALLARD, 1993
DANA BUCHMAN, 1994
MICHAEL KORS, 1995

grams sponsored by the Friends of the Institute. The institute's docent program, speakers bureau, and educational exhibits such as *Minnesota 1900* and the 1995 Avedon photography show have been partially underwritten with money from these fundraisers. Dayton's-supported Friends programs yield approximately fifty thousand dollars annually for the institute.

Come September 25, when the lights go down and the music swells, Bill Blass will bring his own timeless artistry to an institution with a history of honoring those who create masterpieces. For more information on this year's benefit Oval Room fashion show, call 375-3300.

Tracy Baumann is assistant editor of Today Special Edition.

FASHION REPORT

Bill Blass says fashion losing allure in public eye



**GEORGANN
KOELLN**
COLUMNIST

Bill Blass has seen all, won all and done just about all a fashion designer can do, from helping establish the industry's most prestigious professional society, the Council of Fashion Designers of America, to endowing the New York Public Library with \$10 million. He's worked in fashion in New York since he arrived there at age 17 in 1939, and the industry acknowledges him as one of its best.

On Wednesday, Blass is Dayton's featured guest designer at the annual Friends of the Institute fall fund raiser for the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. The show's a sellout. No surprise.

Anticipating his appearance here, I talked to Blass the week before his fall runway show for the international fashion press in March. Some highlights:

Q: Do you think society is going to hell?

A: Let's be honest. One looks at the Academy Awards. There are no distinguished films. I've always felt fashion reflects politics and this is a particularly dim moment in that area. It all says something about our time.

Q: It seems people aren't really interested in fashion any more.

A: I don't think they are. I had lunch the other day with (socialite) Nan Kempner who is, in my lifetime, the definitive clothes horse. She goes to Paris twice a year and buys 10 or 20 things each time. She said to me: I went to Paris but I don't care about fashion any more.

I asked, "What do you care about?" She says, "My grandchildren. And I'm not coming to your show. I'll be in Nassau."

Q: Talk about our culture, about fashion being in such trouble.

A: I believe there is a quiet revolution going on. I don't think it has to do with age or economics. I don't think there are enough clothes out there to make a woman want to buy.

Q: It's not for lack of volume. What are you saying?

A: It's a mystery to me.

Q: What do you know for sure?

A: People will always need clothes.

Double feature

Even the admission fees, \$2 each, are a bargain considering the magnitude of the events taking place this weekend at the

Bill Blass has seen all, won all and done just about all a fashion designer can do, from helping establish the industry's most prestigious



Blass will make a public appearance from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday in Dayton's Minneapolis Oval Room, third floor. His clothes will be modeled informally from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Mark your calendar

The "Collection Rouge" traveling fashion show of designs by about 15 high profile designers begins at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at Morton's of Chicago Steakhouse in Gaviidae Common, Minneapolis. The show features each designer's interpretation of a well-known female historical or fictional character including Clara Bow and Billie Holiday and is coordinated by Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS, the organization benefiting from event proceeds. Local celebs will model, including Mayor Coleman's wife, Laurie. Sponsor is The Martini Club, a group of business, legal, financial

Aw, shucks

St. Paul's finalists struck out in the Just For Men Haircolor contest held last week in New York. Some gray-haired guy from Hillsborough, N.C. won the \$10,000 prize for his favorite charity and tickets to the World Series.

"I've always felt fashion reflects politics and this is a particularly dim moment in that area. It all says something about our time."

BILL BLASS
FASHION DESIGNER

and advertising professionals. Tickets are \$75 for cocktail reception and show; \$150 for dinner and show. Call Ticket Works at 870-1099 for tickets and more information.

A Lane Davis trunk show introduces a new Beverly Hills women's designer on Thursday, Friday and Saturday at Cedrics in Galleria, Edina.

Designer Ginny Donovan appears with her fall line called Donovan's Custom Knits, Inc.: boiled wool sweaters, vests and jackets for immediate purchase or special order, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday in Nordstrom, Mall of America, Studio 121 on two.

Jacqueline Murray, image consultant, presents her views on women's "Third Age," the fifties and beyond, at 8:30 a.m. Saturday in Nordstrom, on two. The presentation includes breakfast and a fashion seminar with apparel from the Town Square department. Cost is \$10. For reservations call 883-2121, extension 1690, by Wednesday.

Rita Farro, author of "Life Is Not A Dress Size," conducts two self-image seminars Saturday at Laube's Stretch & Sew, 521 W. 98th St., Bloomington: 10 a.m. to noon she talks about her book; 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. "Color Blocking or Liposuction." Tickets are \$15 for each class. Call 884-7321 for reservations.

Jewels of Thailand will be displayed throughout the week in Sears Rice Street and Maplewood Mall stores in their fine jewelry departments.

Georgann Koelln's fashion column runs Sundays in Express.

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Later, in En
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Wednesday
SEPTEMBER 25, 1996

Variety

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SECTION

TODAY'S QUOTE

► "Books are the carriers of civilization. Without books, history is silent, literature dumb, science crippled, thought and speculation at a standstill." — *Barbara Tuchman*

StarTribune

Bill Blass in town

Designer Bill Blass and his fall ready-to-wear and couture lines will be in the spotlight tonight at Dayton's Fall Fashion benefit at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. If you don't hold a ticket for the sold-out dinner show, you can stop by Dayton's Oval Room at noon Thursday, where Blass will answer questions at an informal style show.

For this year's Friends of the Institute benefit, Dayton's has devoted the entire production to simply classic Blass — wool trousers, turtle-necks, maxi-coats, wool crepe suits, skirts and jackets — from Bill Blass USA

and eveningwear from the couture collection.

- **What:** Dayton's Fall Fashion Show and benefit for Friends of the Institute. Blass also will be at Dayton's Oval Room at noon Thursday for an informal style show.
- **When:** 7 p.m. today. Dinner follows the show.
- **Where:** Pillsbury Auditorium, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, 2400 3rd Av. S.
- **Admission:** Sold out.



Designer Bill Blass at the New York premiere of his fall line. The model is wearing a black chiffon gown.

Bold, beguiling, breath-taking, and beautiful — all the B adjectives apply as American designer Bill

Blass brings his brand of high style to town on September 25 for Dayton's Oval Room Fashion Show.

Long revered as one of America's top designers, Blass makes his fourth appearance at the show, a benefit for the Friends of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

Dayton's annual haute event is an important source of funding for the Friends organization, a volunteer support arm of the institute that sponsors numerous events throughout the year to raise money for museum programs.

The Friends Show is the city's most exciting and elegant fashion event of the year. As models stride down the institute's Pillsbury Auditorium runway, guests will experience Total Blass, a once-only opportunity to view his entire fall collection. Fall '96 Blass is pure luxe — cashmere, satin, leather, lace, and velvet. Elegant models with impossibly long legs will step to the beat in short black skirts and bright orange, red, yellow, and emerald jackets. They'll sashay and swirl, showing off the classic and elegant styles that have garnered Blass a reputation as the man who understands what American women want to wear.

But just as fashions have evolved from season to season, the format of this annual high-fashion fix has grown from a ladies-only afternoon into an elegant fete set in the midst of artistic masterpieces.

This yearly parade of Oval Room designs originated in 1950 — not long after American women began to embrace the fashions of newly emerging American designers.

The first Oval Room show featured designer Nettie Rosenstein. The ladies of Minneapolis and St. Paul arrived in silk day dresses, tailored tweed suits with Peter Pan collars, smart hats, and stylish white gloves to see the season's top designs set against the dramatic backdrop of Dayton's window-

DAYTON'S ANNUAL FASHION SHOW FOR THE FRIENDS
BLENDS THE FAMOUS DOUBLE BS—BEAUTY

Total



filled Sky Room.

They later retired to the Oak Grill for a traditional afternoon tea, complete with silver tea service, dainty finger sandwiches, and petits fours. Then, as now, the show ranked among the year's most popular social events.

Dayton's has since sponsored more than forty fashion exhibitions for the institute. Some years, patrons experience a variety of Oval Room designer collections, while other shows, such as this year's Blass event, showcase the signature fall collection of one lead-

ing designer. Anne Klein, Halston, Ralph Lauren, Oscar de la Renta, and Michael Kors represent just a few of the fashion notables who have arrived in Minneapolis at Dayton's invitation.

Before this year's show begins, three hundred benefit guests will enjoy live music and cocktails in the intimate surroundings of an institute gallery. Then they'll dine among the art in the institute's rotunda, fountain court, and Jade Galleries, surrounded by priceless Chinese jade art objects and ancient tapestries.

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DAYTON'S



Mini Blum



MARGOT

BY MARGOT SIEGEL

PREMIER NEW YORK designer **Bill Blass** comment as he stood on the stage of the auditorium at the **Minneapolis Institute of**

the store and the Friends have been together for an MIA fund-raiser.

Must say that his black knit turtleneck sweaters, deeply cut out at the back, were as impressive that night as they were in New York. Everyone young enough, with a good enough back and plenty of bucks, should have one.

For spring, Blass told me he's doing a lot of evening clothes because he believes that's what women are most interested in.

P.S. During the cocktail hour, interior designer **Ron Noel** told me his son, who's an exec with Duluth-born **Robert Isabell** (the darling of the New York jet set who designs most of their soirées), was **Princess Di's** escort recently. It was at that designer fund-raiser in Washington for the

Nina Hyde Cancer Center where designer **Michael Kors** (see below) was also one of those on hand. You must know by now that they were all at the White House.

DESIGNER **MICHAEL KORS** has become sort of a fashion fixture-cum-gossip star for the ladies who breakfast at **Dayton's Oval Room** (and it ain't easy to get an invite for that event, which has Oval Room associates hustling to serve the guests). Anyhow, Michael, who jetted in Sept. 20 from London (last time it was Milan), just happened to let it drop that he was off to the White House — yes, that White House. And, let's face it, **Hillary Rodham** could use a few of his low-

key, high-fashion pant and jacket looks, especially in black and camel, his signature colors. (Actually, he was invited, along with a group of designers doing a fund-raiser in the Capitol, with **Princess Di** as a star attraction.)



Bill Blass was the featured designer at this year's **Minneapolis Institute of Arts** fashion show, presented by **Dayton's**, to benefit the **Friends of the Institute**.

Arts just before his fashion show for MIA's **Friends** on Sept. 25 was: "I'm not convinced fashion is an art, but it is a craft." Actually, what he showed was perhaps more craft than art, he having left behind some of the more spectacular pieces from his fall New York show, but he was right to do it his way. Twin Cities women like to view what they can buy and what they can wear, so everyone was happy in the sellout crowd. He told me some pieces were dropped because the fabric was used up and they were no longer available.

Vintage beaded jackets from his former collections were spread around at the MIA and in a **Dayton's** downtown window — and they were knockouts, attesting to his ability to "do" art. Even more exciting was a one-day miniretrospective of some of his timeless evening fashions on the Oval Room floor. **Dayton's**, of course, underwrote the dinner event, and Blass also appeared the next day in **Dayton's** Oval

Room to assist the ladies for whom he has long been a favorite, here as well as everywhere in the land.

Dayton's prexy, **Linda Ahlers**, sharp in a Blass orange slim suit, which also appeared in the show, noted that this is the 40th year

Among his breathless tips was that women can certainly wear heels with pants (you'll look longer and skinnier) and that his mama wears that white blouse that was totally see-through on his fall video. He didn't say if she wears it bare, but she wears it to work, so there.

As for spring, he plans on doing "makeup colors." When pressed, he allowed as how he means those light skin-tone colors. He's following through with stretch, more pants, skinny looks and wide belts (probably contoured as they are for fall).

For fall, his leathers look good, often combined with wearable cashmeres, and, yes, he's espousing brown, but he knows nearly everyone will buy black (even if those nasty *Vogue* editors don't want to admit that anyone but they should have permission to wear it).

WHAT A VIP gathering place Uptown is getting to be. First it was **Famous Dave's**, home of the blues and barbecue, and Sept. 25 it was the opening of the **Cäafe Häagen Dazs** prototype restaurant just south of the Suburban World, where once again it was all about valet parking and good eating.

Of course, you won't have crab and shrimp appetizers like the first-nighters did, but you will have a choice of fabulous ice creams, loads of fine baked goods (including bagels and scones) and terrific coffees from **Allegro**.

Everywhere you looked there was a **Pillsbury** exec (parent of **Häagen Dazs**) and plenty of nice people from **Boulder, Colo.**'s, **Allegro Coffee Co.** The 4,000-square-foot shop seats 28 and also has sidewalk seating on the side, as well as training facilities for future stores.

By the way, **HD** is the only company that sells kosher ice cream nationally.

IT WAS A volunteer first when I stopped in for a sneak preview of the **Hazelden Foundation's** first-ever big fund-raiser on Sept. 19 at **Cafe Un Deux Trois** — there were more men than women present.

The fund-raiser, called "Ride the Recovery Trail," is (surprise!) Western-themed, and will be held Oct. 31 at the downtown **Minneapolis Hilton and Towers**, with decor by the **Vee Corp.**

Funniest moment at the sneak preview, attended mostly by patrons, came when **Wheelock Whitney**, who's been a **Hazelden** booster ever since his late wife, **Irene**, successfully went through treatment years ago, stood up, leaned against the bistro bar and allowed as this was the first time he had ever said something good about **Hazelden** while

leaning on a bar. For his longtime allegiance to the cause of sobriety through treatment, **Whitney** received a marshal's badge, which he said he planned to wear while riding horseback over the weekend.

And who says guys don't care about fashion? Several of the heavy-hitters on hand sported bolos instead of ties, and **Hazelden** prexy and CEO **Jerry Spicer** went all-out, from a cowboy hat to a black and gold bolo and matching belt (bought in the Dakotas, though he's Wyoming-born).

Join plenty of local VIPs for this event, chaired by **Delores Brooks**, which features dinner, Western music and an appearance by singing star **John Raitt**. Call **Jeff Moravec** at 213-4228 for more info.

WE ALL KNOW that **Bruce** and **Ruth Dayton** have an avid interest in vintage Chinese furniture. And the **Minneapolis Institute of Arts'** curatorial chairman and curator of Asian art there, **Robert Jacobson**, and the **Daytons** have long worked together on the collection, so I was not surprised when I read in the **New York Times** Sept. 20 that **Jacobson** was a winning bidder at the big **Christies** Chinese auction sale on Sept. 19 in New York. (*Sotheby's* auction house had a sale the night before.) He paid \$453,000 for a rare horseshoe-back chair at **Sotheby's** and \$1.1 million at **Christies** for a carved 17th-century screen with a marble image depicting a craggy mountain range.

The most determined bidder and buyer at the **Christies** sale was **Walt Disney Co.** prexy, **Michael Ovitz**. Maybe **Jacobson** should woo him.

EVEN THOUGH **ANDRE SCHAEFER**, the well-known general manager of the **Minneapolis Hilton and Towers**, has retired, he still has **Minneapolis** in his heart. His parting words to anyone who would listen at his going-away party were to enlarge the **Convention Center** as planned if we want a healthy downtown. As for **Andre**, after 31 years with **Hilton**, he's moving to **Boca Raton**, but his friends are guessing he and his wife will come back to **Minneapolis**, at least for visits.

New manager of the **Hilton** is **Thomas J. Loughlin**, another **Hilton** stalwart, here from the **Logan Airport Hilton**, where he was **GM**. Welcome!

SPOOKY WORLD, **BARRY ZELICKSON'S** Halloween theme park, opens Oct. 4 with a ghoulish gala to benefit **Minnesota** food shelves, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

New attractions (this is the second year), live music and stuff. Call 445-8555 for more info on the \$14- to \$30-a-ticket event in **Shakopee**.

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