



CLOSET

CONFIDENTIAL

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WITH A FIRE-EATING SHOWGIRL, WOLFGANG'S RIGHT-HAND MAN,
AND PATTY'S ACTUAL CLOSET

If it's March, this must be the fashion issue. And, while it's fun seeing what's new at the stores, it's even more fun to snoop inside people's closets.

There is no more personal space than your closet. If something has any meaning at all, it's stored, displayed or hidden inside this very private place. And, just like every picture tells a story, each closet is an encyclopedia of someone's life.

We truly appreciate our three participants this month, who allowed a couple of strangers to poke, pry and touch, all the while interrogating, so that our readers will have insight into their world.

Let's sneak a peek inside...

Georgie Bernasek

What would a visitor say about your closet?

I'm definitely fun, sporty, I like to work out. I also like to dress up and have a good time. I go 0-100 when it comes to fashion. I'm at all points in the spectrum.

I always tell my husband I'm cheering up people one outfit at a time!

What's your go-to outfit?

For day, I like jeans like True Religion and a Custo top. For events, it just depends on the type of event.

For work, I usually just wear something comfortable like a sweatsuit. I don't wear anything special to work, not even my jewelry, because it can get lost or damaged. Clothing might wind up with makeup on it, and if you leave a ring on a counter, it could get tossed in the trash. So, work is usually quite casual. It's not like the old days when showgirls had to wear a suit!

What's your most sentimental item?

I have old Fendi earrings from my Grandma, and rings from my Mom who used to be a showgirl back in the 1960s. I also have some jewelry from my husband.

This stack here is very sentimental to me. It's t-shirts from the shows and events I've been in, and some of them are even signed. I never wear them. They just have great memories. They're from the Lido in Paris; Hello, Hollywood; Hello, Jubilee; events like AFAN; and Richard Dawson even signed a shirt for me from "Family Feud."

You have a lot of jewelry.

I love accessories, so it's not just jewelry. I also have watches, vintage handbags, gloves, fishnets and all sorts of things.

These old showgirl earrings are really cool. They clip on but they don't feel heavy at all and they don't fall off, yet they come off real easily. I wish they made clips like this for all earrings. They're really comfortable.

Who is your favorite designer?

I particularly like True Religion jeans. I also like BCBG and Bebe. And, of course, anything vintage or unique.

Are those Barbies on the shelf?

Yes, they're all Bob Mackie Barbies. I love Bob Mackie and I love Barbie, so it's the perfect collection for me. I even have a Barbie lunchbox.

What's your best bargain?

I love anything vintage so I'm always trolling the thrift stores, yard sales and Buffalo Exchange. I bought this beautiful silk beaded gown that looks like a vintage Versace. And this white silk beaded dress is amazing! I can't fit into it but it's just so beautiful, I love to look at it.



I really love Buffalo Exchange for fun stuff. I love the hunt, to be original. I don't want to look like anyone else. I'm really into accessories so I can take something simple and dress it up. I'm also used to doing some alterations because most things are not made for a showgirl who is tall and long and lean, so off the rack items don't fit.

What's that sparkle in the back of your closet?

Those are Kippy belts. I love Kippy belts! And, I love sparkly things.

What's the oddest thing in your closet?

Oh, probably the nipples with sparkle and a swim cap.

What's missing from your closet?

This girl needs a bigger closet! I'd love to have a Christian Dior dress. I'm very lucky. The clothes at work are all made for me and that's lots of fun. I get to wear so much fashion in what I do. I just love designer dresses and gowns.

Patricia Barba

What would a visitor say about your closet?

That the girl from "Legally Blond" lives here! It reminds me of someone who is really feminine, whimsical, fun and not stuffy.

This closet is huge!

It's actually a converted guest room. I love it! I'm pretty practical, but I love color, so I love the beautiful sunshine yellow walls. I used old fashion magazine covers to create a cornice board for the window.

I have to have everything color coordinated, even my jewelry. You can't mix the silvers and the golds! I think in terms of color. Color evokes emotions.

I'm looking at nearly a wall of shoes. How many do you have?

At last count, something like 275-300 pairs. And I wear them all! New shoes just feel so good, and they make you feel like a girl. I could get rid of nearly everything except for my shoes!

What's your most sentimental item?

I keep my son's baby shoe in here. You can see how tiny it is! He's 13 years old now.

Is that your wedding dress in the corner?

Yes, and those are photos from my wedding day on the wall around it. I keep my gown on a dress form because it reminds me of how wonderful I felt that day. I'm lucky that I have room to display it. So often it just gets shoved in a closet somewhere and you don't get to enjoy it.

People often think that I'm high maintenance, but I'm the most low maintenance person you'll ever meet. You can see even with my dress. I could have gone very elaborate but it's really simple. That reflects the true me.

What's your best bargain?

It would have to be the pair of Michael Kors shoes I bought in San Francisco for \$20.

I'm typically not one to go for labels. If you accessorize something right, it doesn't matter. People will see it, like it and buy it.

What's your go-to outfit?

I'm so diverse when it comes to my wardrobe. I'd have to say I just wear something plain like a black jumper or a black dress, and accessorize it with an embellished jacket or cardigan. I think that jewelry and shoes pull everything together. A dreary dress becomes great with bracelets and high heels.

What's in all the boxes on the top shelf?

They're actually empty boxes. I just love boxes. They're so pretty. Companies spend so much money to design them and most people just throw them away. I save them and either keep them here to look at or use them to wrap gifts for friends. Right now I have Louis Vuitton



and Juicy Couture boxes, among others. Aren't they beautiful?!

What's the oddest thing in your closet?

I love to craft, so I keep all my beads and craft stuff here.

Do all the clothes come from your store?

Most of it is from Patty's Closet, but some I designed myself. A few items I've had for awhile and I just love them and can't let go!

I do purge my closet probably twice a year. Because I'm in the clothing industry, many times I only wear an item once or twice. However, as fun as clothes are, it's still my job. I always have to be done up when I leave the house.

Right now, I'm looking for items to wear in the Mrs. Nevada-America pageant in July. I'm competing so wish me luck!

Tom Kaplan

What would a visitor say about your closet?

I think if you look at my closet, you would see that I'm a very diverse person with many different interests. I'm definitely not monochromatic. I like a diversity of style and color. I like nice things but I'm more interested in quality versus brands. Although, I do love wearing Prada shoes to work. They're the most comfortable on your feet and they wear well.

What's your most sentimental item?

My Dad was a Marine captain in the Korean War. I have the compass he used there. I also have my Stepdad's Swiss army knife. And, my Grandma was an artist, so I have one of her paintings in here.

What's your go-to outfit?

I really love comfy clothes, so that's the first thing I grab when I head to my closet. For a casual day, I tend to wear hiking shorts and a t-shirt or a pullover, unless I'm going to be doing some sort of sport. Then I dress accordingly.

For work, I generally wear dress slacks and dress shirts, no tie, but sometimes a jacket. I tend not to wear suits to work. My favorite brands are John Varvatos and Zegna. I'm a 42R off the shelf for jackets, but my pants always need to be hemmed!

What do the photos represent?

Of course, there's my wife, Liz, and my dogs, Buck and Montana. This photo is of the Sawtooth Mountains in Idaho, my favorite place on the planet. I go there for the true outdoors. I love to climb. Mountains inspire me, and these are my favorite places to sleep under the stars.

What's the oddest thing in your closet?

Not odd, but definitely unique. For my 50th birthday, Wolfgang and his wife gave me a spectacular gift. It's a handmade suit by a tailor next to the Beverly Hills Spago. It looks like a pinstripe, but if you look closely, you'll see that the pinstripe is actually my name!

Are those a bunch of books hiding in the corner?

In my house, every room has books. They make me feel comfortable and have a sense of place. I'm an avid reader, too.

Explain your shoe collection.

Well, I really have more outdoor shoes than dress shoes, but I need different ones for different activities. I like to ski, cycle, run, mountain climb and pretty much anything you can do outdoors.

I see you have a Livestrong bracelet.

Yes, I used to bike race on an amateur intermediate level and Wolfgang sponsored a team. I had the opportunity to ride with Lance



Armstrong, and I still stay friendly with him and support his organization.

When the Olympics were in Atlanta, we actually sent two Las Vegas chefs to cook for the cycling team. They said they never cooked more food in their lives! Racing burns a lot of calories.

Is that a Yankees cap I see?

Yes, I'm a huge Yankees fan! I grew up in southern Connecticut and moved to New York, so I've been a fan since I was a child.

What's missing from your closet?

I definitely need to get cowboy boots. I have everything else, but now that I'm married to a Texan, I need them! □