

## **2025 Bristol Fashion Show to be biggest yet**

Bristol Fashion Show is a non-profit community organisation providing a platform for the work of local independent designers, artists and models across the city.

They aim to celebrate diversity and create opportunities for designers and models of all backgrounds through holding annual catwalk events.

This year, Bristol Fashion Show will host their annual event at The Prospect Building, BS2 0SE, on Sunday April 27th.

The event consists of a three-hour catwalk show starting at 6pm, showcasing the work of over 20 independent designers. There will be live singers, dancers and a full bar, as well as an afterparty with a DJ set following the event. Outside the venue there will also be a marketplace with stalls from 15 independent brands.

Formed nine years ago, the Bristol Fashion Show was founded by Butzi Schlaadt, a knitwear designer from Germany.

Bristol Fashion Show is organised by Butzi, her daughter Laila, and Charley Evans - a bespoke digital embroidery designer who has worked closely with the organisation for the past 5 years.

Her love for Bristol fashion is at the heart of the organisation: "I grew up in a little village in Germany where you were not allowed to be different, but you come to Bristol and it's so wonderful, colorful, and diverse. It doesn't matter who you are, you can wear whatever you want and nobody judges you."

Bristol Fashion Show hosted their first catwalk events in partnership with creative charity organisation Coexist in Hamilton House, Stokes Croft until 2018.

Tickets sold out at their subsequent shows at The Mount Without in 2022 and 2023, and after having to turn people away due to the volume of attendees, the team decided they would need a significantly larger venue. This year's show will be their biggest yet.



*"I love what happens to the models when they walk down the catwalk – they shine a light," Butzi says*

The Bristol Fashion Show team are focussed on providing an accessible and inclusive platform for designers and models of all experience levels - from those who've started sewing in their bedrooms to those with established fashion brands.

Describing how they connect with models and designers, Charley explains it is the result of "having regular conversations about fashion and creativity within the South West".

Bristol Fashion Show catwalk events often include returning designers, who become part of the organisation's community. The team stays in regular contact outside of the catwalk events, sharing opportunities and connections throughout the year.

More recently, they have seen designers working with each other on collections and pitching in their skills, in a collaborative rather than competitive atmosphere. "It's like a family; we're all supporting each other and opening doors for each other," Charley says.

The Bristol Fashion Show catwalk events began fundraising in 2022, with profits going towards Cure4Carmela, a muscular dystrophy charity fundraiser that was founded by the family of model Carmela Chillery-Watson.

Carmela has modelled in Bristol Fashion Show events since she was five years old. She has challenged the team to include a greater range of disabled models in their 2026 catwalk event.

The proceeds of the Bristol Fashion Show 2025 will also go towards supporting the hospice charity Penny Brohn UK.

**All photos courtesy of Butzi Schlaadt**

*This article was also posted on [Bristol 24/7](#) on April 23rd 2025.*



*The catwalk event will showcase streetwear, eveningwear, childrenswear, swimwear, crochet and more*