

AMI KHALIFA

THE FASHIONISTA WHO IS ALWAYS STRUTTING HER STUFF

“She’s so pretty.” “I love her style.” “Did you see Ami’s cool pants today? I heard she designed them herself.” These comments can be heard echoing the halls at East High School. Who is Ami you may ask? Most people know her as the fashionista at East High School. Ami Khalifa is a senior at East that is always rocking cool clothes and what makes it crazier is most of the clothes she is wearing is made by no other than herself.

“I think her sense of fashion is great and as you can see from her social media, she makes some of her own pieces which is pretty cool and unique,” junior Pilita Debe said.

Anyone who sees Ami Khalifa at school or anywhere else can see that she is always standing out with her new designs.

Ami was born in Ethiopia and raised there until she was five. Then her family decided to move to the United States. Ami didn’t always have a passion for fashion. When she first moved to the states she dressed like a boy because she saw what her older brother was wearing, and she looked up to him and wanted to dress like him. How she dressed as a kid helped her even to this day.

“I’ve grown up now and I can still pull off wearing guy clothes,” Khalifa said.

Dressing in boy clothes helped her be different. For Ami fashion really came in the picture when she entered high school.

“I’ve honestly always loved fashion and started to dress differently throughout high school, then people were always encouraging me to do fashion when I grow up but I didn’t take it seriously until I got accepted into the Central Campus Fashion, in the Merchandise Program,” Khalifa said.

When Khalifa got into Central Campus for fashion, she really started expressing herself. She is inspired by what clothing celebrities are wearing and who is designing more than who the celebrity is, but one of her favorite fashion Icons is Rihanna. Khalifa incorporated cultures and what stood out to her into the designs she created, which lead her to ultimately becoming one of the designers for the Central campus Fashion show in 2020. Khalifa had many amazing designs for the fashion show.

“My favorite designs from my collection would be my silk robe which you can literally rock outside in public with confidence like I’ve done, and I would say my guys suit which I had many issues with making but pulled it off and hey I would wear this myself,” Khalifa said.

Khalifa had many other great designs for the fashion show but unfortunately with Spring Break being extended then school being completely closed for the school year due to COVID-19 she couldn’t show off her amazing talent and designs which took months. The students and teachers apart of the Central Campus fashion show worked very hard on their designs and couldn’t showcase them.

“What I will miss about the Fashion Show is of course my amazing students but more, that I won’t be able to showcase their creative designs. I have extremely talented students and wish everyone could have experienced their vision,” Tracy Holland, Central Campus Fashion Design instructor said.

But if everything went as planned Khalifa could have been enjoying a great fashion show and her last and only fashion show since she’s a senior this year.

“It would’ve gone amazing as usual, very mind blowing because my classmates are really talented, and

we all have our different taste in fashion, which is awesome. I’ve learned so much from them and my teacher, we have worked our hardest to get these designs done,” said Khalifa.

If Khalifa could give her freshman self some advice, she would’ve had

much to say. Khalifa would tell herself and incoming freshman to step out of their comfort zone and to explore as much as they can from the fashion world. Khalifa got bullied sometimes for experimenting different types of clothing. For example, bright colors and African fabric.

“People think you can’t wear something because of your color or shade but that’s not true at all I used African fabric in my first collection because I want to see different cultures wearing what I’ve designed you don’t have to be African to just wear African print please step out and be a trendsetter,” Khalifa said.

Khalifa has so much confidence in her clothes because despite what others said she just stood tall and wore what she wanted to wear proudly. Khalifa’s very vocal about making sure you stay true to yourself and to make things your own.

Khalifa has plans to attend more schooling after graduating high school she is planning to continue her journey with fashion and is looking forward to more fashion shows and designing many more collections. If there is anything that Ami Khalifa from a small city in Ethiopia lives by is that being different can be kind of amazing.

Page editor/S.Selema

Story/S.Selema

Illustration/S.Selema

“BE SOMEONE’S INSPIRATION NOT THE FOLLOWER, MAKE YOUR OWN DECISIONS BECAUSE YOU HAVE THAT FREEDOM TO DO SO”