



**BELLA's tagline is "Beauty as defined by you." How do you define beauty?** Beauty has to come from within. If you don't feel good about yourself, you can be the most beautiful person physically, but it won't come through. Beauty is a combination of self-acceptance and caring for yourself by eating the right foods and working out. Beauty ultimately is being the best you can be instead of trying to be something you're not.

**What is your biggest pet peeve?** If someone tells you they are going to do something and they don't ... unreliability.

**Let's talk fashion. Spring is here; what would you recommend as the season's must-do's when it comes to style?** Spring is all about bright colors and placement prints... but my advice to women in any season is always this: When you're in the fitting room, try and experiment with things you'd normally think you can't wear

or wouldn't do. I think people tend to lock themselves in a box thinking they can only wear certain colors or pieces. In the fitting room, it's only you and the mirror; you may think you look horrible and that's OK – it's only you in there, so have a good laugh. Sometimes though, you will find something new and say to yourself, "Oh I *can* wear this!" Definitely don't be afraid to try new things.

**You are known for your body-conscious women's wear. What should be the pieces every woman must own?** You always need a great black day dress and a black cocktail dress, a great pair of jeans, a leather jacket and great shoes. But – *and I say this to everybody* – every woman should also have a great ball gown. I mean, what if you get a call that day and it's a ball and you don't have a gown ... what are you going to do? *(Laughs)*

We ended our chat with David's one piece of advice specifically for women who struggle with finding the right pieces to wear: "Fit, fit, fit ... it's key, and with a great fit you will always look great." He goes on to explain, "You can buy a \$50 dress and look like a million dollars as long as it fits properly."

Also very important to keep in mind is the right undergarment – that makes a huge difference, he points out. "Celebrities *Spanx* it and some even double-*Spanx* it! Women need to know it's about feeling good and therefore looking good. I mean we're not saving the world here! It's fashion ... have fun with it!" 🐼

To learn more about David Meister, visit [DavidMeister.com](http://DavidMeister.com)

# CHATTING WITH DAVID

An Exclusive *BELLA* Interview with a Fashion Superhero

By Vanessa Coppes

American fashion designer David Meister is known for his sophisticated yet body-conscious women's wear. As a young child growing up in Cincinnati, celebrities like Sonny and Cher and style-savvy TV shows fueled his desire to become a fashion designer.

Meister's designs – a red carpet staple – have graced the frames of Katherine Heigl, Queen Latifah, Fergie, Tina Fey, Demi Lovato, Drew Barrymore and many others.

I was honored to speak to Meister exclusively for *BELLA*. In this fun, candid interview, he not only revealed his favorite cocktail, but also highlighted a witty sense of humor wrapped in a fabulous, glittering lamé cape:

**What is your favorite drink?** Oh, a martini straight up with extra olives, preferably blue cheese olives.

**If you were a superhero, who would you be and what superpowers would you have?** Ohhhh, I *like* this! I would be "Fashion Man" with a glittering, metallic lamé cape – and it would be fabulous! I would have the power to change fashion victims around the world.

**Who inspires you?** In the fashion world, it's people like Oscar de la Renta, Carolina Herrera, Diana Vreeland ... people who've had a career for such a long time. It's tough to build a career in fashion and tougher to keep it going for so long. In life, I am inspired by people who are doing good things that make a difference in the world and affect people's lives – like those who continue to work with people in Haiti.