

## Fashion

## Why Carla won't be single long



TOM SANDLER PHOTO

Carla Collins, at the Bell Mobility Celebrity Gala last year, brings her new-woman show to the Diesel Playhouse Cabaret on Blue Jay Way.



**Bernadette Morra**  
Fashion Notebook

**Carla Collins** is doing her best to hide her breasts.

Lord knows why. We are having refreshments in the library of The Spoke Club. There is no one around. And once I succeed in getting her to unbutton her gold lamé blazer, I am impressed.

The melon-shaped implants, busting out of a pretty floral camisole and pearl-trimmed wrap sweater, were installed around the time Collins moved from Toronto to L.A. to take her comedy career to the next level.

The problem is that Collins' six-year marriage to **Jon Burnside**, owner of the Healthy Heart food delivery service, has fallen apart. And suddenly the single girl with the sexpot curves is feeling vulnerable.

"Marriage was a safety net," she says, revealing how shy she feels being approached by potential suitors. "The irony is that now I dress more conservatively than ever."

Collins might, but the characters in *The Visionary Position*, her one-woman show that opened this week at the Diesel Playhouse Cabaret on Blue Jay Way, are another story.

They include Souffle, a French lingerie model, and Bunny McLennahan, a wealthy Holt Renfrew regular who suspects that her husband is gay.

"I really wanted to bring a fashion element to this show," says Collins, who collaborated with writer **Paul Schmidt**.

Avec Plaisir, designer **Mark Belford** and Zola Shoes help Collins distinguish between the four "imaginary friends" who help the new divorcee pass the time while she awaits the results of a pregnancy test.

Ziggy Santa Monica, an abrasive Los Angeles gossip columnist, and Starlight Mahoney, the world's only stand-up psychic, round out Collins' make-believe pals.

Adding to the blur between fact and fantasy is that Collins does admit to having spent a night recently at her ex's home.

"We're really good friends and I am not just saying that," she ensures, adding that some would prefer news of a scandal.

"People are very disappointed

that there was no third party involved in the breakup of my marriage. That I didn't catch my husband with a dwarf."

Nor has she been doing any running around, with either gender, she joshes. "John says that if he walked in on me with another woman, he would never leave me."

But if Collins is feeling so shy, why on earth is she taking pole-dancing classes?

"It's the best workout ever," she raves of her latest L.A. pastime. "It's like sexy Pilates or yoga. Then we change into six-inch heels and start on the pole. It's strength, flexibility and choreography combined. And it's hard. I have bruises from smashing into the pole."

Collins' new respect for strippers might just earn her a whole new fan club, but there's another crowd she would love to befriend.

"Wouldn't it be great if drag queens started coming to the show dressed like me?" she muses. "Like they did to *Rocky Horror Picture Show*?"

The *Visionary Position* runs until June 4, then Collins plans to take the show to Los Angeles.

**BREAST DRESSED:** Collins says she didn't have to adjust her wardrobe much after jumping two cup sizes. "I couldn't afford new breasts and a new wardrobe."

"But I did have a little party where I gave away my really teeny tops to some girlfriends."

Still, the implant trend is on the minds of store buyers and designers, who must ensure that clothes can accommodate top-heavy proportions.

Designer **Joeffer Caoc** notes that at a recent trade show called *The Train* in New York, retailers kept asking, "How does the bust fit?"

"After the first five or six, we finally realized they were concerned about implants," Caoc explained at his Spadina Ave. studio last week.

"Especially the stores in the southern U.S. and California. And they wanted specs — exact measurements — for every size that we do. They were also ordering larger tops and smaller bottoms."

Caoc says he has always cut for a shapely body, because the majority of his customers are over 40.

The *Train* also brought Caoc a high-profile new account — actress-turned-shopkeeper **Phoebe Cates**, who ordered his collection for her Madison Ave. boutique, *The Blue Tree*.

**ROCKIN' MASAI:** I don't know what to say about these, other than what I have been told. At a preview of his latest shoe offerings, retailer **Ron White** introduced me to the local rep for MBT. "It stands for Masai Barefoot Technology and it's like a workout in a box," promises **Donna Bernstein**. According to [www.swissmasai.com](http://www.swissmasai.com), a Swiss engineer named **Karl Muller** noticed that Korean rice pickers and the East African Masai tribe walk barefoot but have perfect body alignment and few back problems.

So he developed a shoe with an uneven sole that is thickest under the arch. The unstable shoes require a small but continual rocking motion to stay balanced. "It forces you to hold your core. And because you are constantly moving, muscles are repaired and rebuilt."

After trying a pair on and flapping my arms for balance as I stood up, I guarantee I won't be wearing them out for drinks.

MBT shoes sell for \$290 to \$325 at **Ron White The Foot Shoppe** and **Foot Solutions**.

**Bernadette Morra** is the Star's fashion editor.



KEITH BEATY / TORONTO STAR  
Above and left, from Joeffer Caoc's fall 2006 collection, ordered by Phoebe Cates. Below, MBT's workout in a box, \$290, at Ron White The Foot Shoppe and Foot Solutions.