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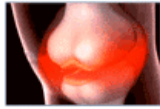
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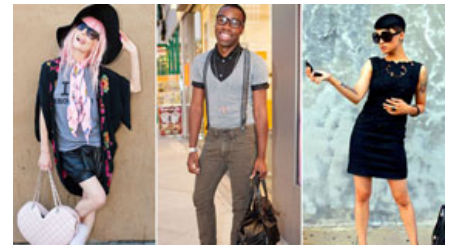
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Varvatos' battle of the bands narrows to four finalists

September 4, 2009 | 11:37 am

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Remember when we mentioned that fashion designer John Varvatos was teaming up with Island Records and SPIN Earth for a global battle of the bands competition? Well, the finalists have been announced, and, alas, there's no local L.A. talent to rally behind. The bands (you can check out the videos they submitted to the competition [here](#)) are:

Los Howlers from Santiago, Chile, featuring Tomás Nazal, guitar and vocals; Cesare Serra, guitar and vocals; Matías Sierra, bass; and Salvador Burrell, drums.

Reckless Sons from New York City, featuring Matt Butler, rhythm guitar and lead vocals; Austin Schumacher, drums; Anthony Stella, lead guitar; and Jacob Sloan, bass.

Scrambled Eggs from Beirut, featuring Tony Elieh, bass and vocals; Charbel Haber, guitar and vocals; Malek Rizkallah, drums and vocals.

The Fast Romantics from Calgary, Canada, featuring Matthew Angus McLeod, lead vocals, guitar, piano; Matthew Gordon Kliewer, lead guitar; Jeffrey Lewis Avramenko, bass guitar and backup vocals; Alan Douglas Reain, drums; Lurna Dawn Germscheid, organs, synth, percussion and backup vocals.

The finalists are slated to perform smack in the middle of New York Fashion Week at Varvatos' 315 Bowery boutique (the former home of CBGB's) on Sept. 15 after which a panel of guest judges (including Varvatos, Perry Farrell and Antonio "LA" Reid) will choose the winner – who will become the face of the first John Varvatos Star USA ad campaign, the younger kid brother line to the designer's eponymous collection.

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Photo: New York City's Reckless Sons is one of the four finalists in the John Varvatos/Island Records "Free the Noise" battle of the bands. Photo credit: John Varvatos

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