

TV 'Catch 21' the perfect game show for Las Vegas **3E** DINING Five dishes that are pecan perfect **14E**

# Embracing change



Levi Miles sewed a hidden breakaway structure into his suit jacket so that it would split in two when model Dustin Isom pulls on the necktie.

By Janna Karel  
Las Vegas Review-Journal

**W**HEN Dustin Isom steps onstage, he's dressed in an expensive, well-tailored suit. He looks handsome, professional. He may even be the host of the show.

With a sharp pull on his necktie, his coat falls away from his shoulders. With a twirl, his suit transforms into an iridescent open-torsoed evening gown. Shimmery lace and glittering crystals flow down his body in an ombre of pastels as he continues along the catwalk.

The transforming garment he wears is one of 10 created by local designers for this year's Circus Couture fundraising event.

The annual fashion and circus show features the talents of several aerialists, artists, fashion designers and technicians who perform on the Strip. They volunteer their time, talent and resources to create one-of-a-kind looks to fit the theme of "Metamorphose."

"This year, they all need to be reveal garments," Circus Couture co-artistic director Ross Gibson says. "It's the appearance of one, then there's a quick release and it turns into another garment."

The show benefits Cure 4 The Kids, a local childhood cancer treatment center that helps families of children who are uninsured, underinsured or unable to pay for treatment. It was held Thursday night at The Joint at the Hard Rock Hotel.

Ten designers create fashions that transform on the runway for annual Circus Couture



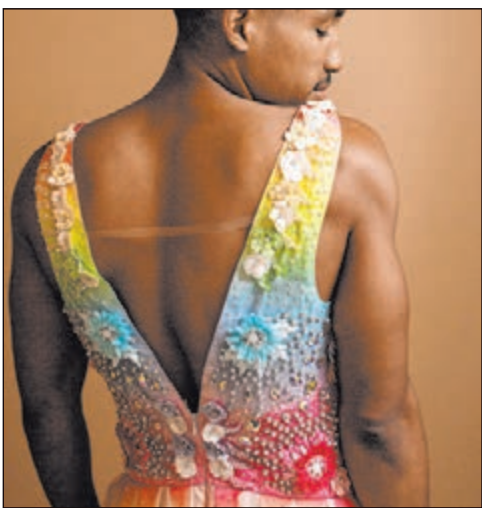
Chase Stevens  
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Zach Paugh became intrigued with costume design as a kid when he watched "Star Wars." "I was inspired by Queen Amidala," he says. "And so my goal through costumes and being involved with this is having that kid look at something that someone has designed and be like, 'Wow, I really can wear whatever I want to wear, I can be inspired by whatever I want to be.'"

Paugh volunteers as fashion director, tasked with facilitating the creativity of the 10 collaborative designers.

"My goal is to give young artists the space to create something, something wearable, something avant-garde, something couture."

For three months, these five designers have been planning, designing and constructing their quick-change garments.



The back of Miles' gown is decorated with Swarovski crystals, wedding lace and glass beads.

Elizabeth Page Brumley Las Vegas Review-Journal

## Levi Miles

Levi Miles, a costume staffer for "Criss Angel Mindfreak," was inspired to create a dress for a man after seeing Billy Porter in a tuxedo dress at this year's Emmys.

"I really like how Billy Porter is a masculine man, but he's wearing these clothes that are traditionally feminine," Miles says. "And then when I met Dustin I was like, 'He's perfect.' He has that masculine side and that feminine side."

Miles' design largely came together through small coincidences. He lucked into meeting Isom weeks before needing a model and connected with a friend who had an excess of Swarovski crystals.

"We all know each other," Miles says. "Literally all of Zach's 'Ka' friends are involved in this and if you need help, they can help you. We all support each other."



2019 is Levi Miles' first year with Circus Couture.

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