



FW '13

SINGLE & FABULOUS

by Silvia Bombardini

Marabou! How often it is so unfairly dismissed! Thank heavens we can trust Ryan Lo, threefold Fashion East fame, to give the fluffy, feathery fabric its rightful place on stage season after season. The London-based, Hong Kong-born designer wistfully remembers Carrie's lilac D&G marabou sandals from the first season of *Sex and City*, a beloved reference of his. Or the candyfloss ensemble she tries on before posing for her book cover much later on. Organza, tulle, lamé, lurex, melted mohair, pellucid see-throughs... each Ryan Lo collection is a sugar-frosted, mouth-watering parade of textures and sparkles. "The fabrics have to jump out screaming, "Wear me! Wear me!" says Lo. "If it isn't something I want to wear, I won't use it." From someone whose first fashion memory was a baby bunny costume, we know there isn't much that falls into that category. Lo's sweetly brave, intuitive and emotional style has charmed the British audience since his first glittery presentation at 50 St James little more than one year ago. Along with a few other Fashion East pupils, Lo shares a cosy DIY attitude that's become increasingly popular. "We have been seeing so much fast fashion lately, people have been craving for something a bit more precious and timeless," says the 24-year-old designer, who practiced hand-knitting via YouTube tutorials "because it's cool to be a rebel and not follow the rules." And while Lo might still be in love with his mum's wedding dress — a huge puffy concoction with leg of mutton sleeves and a mermaid bottom — his sartorial advice for me should I get married today is: "Make it original and go spontaneous all the way! White, oversized cotton t-shirt dress from the pound shop, frilly schoolgirl socks draped around your ankles, natural, low-top Converse, and a super plain veil." To fantasize about her own wedding day is also a favourite activity of the Ryan Lo muse for winter 2013. Inspired by more 90s TV, the season is titled *I PUSH* doors that clearly say *PULL* and pays tribute to the lonesome, tragicomic characters of *Bridget Jones* or *Ally McBeal*, waiting for their true love to come and rescue them from the endless boredom of their daily life. In their wardrobe we'll find everything from fairy tale gowns to consoling knitwear, and the quite deliberate transparency because let's be sensible, no prince charming should ever be expected to get subtle hints. Still, in Ryan's words, "a fresh piece of underwear is all a hopeful singleton needs. Because you never know when you will meet that special someone. Always be prepared".

www.ryanlo.co.uk