

“Interview: Denise' Ana Fashions, Vision meets Style” - *Yoo N'LA Magazine* (print)

J. Davis

The funny thing about vision is, it can manifest itself at any age, in any form. What decides your fate is whether you choose to harness it. How many ideas pass through our minds we let go of? Or valiantly try to hold onto? Some even haunt us, calling us to action. Delise'Ana Parker, the founder of Delise'Ana Fashions, held onto hers growing up in Beaufort, South Carolina. By the time she finished college, before moving to sprawling Los Angeles in 2007, she had already opened her own boutique and founded Delise'Ana Fashions.

What we see in her line today is the culmination of forward-thinking sex appeal, and her alter ego, expressed through fashion. Her one-of-a-kind-pieces evoke a kind of femme-fatale meets ethereal-goddess. Sophisticated, form hugging, faux leather mermaid gowns meet sexy couture for the weekend-warrior. They've made their debut in music videos and onto celebrities like Nicki Minaj, Jayde Nicole, Dawn Richard, Faith Evans. Each piece, unique as its wearer; while the wearer brings out the piece, the piece brings out something deeper from within its wearer.

As might be expected, I couldn't lure too many details about next season's line, but let's just say it incorporates flowers, fur, leather AND bullets.

Delise'Ana built her business by taking one step at a time to meet her creative goal and finally, herself. It would have been easy to give up, in LA. This city is daunting. Alluring at first, if one isn't careful, the tether to one's dream can get cut without even realizing it. It's even harder to paddle backward against a current. But for Delise'Ana, the journey was worth working for:

Q: You started your design company in South Carolina then relocated to LA in 2007. As a Gullah native, or from family members, what kinds of influences guided you as a little girl?

A. I had my ah-ha moment when I was voted “most creative” by my senior class. I didn't know recreating my older sisters' hand me downs would get me recognized amongst my peers. When the yearbooks were published, I wrote in all of my friends' books "keep this book, because one day I will be famous." It hasn't come true yet, but I am still working on it (she says, smiling)...