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CLUBBY: Was Nicole Miller dress inspired by the club scene?

Slick-at-night set

Designers eye tips from the hip

By **ROBIN D. GIVHAN**

MORE THAN 1,000 people who blur the lines between fashion, clubbing and music will land in New York City tomorrow for the second annual Style Summit.

The downtown crowd is coming to party, but it's also looking for the next big thing in fashion — which often has its start in the flashy late-night world of dance clubs.

Dance clubs, the fashion industry, and the music world long have been intertwined. Music has inspired clothing designers to create outlandish duds. Outlandish duds have become the costume of choice for club kids.

And sometimes those off-beat fashions are picked up by mainstream designers, and trends are born.

Clubs also serve as laboratories for fashion experimentation. Dance spots often host fashion shows by young designers as well as established designers, who hold shows at them to prove they're still on

the cutting edge.

Besides parties and fashion shows, seminars will be held ranging from "How to Work a Door at a Party" to "How to Start an Underground Magazine."

The goal?

"To create an atmosphere conducive to the exchange of ideas and to set up a national network of people who are interested in the nightclub scene — be they party promoters, club owners, performance artists, designers who do things primarily meant to be worn in nightclubs or stuff that would look silly worn anywhere else," says Summit Chairman Ernie Glam, who has been planning the event for almost a year.

The Summit is sponsored by Peter Gatien, who owns USA and other New York clubs and is publisher of nightlife style magazine Project X. It has been compared with the respected New Music Seminar as a place where young, cutting-edge talent can be discovered, or at least heard.

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C.J. ZUMWALT