



Chic Boutique

Christina Carathanassis

Rhode Island '94

In the spring 2005 issue of *The Quill*, Christina Carathanassis told us about her online designer resale boutique, Christabelle's Closet, which features clothing and accessories for women, men and children. Savvy business decisions during the past year, such as opening a store on eBay to generate site awareness and traffic, and expanding Closet offerings, have made Christina's "e-tique" even more successful. This summer, for example, Christina added a Pampered Pooch section to her site to offer four-legged friends the finest in custom-designed T-shirts, leashes and collars. Christina's men's section was recently expanded and now includes specialty wear, such as tuxedos. And several fun, new products are being launched under the Christabelle's Closet label: Fashionista Floppers (hand-decorated Swarovski-encrusted polka dot flip flops) and decorated baby onesies.

Christina continues to donate half of the proceeds from the sale of merchandise in Christabelle's Clearance Closet to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research to help people, including her mother, fight the battle against Parkinson's disease. To generate even more funds for Parkinson's research, Christina created a white tank top with a red tulip (the world symbol for Parkinson's disease) embellished with Swarovski crystals, which has been *the* item for spring and summer. By ordering your tank at ChristabellesCloset.com, you too can be one of the fashion-forward women like Marcia Cross, Teri Hatcher and the rest of the *Desperate Housewives* gang who own this fabulous tank. (It was quite the coup for Christina to have her tulip tank included in the gift bags given to celebrities at the Monte Carlo Film Festival.) Half of the proceeds from the sale of this tank are donated to the Michael J. Fox Foundation.

Christina is in the process of organizing a "GO RO" team (her mother's nickname is Ro) for next year's Parkinson's Unity Walk in Central Park to continue to raise funds for research. Christina invites sisters who are interested in joining the team to contact her at the email address listed below.

Christabelle's Closet garnered a great deal of media attention during the past 12 months. Websites such as *CosmoGirl.com*, *SheFinds.com*, *TheTipJar.com*, *BargainsLA.com* and *AskMen.com* have all featured Christabelle's Closet, as has the Discovery Channel. Watch for the August issue of *Entrepreneur* magazine, which features Christabelle's Closet in an article about small businesses using eBay stores to market their websites.

Christina says she is overwhelmed and moved by the love and support she received after being featured in *The Quill*. "I heard from sisters all across the country... beautiful words of congratulations, blessings, encouragement, friendship and loyalty. I feel so fortunate to be involved in such an amazing sisterhood, and I thank everyone for their words, patronage and unconditional love. You never quite understand the magnitude of how you affect people in their every day lives, and I am overjoyed to know I have helped other women—my sisters—find their motivation, true calling and inner talents!"

Connect with Christina at christina@christabellescloset.com.
Find a fabulous fashion or two at www.christabellescloset.com.

