

# Conversation

Photographs by AMY DICKERSON

Prop Styling by SCOTT HORNE



## Janie Bryant (janiebryant.com)

made her first dress when she was just eight years old—an early indicator of her future career in *costume design*. Growing up in Cleveland, Tennessee, she was influenced by countless classic movies ranging from *Guys and Dolls* to *Gone with the Wind* to *Grease* to *The Wizard of Oz*. (*Moulin Rouge* and *The Duchess* are more recent favorites.)

In 1999, Janie—who studied *fashion design* and *costume history*—relocated from New York City to Los Angeles to immerse herself in the film industry. Today, her credits include *Deadwood*, *The Last House on the Left*, *Simply Irresistible*, *Mr. Jealousy*, and *Palookaville*. But she may be best known for her work on AMC's *Mad Men*. "There is never a dull moment," she says of her job. "I love working with my team and creating characters through costume design."

At the end of her workdays, she unwinds in the *Mediterranean-style home* that she shares with husband Peter Yozell. "My home is all about creating a marriage of the *Rococo* and *Palm Springs*! Dramatic pieces include a white shag carpet in the master bedroom, chandeliers from a Milanese palace, peacock feathers, and a fabulous tiger-striped sofa," says Janie, who collaborated with interior designer Meredith Kleinman on the decor. The pair turned a bedroom into a closet for Janie's enviable wardrobe. "It's a dream come true," she says. We wouldn't expect anything less.

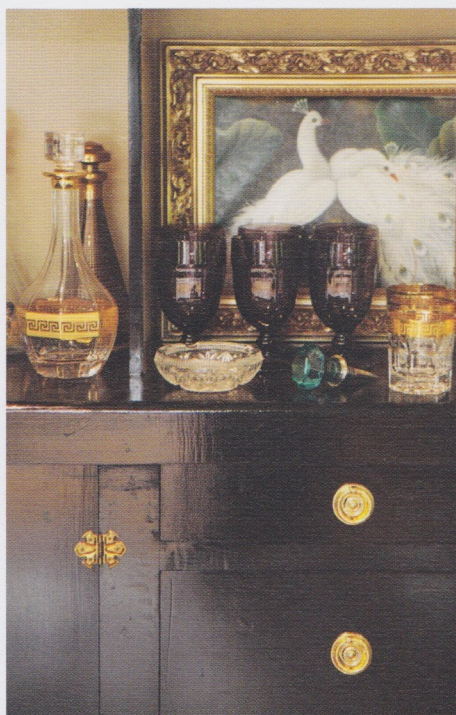


**CAREER PATH:** I was living and working on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue in New York for a fashion designer when I met a costume designer at a party. Her job fascinated me because she got to combine her love for design with a love for film. I grew up watching movies, especially the classics, and was obsessed with the costumes I saw. I knew this was a career move I wanted to make, so I began taking any costume design job I could, building my resume with each project.

**DAY IN THE LIFE:** No two days are ever the same for a costume designer. I split my time between reading scripts for the upcoming episodes, designing new costumes, redesigning vintage pieces for the show, swatching fabric, finding vintage pieces for the characters, getting our costume line set for each day's shooting schedule, taking meetings, doing research, fitting the actors, working with my crew, and so many other things! [For research], I use vintage catalogs, magazines, movies, photos, newspaper clippings, and the Internet to get a sense of what was authentic to the period.

**FAVORITE FASHION ERA:**

French Rococo. It's all about the opulence and extravagance for both men and women. Think of Madame de Pompadour and of Marie Antoinette. Women wore panniers, corsets, plunging necklines, and pagoda sleeves adorned with lace and ribbons.



*Clockwise from left: The painting above the bar is a nod to Janie's love of peacocks. Her poodle was the model for Judith Leiber's Lucille crystal minaudière. The decorative case's namesake. An island in the center of the closet stores jewelry and other accessories.*





"I wanted the master bedroom to have the feeling of being in a French chateau with touches of understated opulence," says Janie. The sofa is her own design, and the ottoman is upholstered in a Pindler & Pindler fabric.

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**FIRST SIGNIFICANT FASHION ITEM YOU**

**ACQUIRED:** For the Emmy Awards in 2005, I bought my first Valentino gown made of lavender silk chiffon with gold and silver bugle beading.

**FAVORITE SPOT IN YOUR HOME:**

I love the master bathroom for its luxuriousness—the double-headed shower, the sparkling chandelier, and the matching sconces that shine light onto the Venetian mirrors. The hardware is gorgeous, too. We have brass pulls from Rick's Hardware and golden dolphin faucets by Phyl-rich. There's a marble steam room and sunken Jacuzzi tub that looks out through the bay windows onto our Hawaii-inspired landscape. I feel like I am being pampered in a hotel spa when I look out onto the tropical plants and custom-made lava rock stream. This serene room strikes a balance between total glamour and the necessary quiet needed for relaxation, meditation, and all things beautiful.

**CURRENT INSPIRATION:** Liberace!

**RECENT HOME PROJECT:** Remodeling the master bedroom and bathroom.

**NEXT HOME PROJECT:** Remodeling the kitchen, my husband's office, and the hallway.

**AT THE TOP OF YOUR TO-DO LIST:** Clean out the garage! We still have boxes to unpack from our recent move.





### STANDOUT COSTUME THAT YOU DESIGNED:

Picking favorites makes me crazy! But one of my favorite costumes was Betty's blue brocade and silk organza gown on season 2 of *Mad Men*. I loved the design, the color, and the beading of rhinestones and pearls. I also loved the significance of that costume for the scene. That costume stood for strength and a small step toward liberation.

### ITEM EVERY PERSON SHOULD HAVE IN THEIR CLOSET:

A chandelier and good lighting!

### TYPICAL WEEKDAY ATTIRE:

J Brand skinny jeans, a leather jacket or blazer, blouse or T, with my Valentino black knee boots.



Above: In the bedroom, the Foo Dog table lamp was picked up at Hazelnut in New Orleans.

Left: "For tops and dresses, I find I have a lot of luxurious textiles like lace and silk," says Janie of her wardrobe. "And I always wear shoes with heels. Even my flats are 2½ inches."

### TYPICAL WEEKEND ATTIRE:

I like to be more bohemian, carefree, and sexy on the weekends. I'll wear kaftans with sandals or short shorts with high heels. In the evening, if I'm going out, I'll try to dress up more because my work wear is so casual and functional during the week.

**FAVORITE HOBBY:** It changes all the time but right now it's The Bar Method classes.

**FAVORITE SOURCE FOR NEW FASHIONS:** Net-A-Porter.com.



**FAVORITE SOURCES FOR VINTAGE FASHIONS:** Vintageous.com and Paper Bag Princess in Los Angeles.

**FAVORITE PAIR OF SHOES:** My Valentino black knee boots with crystal buckles. I've had them for almost 10 years. They never go out of style. They have the perfect heel for work. They are chic, well made, and no matter if I buy a closet full of new boots I always go back to those.

**FAVORITE HANDBAG:** My Louis Vuitton Noe bag. My father bought it for me years ago. I will keep it forever.

**BEST PLACE VISITED IN PAST YEAR:** I was brought to tears by the beauty of Moscow, and I was there in snowy February! Entering the Red Square was incredible to see and St. Basil's Cathedral took my breath away. I felt an inexplicable feeling of connection there. It was an inspirational city.

**BEST GIFT RECENTLY RECEIVED:** My husband got us tickets to *The Book of Mormon* for my birthday this year!

**BEST GIFT RECENTLY GIVEN:** One of the gifts I've felt best about giving is a donation to Heifer International, my favorite charity. You can give various denominations in order to donate goats, llamas, geese, and other animals that help families and communities around the world become self-sustaining.

**MOST INSPIRING BOOK YOU'VE READ:** *The Four Agreements: A Practical Guide to Personal Freedom* by don Miguel Ruiz.

**BEST THING ABOUT WHAT YOU DO:** Telling the story of a character by what they wear and then getting to see my

work on the screen. It's truly satisfying creatively.

**FASHION OR COSTUME DESIGNER YOU MOST ADMIRE:** Walter Plunkett and Adrian [Adolph Greenberg].

**OTHER WORK PROJECTS:** I collaborated with Banana Republic on The Mad Men Collection of apparel and accessories that will launch on March 1. And I'm the brand ambassador for Maidenform Intimate Apparel; I just designed a special capsule collection in celebration of their 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I also work with Downy Wrinkle Releaser, which I love at home and on the set. We recently produced The FabricCare Guide [available on the Downy website] for vintage and modern clothes.

**THE THING YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT L.A.:** It's the city of angels and where my dreams have come true. And, of course, the weather is gorgeous, too!

Janie's husband Peter, who works in the music industry, purchased the outdoor table and chairs in Nashville.

