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TOP MODELS CHOSEN FOR ROCK THE RUNWAY COMPETITION™ AT LEXUS CHARLESTON FASHION WEEK®

CHARLESTON, S.C. – <u>Lexus Charleston Fashion Week®</u> (CFW), one of the nation's premier fashion events taking place March 14-18, 2017 in downtown Charleston, has chosen its models for the Rock the Runway Competition™. CFW's nationwide Rock the Runway Model Competition™ supports and showcases a community of up-and-coming and undiscovered talent in the realm of modeling.

A record number of models auditioned for this year's event – and for the first time – 10 top female and 10 top male models were selected as finalists to walk the runway for a <u>panel of judges</u> in the Rock the Runway Competition™ on Friday, March 17.

Female finalists include: Caroline Amrol, Isabel Crowe, Susanne Dacosta, Caroline Harris, Alexandria Jones, , Kylie Klein, Skylar Ruppe, London Scully, Kelly Wang and Nakia Wilson.

Male finalists include: Marcus Allen, Tanner Dunn, Harrison Fister, Daniel Folks, Johnny Guido, Rafael Horton, Randolph Howell, Joseph Tirado, Reece Williams and Harrison Wilkerson.

All models will be coached by international model, Michelle Wood, who hopes to help mold their careers, while also teaching them it is possible to be a successful model and still stay true to their values. One female and one male model will be crowned the Grand Prize Winners and each will receive \$1,000 cash prize, a mentoring opportunity with industry leader, Karen Lee Grybowski, professional hi-quality composite cards, and a beauty gift bag. Additional prizes may be announced at a later date.

Charleston Fashion Week® Rock the Runway Competition's™ mission is to provide a platform for aspiring models to gain the exposure from media, press, and photographers as well as local, national, and international scouts and top agencies. The 2017 jury includes head model judge Karen Lee Grybowski, founder of Karen Lee Group and international model scout, Michaela Goddard-Quesada, director of scouting & model movement for Elite Model Management NYC, Jill Joyce, founder & president of DirectionsUSA Model Management, Lynsee Gonzalez, the Scout for Women at Wilhelmina International Inc., and Marion Webb, Director of New Faces at FactorlChosen Model Management in Atlanta.

The 11th annual Lexus Charleston Fashion Week[®] will take place from March 14 – 18, 2017 in Charleston, S.C. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit charlestonfashionweek.com.

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ROCK THE RUNWAY COMPETITION™ OVERVIEW

Models cast for the official Charleston Fashion Week[®] Runway* model book qualify for the Rock the Runway Competition[™]. Models are not required to participate in the Competition to be selected for designer and boutique runway shows or special events.

An expert panel of judges chooses the Top Finalists. One female and one male model will be named the Grand Prize Winners at the event, following the runway portion of the Competition, on the evening of Friday, March 17, 2017.

ABOUT LEXUS CHARLESTON FASHION WEEK®

Showcasing fashion designers, retailers, and models, the 11th Annual Lexus Charleston Fashion Week® (CFW) is one of the premier fashion weeks in North America. Named a Top 20 Event for March by the Southeast Tourism Society, this multimedia event presents high-end runway shows, interactive entertainment, chic afterparties, and press events. The 2016 event featured more than 40 runway shows, 8,100 attendees, *Charleston Weddings* magazine's Wedding Week, the Emerging Designer Competition, and the Rock the Runway Model Competition™. Lexus Charleston Fashion Week® 2017 is scheduled for March 14 – 18, 2017. For more information visit charlestonfashionweek.com or @chasfashweek.