



Jamie Nash designs unique feather jewelry and expects to expand her line in 2011.

It all started with ducks. As a little girl, Jamie Nash would go visit her grandmother, Jessie Nash, in Memphis. When Nash was in third grade, she and her grandmother, who loved art and design, visited Chickasaw Gardens to paint portraits of ducks. Though Nash admits her own duck drawing was “very bad,” it did not curb her appetite for crafting. It made her hungry to

# A Star is Born // by Quita Blackwell

discover more ways to be expressive.

Now Nash, a 25-year-old Madison native, designs and handcrafts jewelry, proving with every piece that the smallest details make the boldest statements. Her funky jewelry line, called Jamie Nash Designs w/a Dash of Beck, includes accessories such as lapel pins, hat pins and her signature feather earrings. She picks the feathers, which range from goose to peacock to ostrich, from bird farms around the state. Nash conceptualizes each piece for the client who ordered it.

“My earrings are for someone who wants to be bold but in a sexy, funky and exotic kind of way,” Nash says, “(They’re) definitely for a girl who has her own personal style and never follows the rules.”

Even when she was young, Nash made her own rules. “I started to draw the clothes that I wanted to wear, and my mom helped me make them,” she says.

The designer majored in painting and minored in crafts at Delta State University. While there, people took notice of the accessories she wore when she was at school, visiting home and even, if she felt inspired, while she was out for cocktails.

It was a chance meeting with local boutique buyer Becki Cummings Hicks while Nash was working her part-time job at Wraps, the restaurant, that her accessories collection went from side hustle to business venture.

“(Becki) came in for a to-go order,” Nash recalls. “I noticed a beautiful feather earring she was wearing. I told her that I made feather earrings. We talked, and she told me what she did at Shoe Bar at Pieces. She asked me to bring my earrings to the store to display and sell.”

The emerging designer’s clientele has grown since her Shoe Bar debut.

By this summer, Nash and her feathers will fly high at music festivals around the state. And she intends to offer in-store customers even more with hair accessories.

The jewelry maker credits her mother and late father for encouraging her to pursue her passion. As she develops her love for all things artsy, more and more people are discovering and rocking the “Nash look.”

“A friend of mine was in Los Angeles wearing one of my earrings and texted about the compliments that she was getting out there,” Nash says.

“She said, ‘I guess you are a star now.’”