

Crystal Black Feather Gown

John Lin, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, USA

Couture, crystal, feather, black

This dress was the finale piece in the first annual “Big Hair Ball” fashion show, produced to raise funds for a local family service organization. The inspiration for the design came from trying to make the biggest dress. So the Victorian style of the big bell hoop skirt was a must. It was mashed with a more modern edge twist with crystals and feathers. There was also collaboration with the hair design team to create a cohesive look so that the massive hair style that they created didn’t clash with the dress.

First the design was approved by the main coordinator of the fashion show as well as the professor. The bodice was draped in muslin as well as the skirt was draped over the hoop skirt to mimic the fullness of the dress. After we had the final fitting in the muslin the main fabric that was used was cotton as an understructure. When that was completed the embellishment of the crystals and feathers were all sewn on by hand. It took over 200+ crystals and 45 boas to complete the look. Materials used were black cotton, black chiffon, volcano crystals, and feather boas.

