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Polo Ralph Lauren Takes Kids Show to Neverland

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New York's Central Park Zoo was transformed into a Neverland-themed playground for Raiph Lauren's kids' fashion show on Wednesday night as stylish uptown moms and their tots flooded the outdoor space to watch several dozen pint-size runway models show off looks from the fall collection. In addition to 12-year-old Levi Miller — who stars in the titular role alongside Hugh Jackman and Rooney Mara in the upcaming film "Pam" — the cast also included 12-year-old Maddie Ziegler of "Dance Moms" fame. "There are a lot of rising stars here," said David Lauren, executive vice president of advertising, marketing and communications for the company, after the show. We cast through friends and family, but there are a couple of young people that are aspiring actors and actresses. When we did this years ago, Jennifer Connelly walked the show. And of course (tonight) there is Levi [Miller,).

who's gonna be the biggest star in the world soon."

To many tween girls in attendance, he already was. "I'm here with my best friend and her doughter. She's been so excited to meet Peter Pan," Diane Kruger said. Rachel Zoe, Tyson Beckford and Dan Abrams also came out for the swashbuckling affair." I never thought I would do this, but you can't say no to Raiph and you can't say no to children's literacy," Zoe said, her four-year-old son Skyler in tow, of the party's beneficiary, the Raiph Lauren Children's Literacy Program. "Skyler is really excited, he really wanted to do this – I left it in his hands."

A front row of twice as many bodies than seats – little ones were perched on their parents' laps – filled in to view the boys and girls collection, which included tons of preppy staples – such as American flag sweaters, plaid skirts,

varsity jackets, herringbone blazers and sockless loaders aplienty – but a cool skater vibe also ran throughout the looks. There were slouchy jeans, cargo jackets and hoodles accessorized with beanies, fingerless gloves and leopard silp-on sneakers. It's very hip, very fashion-forward, noted David Lauren of the collection. "There are a lot of influences, and mixed with that are clothes that kids wear on the playground, like sweats, so it's eclectic. A lot of the clothes are styles that we love for Polo and for Raiph Lauren Collection, but we made them for two-or four-foottall children. It's amazing when they barely come up to my knee." Then – If 77 looks of considerable cuteness weren't enough to put one over the edge – Miller closed the show by walking a gip gantic Newfoundland dog named Lucy down the runway. — LEIGH-NORDSTROM.





photograph by Steve Eichner, Runway photographs by Thomas lannacoons