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WOMEN'S FASHION | By STEPHEN HEYMAN | OCTOBER 22, 2010, 6:39 PM



What did we learn last night? Among other things, that to compete on the catwalk with a poodle — especially one sporting a heavy metal hairdo — requires quite a lot of black latex. The latex was supplied by the Japanese lingerie designer Atsuko Kudo (a Lady Gaga favorite), who made her American runway debut as part of Lingerie New York, an event thrown at Cipriani's by the **Seven Bar Foundation**, a nonprofit organization that has helped poor women in India, Mexico and Brazil start their own businesses. Yes, it was all for a good cause (some seats sold for \$25,000 a pop), a fact that was alluded to if not entirely conveyed by the event's tagline: "Empowering women on a g-string rather than a shoe-string." The Belgian-based designer Carine Gilson also offered up her own fantasy twists on *linge de corps*, which Carine Roitfeld, the editor in chief of French Vogue, has described as "the most refined lingerie in the world."