

# Fashion boot camp

## GLENDALE WOMAN LEARNS 'WHAT NOT TO WEAR'

AFTER APPEARING IN an episode of TLC's *What Not to Wear* on July 13 — a show that helps the fashion-challenged — **Desiree Hickey**, 30, a Redken master specialist at **Au Rêve Salon** and Glendale resident, discovered firsthand what's hot and what's not from the show's style experts, **Stacy London** and **Clinton Kelly**.

Hickey recently granted us an e-interview to share the do's and don'ts she learned from her on-screen makeover adventure.

"I felt like I got to be someone else for a short period of time, and I brought some of her into my daily life," Hickey says.

**YES:** How did you get to appear on *What Not to Wear*?

**Hickey:** I got the opportunity to be on *What Not to Wear* because my friend Christy submitted my information online in May of 2006. The show sent two people with a camera out to do what they tell you is market research in February 2007.

They asked me questions about my personal style, what I consider to be stylish, and how I think style affects me in my line of work. From the footage, they selected me for the show and enlisted the help of my husband and a few of my friends to secretly tape me in my everyday look.

**Y:** How would you describe your style?

**H:** Before the show, I would have described my style as comfortable skater. My outfit of choice was jeans, a T-shirt most likely with skulls or words, and Vans or Globe tennis shoes.

**Y:** What were your initial concerns about your style or look?

**H:** My concerns about my style change didn't begin until Stacy and Clinton started telling me I dressed like a "12-year-old skater-punk boy." Clinton didn't like the skulls on my clothes and said they weren't approachable.

During my shopping trips, the crew and stylist decided that I was leaning toward a pinup-girl type look, and that's what they started looking for. I didn't really feel like it was a very practical style for a hair stylist when they started buying me dresses and heels.

► **DETAILS:** *What Not to Wear* airs at 9 tonight on TLC. At [tlc.discovery.com](http://tlc.discovery.com) you can take style quizzes, get fashion advice, read message boards and find out how to get on the show.

**Y:** What were you hoping to achieve from the experience?

**H:** I was hoping to find a way to mesh my skater-punk look with a more grown-up version. I like the style of **Pink** and **Gwen Stefani**, a little more rock 'n' roll. I also was looking for some guidance as to how to put outfits together.

I thought I would have more control over what I bought and where I shopped. I was really looking forward to getting some tips on how to dress for my body shape.

**Y:** What tips did the show's experts give you?

**H:** Stacy and Clinton told me I needed to look for dark denim and straight-leg jeans and shorts. They also suggested shirts that float away or more structured, fitted shirts. They recommended a V neckline and brighter colors.

I was a bit uncomfortable with the accessories they picked out because I don't like to wear anything I have to worry about getting in my way while I work. They also suggested some more grown-up shoes like wedges and pointy-toe heels.

**Y:** Which tips or style ideas from the show will you try to integrate into your everyday look?

**H:** I have been trying to look for clothes that give me a better shape since the show. I have also been buying things that are a bit more womanly and not from the little-boys section at **Tilly's**.

**Y:** How would you describe your new look?

**H:** My new look is now more of a fusion of what I like and what they suggested.

I really feel like I came out with a better understanding of what makes me look good and is also more appropriate for a 30-year-old hair stylist.

**Y:** Did you get to keep the outfits selected for you?

**H:** I got to keep all the outfits from my shopping trip in New York. I think about half of what I came home with is really workable for me to wear everyday.

**Y:** Which items are your favorites?

**H:** I love the jeans I came home with and two pairs of shoes. I also have a shirt that says, "I am the prettiest woman ever" that I love.



**Desiree Hickey** in her "before" shot (inset) on the set of *What Not to Wear*. Desiree in an outfit selected for the show, which includes a Nanette Lepore baby-doll top with ruffled detailing, chosen by one of the show's stylists; Uniqlo skinny jeans she found in Soho; a cherry-print handbag that she picked up in New York's Chinatown; and a pair of Anne Klein gingham-check, peep-toe heels from **Macy's**.

### STYLE NOTES

- Dark denim and straight-leg jeans create a classier, skinnier and more sleek look. A straight-leg cut will lengthen the appearance of your legs.
- V-neck shirts elongate the neck as well as create the illusion of a longer torso.
- Bright colors are great for drawing attention to a specific area. Used sparingly, they are a great way to add vibrancy to neutral-tone ensembles.
- Wedges and pointy-toe heels are more sophisticated. A high wedge or heel gives the calf more prominence and makes the leg appear thinner. Pointy-toe shoes make the legs look longer.