

OREGON TRADESWOMEN, INC. HOLDS FIRST TRADESWOMEN FASHION SHOW!

What's better than a bunch of Tradeswomen getting together? How about a bunch of Tradeswomen getting together for a fashion show tailored for them? That's *exactly* what happened in Portland Oregon last week.

A group of women got together to organize and create a fashion show using actual tradeswomen in it as models. They used local clothing designer to outfit the models and had them strut their stuff in not only their trades gear but also some kickass fashion!



The entire event was a fundraiser for [Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc.](#), (OTI) a non-profit organization that trains and educates women in the trades, then helps them procure jobs and careers in the trades.

When the [Tradeswomen Fashion Show](#) was first posted on social media the response was overwhelming, with the entire show selling out within a week. Clearly there was and is a niche for this sort of event. Eighteen tradeswomen happily volunteered to model and were eager to strut their stuff on stage. The models wore clothing from [Dapper D Fashions](#) – a men's style clothing line made for women and [Wildfang](#) – a woman's boutique inspired by men's fashion. Both companies have clothing that's gender neutral and fluid – and all of it badass, perfect for women in the trades.

Beverly James Neel and Rene Chiara were the fashion show coordinators and made it unbelievably fun for the audience and tradeswomen models. And community support was integral in making the event so successful. Dawn Jones Redstone owner of [Hearts + Sparks Production](#) volunteered to Live Stream the show which brought in additional viewers that were unable to purchase tickets and more donations, [Jules Garza](#) volunteered to take professional photos, OTI graduate and outreach specialist [Anjeanette Brown](#) volunteered to emcee and outside companies and individuals donated all sorts of products and services for the raffle and auction.

The tradeswomen models over-the-top hilarious, energetic and completely played to the crowd, obviously having a fantastic time. And the audience soaked every bit of it up! First half of the show, each model came out and strutted their stuff in their actual trade's gear – many of whom literally just came straight from work in it wearing it. Then they changed into Dapper D Fashions and Wildfang for the second half of the show.

Every one of us felt the energy from the crowd. It was an awesome way to connect with them and among ourselves. None of us had any idea what the event was going to turn



into- so much unity, strength, support and TONS of fun!!” – Holly Huntley, owner of [environs](#). The fundraiser ended up raising over **\$7,600** for OTI! But perhaps the biggest impact was seen watching the tradeswomen interact with each other and the audience that never stopped cheering with approval. So often working in an industry that is so male dominated combined with the often physical nature of the trades, many women are weighed down and perhaps forget how much support there is – not only within the sisterhood of women in the trades but in their community.

“I love tradeswomen so much. The energy from the Tradeswomen Fashion Show was unreal. I had multiple tradeswomen approach me and tell me that they finally feel like they truly deserve to exist without the abuse and bullying that is rampant in trades culture. You could see it in their eyes and you could feel the radical self love and grit in the room. I love celebrating tradeswomen and being part of such a truly resilient and supportive community!” – commented Kaeli Casati, carpenter and instructor at OTI.

The show was a huge success not only in raising money and awareness about all the OTI does but also in energizing the tradeswomen and bringing community together. Now they just need to find a bigger venue for next year.

(Article and photos thanks to Shaley Howard!)

**Want to see
the Fashion Show
video???**
**Ctrl and Click below
then cheer!**



<http://heartsandsparkproductions.com/oregon-tradeswomen-fashion-show>

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