

JPG

Your World in Pictures

- [» Log in](#)
- [» Sign up](#)

[Subscribe today!](#)

- [Photos](#)
- [Stories](#)
- [People](#)
- [Themes](#)
- [Magazine](#)

-
-
-

[Photo Essay](#)

The Flavor Of Dean Pardue:





By [leon, dale](#)

3 Dec 2009

Dean Pardue was born out of an etouffe of rich, New Orleans-based Southern culture mixed with equal parts glamour, feminine mystique, appreciation of the simple complexity of nature, and the lonely vigil of the unique.

Being a creative, sensitive and talented man in the South has never been easy.

But his grandmother, a Master Tailor, took him under her wing, and taught him how to sew. It wasn't long before he was making prom dresses, cotillion garb, and the like.

Now, he is a fashion designer and a stylist for many luminaries, including Kim from "Real Housewives of Atlanta," and that's just what he does for his art. He's also a devoted father and a master of commercial styling.

The source of his vision is a melange of impressions: the wildness of Mardi Gras, the intoxicating strength of Southern feminine prowess which contrasts lace and silk with steel Victorian sensibilities. He is a study in opposites. On one hand, he thrives in the creative straightjacket that Corporate America forces on him, creating stunning retail displays that please an executive mind. On the other, he is a passionate wildman, a conjurer of flower-petal goddesses and horned ninja enchantresses. He shreds, strews, cascades, throws, and

teases fabric, wire, thread, silk, lace, and tulle to make confections that are just as outrageous as they are improbable.

"Fashion is very much like cooking, and there's a lot of prep work to it. The models are the catalyst and the expression of that. Some people like to look at models as coat hangers, but I like to look at them as more of a statement of what the garment is, because each individual female is different, as is the statement that she makes through her eyes, her posture and what she evokes about what she's wearing." Dean said.

He caters to women, unafraid to openly worship at the font of feminine power. This Creole man who calls himself The White Chocolate; sinful, decadent, but always refined, is equally at home in his African roots as he is in his European.

"I like to bring great little visual images forward. I've been asked to do things for men, but I'm not inspired by them. If I were to do anything for men, it would be very simplistic and clean. When it comes to fashion, my impression of men is basic and classic. With a woman, the more you add to her, the more expression she makes. I think men make a quieter statement, and it's better that way, like the spaces between the notes of a song."

When dressing his models for a shoot such as this, he is in his element. Like a shaman conjuring myth

out of smoke and story, he brings out the masks, the costumes, the shadows and the light. Hons it, smiths it, and stares at his creation when it's all done, a Pygmalion in a simple white shirt and jeans, gazing at his Galatea.

At the shoot, Sable and Alexis step into the roles he has for them without question, and he gladly points the attention to them. For someone in the middle of things and about to appear on his own reality TV show, he is amazingly camera shy. The spirit of his grandmother lingers; this bit of yarn from her yarn-stash, that bit of crystal from a chandelier that used to hang in her home;

she still finds a way to affect him even now.

Dean said, "The thing about it is, you do see models as beautiful creatures, but you also see them like a part of the piece. I've done some shoots that are very sexual, but in your mind you don't get caught up in that. It's artistically emotional in that degree solely in the moment, but that requires trust. Some of the best art comes out of a partnership with people who you can trust."

Article by Sam Chupp

Clothing/Head dresses by Dean Pardue

Models: Alexis LouStou and Sable Simone

Assistant: Tony Mills

Starburst Headdress by Deanna Bee



Sable Simone in Dean Pardue.



Queen Alexis and the vial of Might



[Inquisitively me](#)

No responses

Want to leave a comment? [Log in](#) or [sign up!](#)

[Report a problem](#)

More [Photo Essays](#)



[when peacocks attack](#)

By [Sally Sloley](#) — 14 Dec 2009

[we were accosted by a very pushy peacock](#)



[Atibaia](#)

By [Jorge Sato](#) — 14 Dec 2009

[A small town which was important due to its location and the quality of water.](#)



[Chongqing backalleys](#)

By [Yereth Jansen](#) — 14 Dec 2009

[The municipality of Chongqing inhabits over 30 million people. In between the skyscrapers back-alleys show everyday life](#)

More stories by [leon, dale](#)



[The Facets of Jazz Through Gary Motley](#)

[Photo Essay](#) — 3 Dec 2009

[But what is Jazz? Gary Motley explains a few of the facets of Jazz as seen through his eyes](#)



[The Seven Sides of Sam Chupp](#)

[Feature Story](#) — 3 Dec 2009

[A story about Sam Chupp and his many roles.](#)



[Here am is.](#)

Personal Post — 18 Mar 2009

[Know thy self.](#)

[« Back to story index](#)

[Your turn: Got a great set of photos? *Make a Photo Essay!*](#)

Your Opinions Are Important.

X

Please participate in a brief survey

[open survey](#)

[no thanks](#)

[Faces of Foreclosure](#)

[Faces of Foreclosure](#)
[by Jason Pepe](#)

- [Home](#)
- [Photos](#)
- [Stories](#)
- [People](#)
- [Themes](#)
- [Magazine](#)
- [Advertising](#)
- [About](#)
- [Blog](#)

[8020 Media](#)

© 8020 Media, Inc. 2006-09. Contributions © their respective holders.

[Terms of use](#) · [Privacy policy](#) · [Help](#) · [Contact us](#)