

# Veluto Nero

Fetish for Fashion



**Veluto Nero** is the designer front of Renata Caponi, one of the Twin Cities' up-and-comers in the gothic and fetish fashion genus. Caponi, who prefers the sultry nickname Velvet, has always had a niche for clothing. Before she could even say words like "rubber" or "latex", she was learning to walk in the hallways of the art department at Macalester College, where her father was a professor. She started sewing at the age of thirteen due to the illustrious lack of well-fitting, good-looking clothes she could find in stores.

She got her first job designing costumes for a local theatre troupe at fifteen. After a few summers of lots of flair but very low pay, Velvet enrolled in the apparel program at Minneapolis Community and Technical College at the age of twenty.

After finishing up at MCTC, Velvet and some fellow aspiring designers decided to put on a show at the Saloon in Minneapolis called "Figure of Expression." The designs were an instant success with patrons, and sparked the many shows that have followed since.



Currently a student at the University of Minnesota, Velvet is going for a clothing design degree, and considering a double major in retail merchandising to continue the cultivation of her raw talent.

## The Fashions

Stemming from her start in costume design, Velvet draws inspiration from a lot of costume attire. She loves historical clothing, especially corsets, and has been known to incorporate them into her own personal style as well as her designs. Her latest endeavor, in addition to other fetishwear and gothic apparel, has been latex clothing. This is partially due to her response to the *Flurs Du Mal* show last year at First Avenue Night Club when they asked her to "do something a little more "fetishy." "Fetishy" is what they got, and since then, the majority of her design requests have been in keeping with those from that very show, which has allowed Velvet to really begin experimenting with rubber.

"It [rubber] has a duality that I really enjoy. It feels very natural and organic to wear – feeling almost like a second skin, but at the same time, has the appearance of something very inorganic and industrial."





While current pieces are offered on a custom, one-of-a-kind basis a new ready-to-wear offering is soon to be added. Best, of course, is to have something made especially for you. Form, fit and fetish can best be expressed through her fashion in that manner.

One shouldn't be fooled by the black PVC and vampire-esque creations. Velvet is one of the nicest, most easygoing, down-to-earth people that could be in this crazy fashion industry. Creative energy just beams out of her, and you'll be left with the feeling she could create anything to fulfill the dreams of almost anyone.

For those who tastes run to the edgy and eclectic, Veluto Nero is a design line worthy of exploration.

See more of her exciting designs and learn of her events at [www.velutonero.com](http://www.velutonero.com)

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