

Kiev to join his army. Vladimir complied, in exchange for the Emperor's sister Anna's hand in marriage. Basil II agreed, but only if the Prince would convert to Orthodoxy. Prince Vladimir assented to his request, changing the face of the Eastern Empire by becoming the spiritual successor of the Byzantine Empire. *Lunaria in the "Sponsae"* Dress: \$325 / Gold Embossed Mantle: \$35

10. "Leo III" Starting off his reign by abdicating the previous Emperor, Leo III showed his military prowess by defeating opponents from Arabia with a little help from "Greek Fire" - a Napalm-like substance that no other military knew how to make. On January 7, 730AD, Leo III ordered the destruction icons. Met with much consternation in the West, the Empire's Western Synod decreed any attempt to remove icons would result in excommunication. Leo III ensured that any & all revolts caused by iconoclasm were crushed by military force. *Victoria in the "Filioque"* Pencil Dress: \$300

11. "Schism" Iconoclasm remained a subject of much controversy for 120 years, until it was finally resolved in 843AD. Peace would not last, however, as the final break between ideologies took place in 1054AD. Following over a thousand years of debates on the nature of their Savior, the Greek-speaking Eastern Empire was now known as Eastern Orthodoxy, & the Latin-speaking West became Roman Catholicism. *Maya in the "Schismatis"* Fishtail Gown: \$180

12. "Irene" The argument over iconography continued through the reign of Constantine V & Leo IV. Leo IV died early in his reign, leading his wife Irene to be the only woman in the Empire's history to rule as Regent in her own right. She reinstated the use of icons, & after being briefly deposed by her son, had him blinded & exiled. Refusing to recognize Irene's power, Leo III crowned Charlemagne the

"Emperor of the Romans." Charlemagne set his sights on Irene as his wife, but she was deposed and exiled before she could reply. *Helena in the "Basilissa"* Dress: \$220 / High-Collar Capelet: \$140

13. "Stavroforia" Like dominoes, the strongholds of the Empire fell one by one to the Turks after the Battle of Manzikert in 1071AD. The clash between the Crescent & the Cross caused by The Crusades truly was one of the most devastating & brutal series of battles to ever be fought. The capture of Constantinople may have seemed like a great defeat, but how can run reign from an Empire in ruin? *Elizabeth in the "Strategikon"* Dress: \$250 / Gold Embossed Harness: \$60 / Black & Gold Textured Leggings: \$40

14. "Seljuk" For months, Turkish spies probed Constantinople for weaknesses. The eve before the final war that took down the city, Emperor Constantine XI addressed Sultan Mehmed II in a letter, stating "As it is clear you desire war more than peace, so let it be according to your desire. I will defend my people to the last drop of blood. The Supreme God calls us both before his judgment seat." On April 6, 1453, the Seljuk Turks seized & conquered Constantinople, ending a reign that lasted 1123 years and 18 days. *Kasie in the "Tourkiká"* Overdress: \$350 / Gold Tassel Bolero: \$90 / Gold Skirt: \$80

IF INTERESTED IN ANY OF THE DESIGNS SHOWN THIS EVENING, CONTACT STEPHANIE DIRECTLY AFTER THE SHOW OR EMAIL: silversarkx@gmail.com

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SILVERSÄRK PRESENTS: BYZANTIUM [THE FALLEN EMPIRE]

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WITH SILENT AUCTION ITEMS
BENEFITING AUTISM SOLUTION PIECES

BYZANTIUM

8P.M. Doors Open/Silent Auction Begins
9:15P.M. Nathan J. Reid | Spoken Word
Fashion Show Immediately to Follow
11P.M. Silent Auction Ends | Item Pickup

THIS IS THE STORY OF THE ENDING OF A CIVILIZATION - OF THE BREAKING OF A WAY OF LIFE. THE STORY OF A NATION FACING EXTINCTION, & OF THE CHOICES THAT ITS PEOPLE MADE. THE STORY OF THE ENDING OF AN EMPIRE, & OF THE BEGINNINGS OF THE MODERN WORLD.

1. "Sol Invictus" In 312 A.D., Constantine saw a "cross-shaped light" in the sky to indicate where to build "Nova Roma" – the New Roman Empire. In his vision, an angel laid out the walls of the new city, and it was here that he later encouraged all its citizens to celebrate the "Venerable Day of the Sun." On the banks of the Bosphorus strait, the strategic location of the "Eye of all the World" joined East with West. *Justine in the "Solis" Dress: \$550 / Damask Capelet: \$150*

2. "Constantine" Rising to the position of Emperor after proving a formidable military officer, Constantine the Great had a vision to build an extension of the Roman Empire. Marking a turning point in ecclesiastical history by ending Christian persecution with the Edict of Milan in 313, he fitted pagan temples with Christian imagery, yet remained neutral in his religious stance, most likely a political move to prevent usurpation. Such was the impression he made, that there were 10 other Emperors who took on the name "Constantine" in hopes of creating an equally profound legacy. *Heather in the "Solidus" Dress: \$220*

3. "Justinian" The nephew of Emperor Justin, Justinian I was clever & intelligent, yet came from humble beginnings. The Great Builder, his dedication to the Christian religion formed Constantinople in law as well as in architecture. Revolts, The Black Death, Raiders & Heretics could not stop this resilient Emperor. He even assisted the fashion industry by having silk produced domestically instead of imported from China. Throughout his 38-year reign, & up until the day he died, he never lost his passion for the doctrine in hopes of finding the answer to uniting his Empire under one Orthodoxy.
Vivian in "Basileus" gown: \$240 / Gold Sequin Mini-Capelet: \$100

4. "Theodora" Once a prostitute & performer in the Hippodrome, her rise to Empress occurred swiftly after meeting Justinian I. After coronation, she drove out prostitution, converting brothels into convents, & having former prostitutes become nuns. Despite her being a Monophysite & her husband a devout Christian, their happy union set an example for the subjects of their vast, growing empire: that they had an equal share of power. She even served in his stead while he was ill with the Bubonic Plague.
Anne in the "Regina" Dress: \$350

5. "Nika" In 532AD, Rioters set fire to the palace, churches, houses, & the baths, after the New Year's annual games in the Hippodrome. In an attempt to overthrow Justinian I by choosing a new Emperor, their rebellion led to a most horrific event. Approximately 30,000 unarmed rioters were massacred in the Hippodrome in a last-ditch effort to stop the rebellion. An ironic consequence of the city left in ruins was Justinian's opportunity to rebuild Constantinople to his specifications. He would reimagine the city on a grand scale only 40 days after the Nika Revolt. *Sheila in the "Bellatora" Dress: \$200 / Faux Leather Fringe Mantle: \$60*

6. "Ravenna" In Italy, Queen Regent Amalasuntha had feared for many years that the occupying Gothic nobles would overthrow her, & had Justinian I prepare a mansion for her in Dyrrachium. Despite her intuition being true, she remained in Ravenna, & after appointing her cousin Theodohand as King after her young son's untimely death, she was swiftly arrested & executed. This provoked the dawn of the Gothic War; as soon as Justinian I heard this news, he declared war on the Ostrogoths, which in turn led to the even more destructive sack of Antioch. *Jane Love in the "Ravenna" Skirt: \$80 / Gold Capelet: \$100 / Gold Blouse: \$40*

7. "Veba" Despite already being entrenched in battle from every side, in 541AD, The Black Death found its way to Constantinople, coming in on grain shipments from East Africa. Despite having the best medical schools & in the Empire, nobody knew its severity or cause. Famine followed pestilence; Death stalked the streets, & showed it was egalitarian by striking Justinian I. The death toll was approximately half of Constantinople's population, but this would not be the only time the Bubonic Plague struck the city; nearly 500 years after this, the plague decimated all of Europe. Many afflicted claim to having been touched by a ghostly apparition prior to falling ill, represented by *Suzie Sally in the "Mortem" Cloak: \$200 / "Orpheum" Gown: \$300*

8. "Ilkbahar" The peacock was a popular subject for Byzantine artists, often used to represent paradise, renewal, eternal life, & spring. Associating the peacock with heavenly paradise was an extension of the Byzantine vision of earthly paradise—many wealthy citizens were known to have kept peacocks to roam about their gardens. *Cheyenne in the "Pavo" Gown with Applique Cape: \$275*

9. "Anna" In 989AD, in an attempt to ward off the Bulgars, Emperor Basil II asked Prince Vladimir of