Trashion / Refashion Design Submission FAQs

What is the difference between “trashion” and “refashion”?
Trashion is the result of creatively turning discarded items not intended to be worn as clothing into fashion. *Refashion* is the result of transforming materials normally worn as clothing from their initial intended purpose or design into something new and different. For example, a group of neckties becomes a dress; a pair of pants becomes a cape, etc. Many designs include elements of both trashion and refashion.

What kind of designs show up best on stage?
Finished ones! Be bold, creative, and resourceful! This is a wild and exciting show, and the audience responds positively to different designs that are practical, bold, flashy, or creative. Designs that use impressive or unusual materials or a creative process also do really well. Please encourage your models to take their time on the runway to show off the design they are wearing. It is very important that models do this for the show.

How many designs can I submit? Designers may submit up to three designs. If multiple designs are submitted, you’ll be asked to rank them by preference for inclusion. While reviewing second or third submissions, we’ll prioritize designs that are distinct and add unique interest to the show.

What criteria does the Trashion Committee use to decide which designs are accepted?
Designs will be judged on 4 criteria:

1. Originality
2. The amount of “unwanted” or previously owned materials (at least 90%)
3. Completeness (a complete ensemble), and
4. Degree of transformation (modification of materials used in the design from their original purpose into wearable clothing)

Designs must be submitted in EasyChair by the deadline to be considered. Note that judges appreciate being able to view designs photographed on a mannequin or a model, however, do not include the designer’s or model’s face in the photograph to ensure anonymity of the design.

How much of my garment needs to be made of previously owned / discarded materials?
90% of your garment needs to be made of previously owned and/or discarded materials. This does NOT need to include the model's shoes or undergarments. Thread does not count. *Please be sure to take high-quality pictures of ANY materials used in your design BEFORE you start assembling! These images will be used in the judging process; if the design is selected, the images will also be projected on-screen during the runway to highlight the transformation.*

What counts as "previously owned" material?

- Clothing that you already own that was worn by someone.
- Clothing that you purchased from a second-hand store.
- Materials purchased and used for their intended purpose (drapes, tablecloths, etc.), but are being replaced or discarded.
- Scraps from other sewing projects.

Can I use anything new in my design?
Up to 10% of your garment may be new material as long as it is not a major component of your design. We encourage designers to use as much discarded and repurposed material as possible.

What is an example of a good transformation?
Basically, if there is an element of surprise when juxtaposing the source materials and the final design - that is a good transformation! This question often comes up in the trashion category when the source materials are made from traditional material, but not meant to be a garment (think drapery or table linens) or in the refashion category when the source material is a dress or a slip. If the source material is largely unrecognizable - if we cannot tell that you started with drapery or a slip - then you have completed a successful transformation.

Can I submit a design that has been submitted before?
Designs that were *submitted but not selected* in previous years are permitted. Because judging criteria is similar from year to year, we recommend reviewing the judging criteria and considering how the design might be revised to increase its potential acceptance.

Can I submit a design that has been shown before?
Work must have been executed within the last 3 years and not shown in a previous Trashion/Refashion runway show *unless* the design is used as source material and is unrecognizable as its previous design. Designs that have been shown on other runways are acceptable.

Do I need to have a full "look" or can I submit just a skirt, top, or jacket?
All entries must be a complete ensemble. If you have an idea for a partial design and would like to be paired up with another designer to work together to complete an ensemble, please contact us at contact@bloomingtotrashion.org. Note that judges appreciate being able to view designs photographed on a mannequin or a model, however, do not include the model's face in the photograph to ensure anonymity of the design.

If my design isn't finished by the submission deadline, can I submit an incomplete design or a proposal for a design?
We need to see photos of a completed design with each submission, however, that does not necessarily mean that the design is *finished*. It is OK if some parts of a design are temporarily attached in the submission photos (using pins or tape instead of being sewn). It is also OK if some accessories or embellishments are added after submission. If the additional items are important to the theme of the design, be sure to include them in the design description so they can be considered when writing the runway script.

Are there any constraints regarding the height and width of a design?
Designs should accommodate the clearance limitations of the Buskirk-Chumley Theater. The pathway for models includes 7 doorways and 2 sets of stairs. Doorways measure 79" high by 33" wide. Doors at the rear of the theater are equipped with crash bars that reduce the doorway width to 30" at waist height. There is another tight spot at the top of the stairs leading off the stage that is also 33" wide.

What image file size and type is required for submission?
We require four images with your submission application with 300 dpi minimum resolution and formatted as a JPEG (.jpg extension), a PNG (.png extension), embedded in a word processing document (.docx, .doc, or .odt extensions), or a PDF.

Do I need to find my own model?
Designers are encouraged to find their own models early in their design process. If needed we can help find a model for your design. You must note if you have a model and who they are in your submission. If you need a model, that also must be noted. Designers are responsible for communicating all requirements, commitments, and guidelines to their models and/or teams.

Can I model my own design?
Absolutely! Many designers are their own muse! If you have multiple designs accepted into the show and you are the model for each one, we can ensure that there is sufficient time in between your designs for you to get changed.

What is the rehearsal time commitment?
Designers and models are required to attend a rehearsal a few weeks before the show and the dress rehearsal on the day of the show. At the rehearsal we will ask that each designer, model and guardian sign a photo/video consent form for participation in the event .

Can I use my own makeup/hair stylists?
Absolutely - space is limited behind the scenes at the theater, so if you require a lot of space or materials to get ready, please consider arriving at the theater with as much hair and makeup finished as possible. We have been fortunate to have Tricoci University of Beauty Culture as well as other hair and makeup designers contribute to the show by assisting models with their hair and makeup the morning of the show. There will be sign up sheets for hair and makeup appointments.

Can I request how my design will be described while it is on the runway?
The design description you provide as part of your EasyChair submission will be used as the foundation used by the script writer. The script writer will modify the description so that there is consistency in tone and timing among all designs. You will have a chance to hear your design’s script during the rehearsal at Harmony School. There will also be an opportunity for you to request changes after hearing the script. You and your model will be provided with the final script for your design(s) before the show.

Can I request special music to be played during my model's time on the runway?
If you have a suggestion about music to be played while your design is on the runway, please let us know by email to contact@bloomingtontrashion.org. Note that we are only able to play music in the public domain; this means that we will not be able to play copyrighted songs for which we do not have permission.

What if I have questions that aren't answered here?
Easy - just email contact@bloomingtontrashion.org and we'll get back to you!