

You started out as a journalist. What led you to pursue a career in design? I was on a press trip to Los Angeles with Jim Lehrer for the Democratic National Convention when I fell in love with the city. It was so youthful and creative that it really empowered me to go and search for my passion. After the election, I put in my two weeks notice, packed my car, and drove west. I discovered some great fabrics in the garment district and just started sewing my own clothes. Pretty shortly after, Dayna Devon (co-host of *Extra*) stopped me at a party and asked where I got my dress. I blurted out, "I'm a designer, and I made it myself." She wore it to a red-carpet premiere the next night and was featured in *Us Weekly* and *InStyle* wearing my design.

If you were so in love with LA, what lured you to Dallas? I was here visiting my cousin for a week over the Fourth of July, and there was such an energy to the city. I could just feel that something was getting ready to happen here, and I wanted to be a part of it.

What has been the most exciting moment of your career? Winning Texas Next Top Designer. The prize was more than a title. I have a team of experts with a personal investment in me and my business.

We love the details you use in your collections.

What's the story with the buttons? My younger sister is a full-time humanitarian. Together we're partnering with the Guardian Village Handicraft in Nepal. They rescue women from the sex-trade industry and teach them a skill while giving them food and a home. I send Guardian Village sketches of our designs, and the women hand-carve each button and toggle. It doesn't take much to change quite a few lives.

Explain the Revolving Door. The concept launched after Hollywood actresses kept using my LA apartment to get ready before events. It's basically a one-stop style center. It's for the woman who wants a custom-made dress for a gala, as well as the woman in need of a daily wardrobe. We carry my pieces as well as the jewelry, shoes, and accessories of several talented local artists.

What are you working on for fall? Black and white is huge. We have a great Marilyn Monroe-inspired dress, some bubble dresses, and I'm doing knits for the first time. I have wrap dresses with hoods and cupcake sleeves and sweater dresses with thumbholes and cowl necks. We will also be using some fun, colorful prints.

What do you love about the way Dallas women dress? They love to wear big, bold, bright colors.

Dallas is fashionable because ... women are willing to think outside the box. They're much more adventurous in their sense of style than in other cities.

[profiles]

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STYLE MAKERS
 DALLAS FASHION INSIDERS

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