TRANSCRIPT

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EPISODE NAME: The 2011 4-H Fashion Revue

Good afternoon and thanks for joining us I'm Judy Simpson. Today on Across the Fence it's our annual 4-H fashion revue. We are going to see Vermont kids who are modeling clothing that they made themselves. Before we meet the kids I want to introduce Deb Alden. Debt is an experienced 4-H leader who's worked with a wide variety of 4-H participants and she has devoted countless hours to the success of 4-H sewing clubs. Thanks so much for being with us.

Deb.: I'm glad to be here.

Judy.: It's wonderful. Is there an increase in the interest in sewing in general?

Deb.: I would have to say yes based on the kids that I've seen. I've seen an increase in the 9 to 10 years I've been doing it and it's just wonderful.

Judy.: Any particular reason why do you think?

Deb.: I think its fun. I think the kids really enjoy seeing what they are able to create. It's a very social activity they can do with their friends; they have the opportunity to take their sewing on to the fairs and Eastern States that's always a prize.

Judy.: Let's talk about Eastern States.

Deb.: Eastern States is really fun. The kids advance from their local regional day to state day and then onto Eastern States where they are able to stay overnight for two nights. They have three days on the grounds; one for travel and two days where they work. They work in the New England Center and they are in the program on the hour every hour it's terrific.

Judy.: I also hear from the kids that it's a huge experience for them. Many of them have never been to a fair the size of Eastern States.
Deb.: Absolutely. What we have to remember is this is all of New England. People come as a travel destination to see this and they come in and fill the seats and watch the kids. The fashion revue kicks it off and it's wonderful.

Judy.: What do the kids get from that to you think?

Deb.: I think that their presentation experience is tremendous. They have to learn to present themselves to be in front of an audience, to understand what it is to work. This is a real profession people become presenters, marketers, merchandisers, it's their opportunity to see this; to do repeated performances, to hone their performances--it's quite an opportunity.

Judy.: With that background let's meet the 4-H'ers. Our first group of models features fun and casual separates. Our first model is Raven Collette. Raven is 13 years old and a member of the Benson Busy Buddies. Raven made a three-piece outfit that features denim leggings with zippers at the ankles and at the waist. The ¾ inch sleeve top has a shark bite tank top. That's beautiful. Deb tell me a little bit about the angle on that hem because that cut is tricky.

Deb.: It's incredible and if you look at the hemming that she's had to do, and think of the amount of fabric there, and she's done this tiny finger hem all the way around. It's just beautiful. I love this outfit.

Judy.: Lovely job thank you.

Deb.: Thank you Raven. Next we have 12 year old Jenna Granier. She is a member of the Benson Busy Buddies. She made a zebra print tunic that you see here with neon blue leggings that have an elastic waist. We were talking about this outfit earlier and her favorite part is how bright it is.

Judy.: Beautiful color combinations. Tell me about the fabric for the leggings?

Deb.: Those are Lycra spandex. That can be really hard to work with and if you look at how well these fit her it's remarkable. The scale involved in these outfits astounds me. It's wonderful great fun. Lovely job Jenna.

Judy.: Our next set of 4-H'ers made tops and skirts for school or special events and our first model is Merrick Mendenhall. Merrick is 13 years old and a member of the Shear Fun 4-H Club. She made a light knit shirt and a light skirt. The colors are really beautiful on that. Tell me a little bit about the skirt because it has a lot of gathering.

Deb.: I love it. It's gathered and she's done that up at the top. She actually had a challenge; didn't like how it was fitting, and she made it work. She said I know what I can do, I can take a tuck here. It's just beautiful; I love this fabric. I've never seen a fabric quite like it and I think she did a great job picking colors.
Judy.: Very very pretty. I love the boots with the belt.

Deb.: Nice job Merrick. Next up is Alexis Ouellette. Alexis is 14 years old she is a member of the Weybridge Willing Workers. As you can see she's made this colorful pleated skirt and top. I was talking to Alexis before we got on and I'm astounded by these pleats they are razor sharp; they are beautiful. Alexis tells me she did them all by herself and didn't have to have anybody in the room with her. I think I need someone in the room with me to do these.

Judy.: That's wonderful too--the top fits nicely. There some darts in that and attention to detail.

Deb.: Absolutely and look at the green pick up, we were talking about colors. These outfits are just wonderful. Nice job Alexis.

Judy.: We have another member of the Weybridge Willing Workers. This is 14 year old Sharon Palmer. Sharon made a linen blend skirt with yolks and a pullover top with a cowl neck. Which is just stunning. It falls perfectly on her neck.

Deb.: It does. I have had shirts that I've purchased that don't wear this well. Beautiful job.

Judy.: Excellent thank you so much. Next we have a series of casual dresses in cottons and knits. Our first model in this category is Haley Hammond. Haley is 12 years old and a member of the Middle Branch 4-H Club. Haley made a blue cotton pullover dress with princess seams and in-seam pockets. Tell me a little bit about what that means?

Deb.: Princess seams? I honestly don't know. Can you show us your princess seams?

Judy.: oh, OK.

Deb.: Look at that; so the in-seam pockets mean they disappear but she has pockets to put her hands in when she's nervous, or when she's spinning around. I love this color and I love the gathering around the neck. Great job. Our next model is Samantha Massey who is 13 years old and a member of the Benson Busy Buddies. She has made a light blue chambray sun dress with a halter neckline. I am a huge fan of this dress. She's laughing because I asked her right away how much she has worn it this summer. It's a perfect summer dress and I suggested it's a perfect back to school dress.

Judy.: Lovely nice neckline there I like that a lot thank you. Next is Sally Mattson. Sally Mattson is 13 years old and a member of the Shear Fun 4-H. Sally made a casual dress with a jersey top, denim skirt, and a red zipper for decoration. Sally why don't you come over here so I can ask you a couple of quick questions. Tell me a little bit about the zipper because that's very unusual.

Sally.: I saw it on the pattern and I really liked it. That took me a long time; to find the right zipper, I had to go to five different stores, online and Jo Ann's and stuff, but I really like how it turned out.
Judy.: Overall what did you learn from your sewing project?

Sally.: I learned that you should go until you find what you want because in the end that's a lot better than deciding something that might be easier.

Judy.: What are you looking forward to most at Eastern States?

Sally.: The maple sugar cotton candy.

Judy.: I think you do a lovely job obviously there's a lot going on with your outfit and you should be very proud.

Sally.: Thank you so much.

Deb.: It's adorable; I love that outfit.

Judy.: Who do we have next?

Deb.: Next we have Cheyenne Miller. Cheyenne is 11 and she is from the Middle Branch 4-H Club. She is here in a blue cotton sun dress with a flounced skirt. I love this dress--it fits her perfectly. It's beautiful, the colors are hip. When you see that kids can make these outfits that you wouldn't find in the store I love it.

Judy.: The double hem on the bottom is really beautiful.

Deb.: The double flounce is a lot of work to make it hang like this and to be this even. It's a lovely dress and again I suggested it for back to school.

Judy.: Right, and again as it works with the pattern and the fabric, too lovely.

Deb.: Beautiful job Cheyenne. Next we have Eva Paradiso. She is a 13 year old also a member of Shear Fun 4-H. Eva is in a navy semi-fancy knit dress that she had a great time making that was a little bit more difficult than she had planned. We had some frustrations here. I love it; it's one of my favorite dresses. I love how it fits and she worked and worked until it was just the way she wanted. She changed the arm holes, she changed the shoulders, everything but it just fits perfectly I love it.

Judy.: That's the lesson sometimes; that's the way it goes.
Deb.: It is, and if she made it according to the pattern, she would look a little lumpy. Who wants that? Nice job Eva.

Judy.: Lovely. Our final model in the casual dress category is Dolly Wing. Dolly is 13 years old and a member of the Benson Busy Buddies. Dolly made a sleeveless linen dress with a halter top and matching tie. Let me see if you put your arms down we can see. That's nice, and the fabric complements the pattern of the dress. OK Deb, give us a preview of our final category.

Deb.: Our Last category features a couple of senior seamstresses who have made some pretty complicated dresses. A little bit more formal with quite a great skill set. First is Sadie. I'm really proud of these girls, I've watched them and then as I said I've been involved for 9 or 10 years and when you see the level of sewing that these young ladies have gotten to, it's pretty remarkable.

Judy.: They really challenge themselves. I'm going to have Sadie come over here and we are going to ask her a couple of quick questions. Tell me a little bit about how you made this dress. There's pleading on the top and the waistband is different as well?

Sadie.: It's actually two sections, the top layer has all the gathering in it and the lining has all the boning and stuff.

Judy.: What do you like most about making your own clothes?

Sadie.: I like the creativity of it, being able to make something out of nothing.

Judy.: That's wonderful thank you so much.

Deb.: That's a beautiful dress Sadie.

Judy.: Deb I think you know our next model.

Deb.: I do indeed and I'm very proud of this model. Just as I am of her accomplishments. This is Lucy Alden, my daughter, she's a 17 year old member and a longtime member of Shear Fun 4-H. Lucy chose to make a fifties inspired dinner dress out of a poly shantung. She really wanted to find a dupionni silk. She was doing a lot of work with different fabrics, dying and trying different things. She was able to find a fabric that mimics that look. It's a custom fit and she worked a custom fully lined bodice.

Judy.: Beautiful love the color. Here you go do see I want to ask you a few questions. What was your inspiration for the dress?

Lucy.: I wanted something that had a simple elegance. That didn't look too overworked. I think at the time when I picked this pattern I just finished watching Roman Holiday so you have all of those
gorgeous tank tops, well not tank tops but wide tank and straps, they are beautiful and simple so that's what inspired me to choose this pattern.

Judy.: What would you have to say to someone who is younger who might be interested in sewing but hasn't started yet?

Lucy.: Do it; start now. It's wonderful. The one bad thing about sewing I have to say I go to stores now and I say this isn't worth that I can't pay this. My mom will take me shopping and it's like I can't buy that I'm going to make this. It's wonderful, it opens up a lot of doors and it does teach a lot of life skills. I've learned time management and creativity. It's really wonderful.

Judy.: You're going to be senior what are you going to do next year?

Lucy.: As of now I'm planning to go to college so a year after that. Next year for my senior year sewing, having fun, keeping up my grades and then off to college where I will continue sewing and keep up my good work.

Judy.: Wonderful thank you for being here.

Lucy.: Thank you for having me.

Deb.: Great job Lu.

Judy.: Deb, we are about out of time, we have a couple minutes left. Before we go can you remind our viewers where these 4-H fashion makers are headed next?

Deb.: Next they're headed to the Eastern States Exposition and they're there the weekend of September 17. They'll be onstage Sunday and Monday of that weekend. As I said they will kick off the hourly presentations in the New England Building and that's where you can find all of the best of Vermont youth. We will have our 4-H'ers down there doing action exhibits, performing on stage, there's music, photography, it really is a Vermont taking the day down there, its two days, and it's wonderful.

Judy.: And great for the kids to have a chance to meet other kids from other areas.

Deb.: Yes they live there on the Eastern States campus. They have their meals there, with kids from New England and of course Vermont. Vermont really blankets those two days but we crisscross and overlap with kids from Massachusetts and there are the kids who are bringing their cows and the kids who are performing and all kinds of livestock, it's wonderful.
Judy.: It's nice to be able to highlight all the different aspects of 4-H as we go through our years here at Across the Fence. This is always been one of my favorite aspects is to see the young ladies in their fashions and even some young men.

Deb.: Yes! Men if you're out there, we are really wishing for more men to get back into sewing and I will congratulate these ladies these are about the finest outfits I've seen come out as a group overall. It's very impressive and I'm looking forward to taking them down.

Judy.: All right if you would like more information about the 4-H sewing program or any other 4-H club or activity you can contact the UVM Extension State 4-H Office. The toll free number is 1-(800)-571-0668. My thanks to you Deb for bringing the ladies today, it’s always a treat.

Deb.: Thank you very much.

Judy.: That's our program for today. I'm Judy Simpson, thanks for joining us on Across the Fence.

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