



Smithsonian Institution

National Museum of African American History and Culture

Playbill for Mud River Stone

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FASHION AVENUE

After the tragic death this summer of the vital, inimitable and often outrageous Gianni Versace, the world waited breathlessly to see how Donatella Versace would fill her late brother's empirical shoes at the recent Spring/Summer '98 show in Milan. Donatella, a self-proclaimed "Versace Girl" who had often collaborated with her brother, manifested her ingenuity in the collection's theme of contradictions - with the sexiness, originality, art and attitude of the Versace spirit tailored into every garment.

VERSACE LIVES ON

by Jennifer Lanter

[[image: model in pearl-purple knee-length gown]]

Top, left: The asymmetrical silk evening gown (as worn by Courtney Love at the VH-1 fashion awards) exhibits the trend of "deconstructed glamour." The top is fitted on top, but looser at the bottom. This touch of purposeful imperfection is a recurring theme in the collection.

[[image: model in long-sleeved red pant suit]]

Top, right: There is nothing simple about a one-button suit in racy red. Classic Versace by Donatella Versace. Strategic cutouts show how minor details transform a suit into a glamour statement.

[[image: model in half-length sleeved blouse top and nude knee-length skirt]]

Bottom, left: From the Versus collection by Donatella Versace, the unlikely pairing of a nude skirt with black, slashed top presents the opposing elements of a techno/natural style, a soft/hard attitude and a feminine/masculine demeanor. Opposites and contradictions.

[[image: model in black sleeveless top and black shorts]]

Bottom, right: Also from the Versus collection, a close-fitting, proportioned black top and hot pants. The style reveals that an outfit does not have to be exaggerated to be sexy.

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[[right page]]

Wishful Thinking!

[[image: assorted glass-bottled fragrances and perfumes]]

[[image: tall crystal designed glass vase]]

[[image: three metal wrist watches]]

[[image: young child dressed in plaid pajamas, opening a Christmas wrapped present]]

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