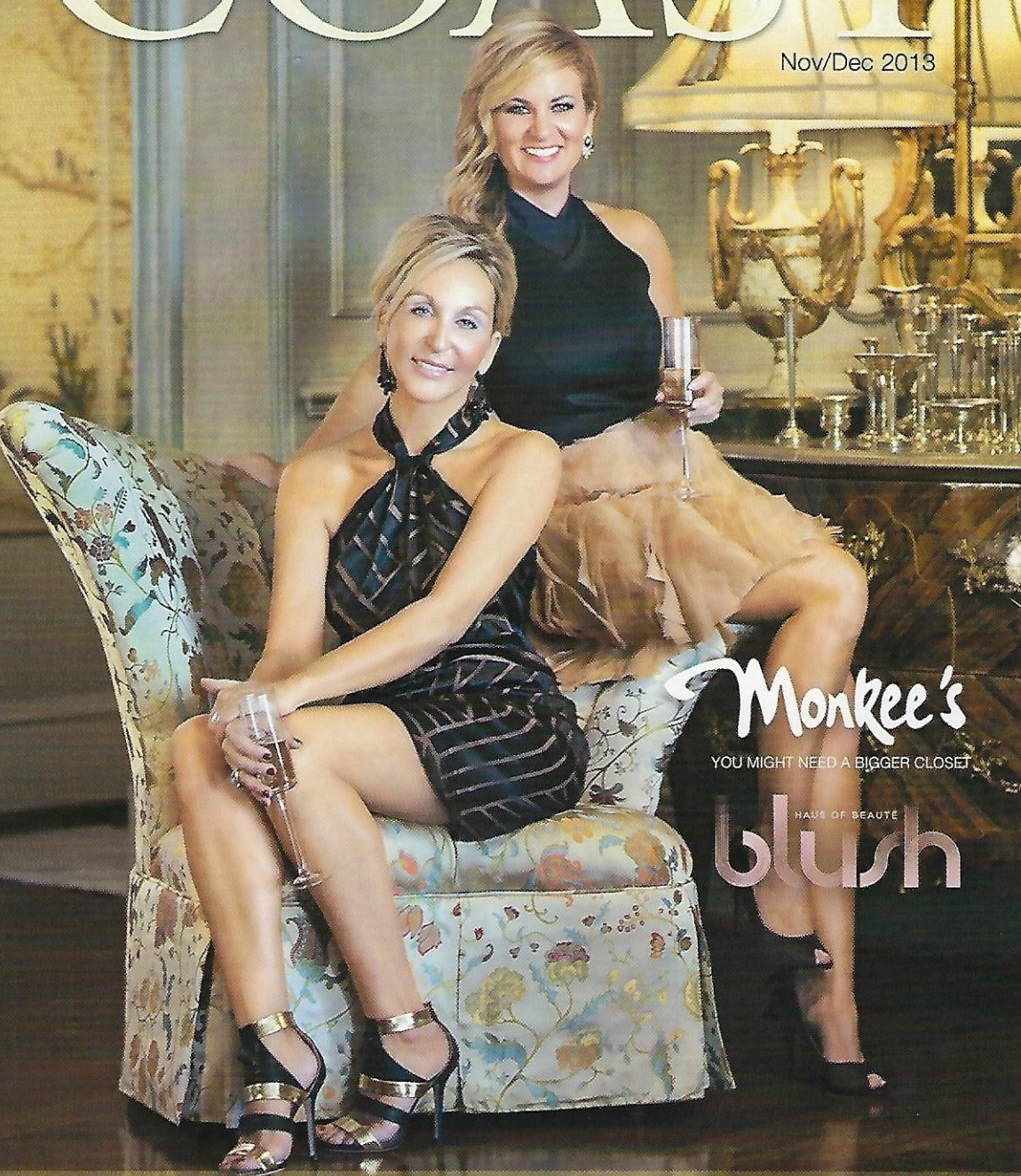


FOCUS ON THE COAST

Nov/Dec 2013



Monkee's

YOU MIGHT NEED A BIGGER CLOSET

HAUS OF BEAUTE
blush

Lifestyle Guide to New Hanover, Brunswick, Pender and Area Beaches

by Melissa Slaven Warren photos by Austin Stinson

Brigitte Bardot

meets Jackie O,
~ Southern Style ~



Two entrepreneurs and friends share laughs and advice from their personal style file—just in time for the holidays.

FRIENDS SINCE 2003, Dee Dee Shaw, founder of Monkee's, and Elisha Wendt, stylist and owner of Blush Haus of Beauté, have spent years cultivating their passion for beauty and fashion into retail fairy tales. This makes them the perfect duo to help you solve the most important of holiday quandaries: How to make an entrance at all those cocktail parties, corporate soirees, and Yuletide get-togethers. Here, Dee Dee and Elisha get up close and personal with FOTC about what to wear (and not) for the holidays, personal style, hair, shoes, and yes, even tennis skirts.

FOTC: **How are you two alike but different?**

ELISHA: We both like to keep it fresh. We're both always looking for the next best thing.

DEE DEE: She's prissy and I'm not.

ELISHA: She'll show up in a Chanel dress, but I have to make her brush her hair.



FOTC: What's a beauty secret of the other you want to share?

DEE DEE: Elisha's is teasing hair, 'cause she never washes her hair. And her eyelashes are a gift! They look false, but they're not.

ELISHA: Dee Dee's is a tennis skirt! Chanel earrings and a tennis skirt!

DEE DEE: I'm always either coming from or going to work out.

FOTC: If you were to raid each other's closet, what's the first thing you'd grab?

ELISHA: She'd have to clean my closet first to get into it.

DEE DEE: Oh yeah, her closet is a mess. Mine is not. I keep mine organized. I knew her mom, and I'm sure she would not be impressed with what her daughter's closet looks like. I love the way she does a man shirt. I think she might even have one on right now. I'd take her man shirts.

ELISHA: I do (love a man's shirt). I'd grab Dee Dee's fur and Chanel.

FOTC: What celebrity would you want to meet?

DEE DEE: Elisha would want to meet Princess Diana.

ELISHA: Dee Dee wishes she could meet Grace Kelly!

FOTC: How would you describe each other's style?

DEE DEE: Elisha can pull off sexy, even though I

hate that word, but she always has a look about her that's sexy, no matter if she's in jeans. I have more of a tomboy look.

ELISHA: I wish I were more girl-next-door. But I'm just not. I don't want to look sexy and I try to cover it up.

DEE DEE: It's your look. I'm more of a Jackie O shift.

ELISHA: I'm more Brigitte Bardot. Go big or go home!

DEE DEE: Nobody likes getting older but we all do. I put on a dress the other day, and I knew as soon as I put it on, it was too short. It was told it wasn't, but I am fifty-one. It was too short.

ELISHA: Dee Dee and I are not scared about our own style. I don't need someone to tell me that my butt looks big in something, 'cause I know it looks big in the mirror. And Dee Dee will be the first to tell me, yep, your butt looks big.

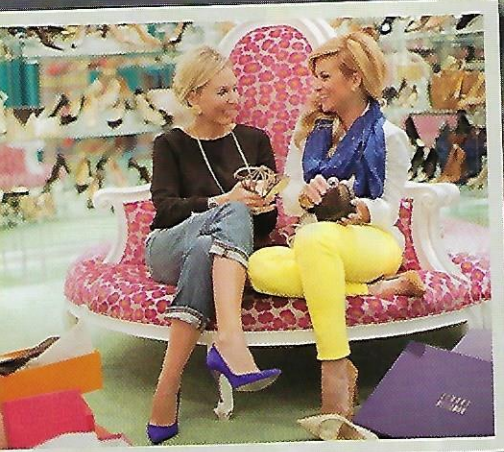
DEE DEE: But I also will tell her, "Dang that looks awesome, where'd you get that?"

ELISHA: That's a great example of the way Dee Dee and I get ourselves dressed. It makes it more fun. It's all impromptu. Nothing's premeditated. And we may be five minutes late, but better to be late than arrive ugly.

FOTC: So, let's talk about holiday style. What colors should we look for this season?

DEE DEE: Cobalt is a huge trend. And so is green.

ELISHA: We just bought a pair of blue cobalt Stuart Weitzman shoes. Yep, Twinkies.



DEE DEE: When I said I was going to wear the shoes for the photo shoot she asked, "why are you gonna wear those shoes that I bought first?"

ELISHA: She wore them in the shoot like she claims them. They were my shoes first! And everyone will assume it was me rocking her style.

FOTC: *What are some other trends to consider?*

DEE DEE: Sequins are always a holiday trend.

ELISHA: I cry sequins.

DEE DEE: But sequins are an all-year-round trend if you wear it...

ELISHA: With your tennis skirt.

DEE DEE: If you wear it appropriately (laughing). In a real tight dress is not the way we like to see sequins. We like to see sequins in a great top with a pair of blue jeans and heels.

ELISHA: But you don't want to do sequins and a red lip and heavy eye makeup. You should do one or the other. It's a balance. You don't want to look like you're in a costume.

DEE DEE: Well, you look like you're in costume.

ELISHA: Don't be jealous.

DEE DEE: Also, lots of studs, and of course, black.

ELISHA: And leather. But you don't want to do leather and red lips. You want to do a nude lip. You want to play it down.

DEE DEE: You don't want to look like a vamp.

FOTC: *What accessory should we splurge on for the holidays?*

Both: SHOES!

ELISHA: You can wear any kind of a dress with the right shoe.

DEE DEE: I'd splurge on shoes before a dress or a bag.

ELISHA: I'd make my date carry my lip gloss for a great pair of shoes. And Dee Dee would just take my lip gloss because she would want mine anyway.

FOTC: *Any other advice for the upcoming holiday season?*

DEE DEE: It's a good time in our lives right now, in a sense that everything, including the economy, is getting better. Be happy where you are right now in your life. You don't have to go out and buy a \$300 dress. Buy something that makes you feel good. We're all about helping you out in any way that we can, and know that we're your friends.

ELISHA: We're not just your local retailers. We are your girls.

FOTC: *So you are both smart and business savvy in your own rights, any possible ventures together in your futures?*

DEE DEE: That's a big question mark. Here comes the cliff hanger. What's next?

ELISHA: You never, ever know. There's always something brewing. ■