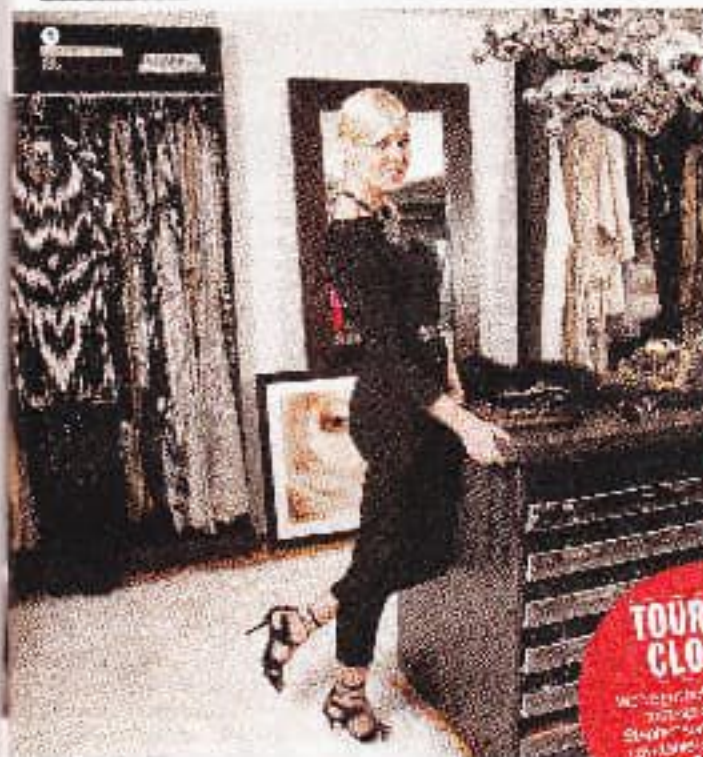


Closet case Mary Alice Stephenson

The beauty and style expert shows off her newly renovated closets, which take up an entire floor in her Brooklyn brownstone.

By Elizabeth Denton Photographs by David Rosenzweig



TOUR THIS CLOSET!

Stephenson's renovated closets are a mix of modern and classic styles, featuring a mix of colors and patterns. The closets are filled with a variety of clothing items, including dresses, tops, and skirts, as well as accessories like shoes, handbags, and jewelry.

1 Mary Alice Stephenson wears a mix of styles. She's made a name for herself working as a stylist, fashion commentator, or networker including CNN and E!, supplies jewelry for brands such as Sally Hansen and Heidi Klum, co-writer for Harper's Bazaar, and editorial fashion ambassador for Make-A-Wish Foundation (with Ford). But above all, she's a very single mom to a 4-year-old son. "I never wanted my home to be too precious to me and, but I did need my own space for my clothes and my jewelry collection," says Stephenson, explaining why she earned the not-so-fancy label of her Cobble Hill brownstone to her pair of closets. They were both provided by local wardrobe company Closet Estate (youseforaroom.com) and were built into Stephenson's second-floor flat. The space, which was previously a spare bedroom, was just a matter of design and install, and was done while her busy schedule continued. "I'm able to see everything is so important to my life," she says.

space between shelves," points out Stephenson, who estimates she has about 250 pairs of shoes with a four-to-five-inch heel. "I have old pairs. They're sexy, but they're itchy." Although Stephenson has many high heels from brands such as Christian Louboutin, Alexander Wang and Alaïa, which she uses as a go-to brand, she gets some of her outfits down at City's Shoe Service (210 Fifth Ave. between 22nd and 23rd Sts., 718-250-1451). "If you want to wear an 8 1/2 but don't want the extra heel height, you can take some height away and they'll still be sexy," she rosters.

3 "I wear sequins morning, noon, and night," says Stephenson. This Brooklyn dress is a flashy example and has yet to be worn. "My assistants always want to be a little closer to my closet because there's a lot of goodies," she says. "I just gave one of them a Mia Mik bag, and I'm done."

4 Biggie, the "earring," jokes Stephenson. "I never

wear a mall earring." Instead, she wears no earring at all. "I have a few earring studs that I use for some of my outfits, but I don't wear them." She also has a few necklaces, including a long necklace with a large pendant and a shorter necklace with a large pendant.

5 "I got this at my first Tendi sample sale," recalls Stephenson, who purchased the baguette while she was an assistant at Vogue. "They used to [sell] those bags for \$50. Every editor that could never afford a Tendi, but in real life stood in line. We were young, starting and very fashionable. We wanted a Tendi bag, so we would just run and grab it."

6 My jewelry is really bold statement jewelry," insists Stephenson of her baubles from Fortna, Fallon (567 Chryse St. between W 4th and 5th Sts., 212-477-1215, designbro.com), Lisa Mulholland (mulholland.com), and Cyanoth (cyanoth.com). "I'm not the one of those who takes one piece of jewelry and usually out the more piece of it."

HER FAVORITE NYC STORES

Dani 305 Atlantic Ave. between 3rd and 4th Sts., Brooklyn, 718-767-8700, dani.com. "I'm obsessed with Brooklyn furniture, and Dani's a morning for home goods," says Stephenson of the interior decorator.

New York Vintage 127 W 25th St. between 5th and 6th Sts., Brooklyn, 718-647-1107, newyorkvintage.com. "It's the best vintage boutique I feel like in the world," enthuses Stephenson. "Whenever I pull for shoes that I want, I'm always getting something from my closet."

Zad 18 Washington St. between 10th and 11th Sts., Brooklyn, 718-237-4052, zadstore.com. "I love Zad's vintage clothing and accessories," says Stephenson of the boutique's friend store.



2 "My heels are high, so [Closet Estate] had a custom one