

Vivienne Westwood 2026 Bridal Runway

By George Vedder

If it weren't for her inclusion of a reimagined wedding dress at the end of her iconic showcases, the late Vivienne Westwood might be the last designer associated with courtship. To say the name Vivienne Westwood is to conjure images of empoweringly feminized corsets, orb-adorned jewelry, and anarchic graphic prints. Creative director (and widower of Westwood) Andreas Kronthaler, in the brand's first ever full-fledged bridal collection, continues Westwood's construct-defying legacy with an added delicate touch. The lineup's rose prints and chiffon fabrics write a romantic visual biography of punk fashion's high priestess. It's clear that in every look in this 2026 exhibition, Kronthaler is shaping the silhouette of his Vivienne—both inside and out.

Kronthaler's distinct traditionalism takes center stage in the collection's first few looks. Delicate fabrics and hourglass forms set the tone for the radical surprise of Vivienne Westwood's signature disorderliness in later garments. As the bridal show continues, the brand's punk-inspired side peeks through the veils of Kronthaler's purist formal wear: knee-length chain necklaces; stained georgette fabrics; and billowing kimono-like shoulder robes with nothing but a thong underneath.

Of course, the biography would not be complete without a hint of Westwood's recontextualized corset—an unfettering of history's restrictions on female posture. These now empowering corsets mingle with Kronthaler's graceful drapery work to create the perfect metaphor for Westwood's equal love of historical decorum and new age rebellion.

There were points, though, when the collection's ambition seemed to overshadow the show's delicate, romantic roots. The dark-colored and striped suits that Kronthaler inserts at just

two points in the collection—while maybe serving as a nod to Westwood’s love for feminizing masculine traits—felt a bit out of place amid a showcase of airy and alabastrine garments. As stunning as they are, these bold statement pieces didn’t fit a collection meant to capture her delicate romanticization of fashion.

Kronthaler has taken on a remarkably hefty task here: craft a lineup of wispy, historically accurate wedding dresses while still shining the spotlight on Westwood’s steadfast touch for innovation. Just like his late wife, each garment in this collection teemed with refreshing nonconformity. For his ability to embody the style of fashion’s rebel icon while still maintaining his staunch taste for formality, one can’t help but look forward to what Kronthaler will bring to the fashion scene down the road.