

stay in style

Make your own fashion statement this spring with tips from top designer Nicole Miller.



“Don't worry about the signature 'look' of the season. Instead, buy what makes you look—and feel—great.”

How can we break out of a style rut?

It's surprising how much a haircut will update your look, particularly if you haven't changed your style since high school! A dramatically different hairstyle can give perspective on what works for you as the woman you are now—not who you were 10 years ago.

What's an affordable way to update your wardrobe?

A new jacket is a great way to update a dress or a skirt. In general, handbags or shoes are worth splurging on because they complete any look. When you splurge, don't buy something you can't imagine yourself wearing in a few months. Instead, purchase something classic that you'll love wearing for years.

How do you deal with style between seasons, when the temperature outside can range from warm to freezing?

Switching from summer to fall and winter to spring is always a challenge. If your legs aren't tanned, I'd recommend a neutral- or light-color shoe. Your legs will look less pale than they will if you wear a dark-color shoe. For spring, I always love prints, which I'm playing with in the form of gorgeous flowy tops in my JCPenney line.

What's been your biggest fashion faux pas and how did you recover?

One season, crinoline circle skirts were in—they were really freaking puffy! Then I saw another woman wearing one and I said to myself, *I can't do this*. If something looks ridiculous on someone else, it's going to look bad on you.

What look works on any woman, regardless of body type?

You can't go wrong with a little black dress. If you're full-figured, pick a flattering neckline so people will be drawn to your cleavage. Or choose a dress with a mid-thigh hem if you've got great legs. Once you know what looks good, you can play up your assets. 