

'90s simplicity shoves aside glitz

NOLAN MILLER, who designed the ritziest fashions for the television series "Dynasty," says the '90s are bringing a less flashy lifestyle than the '80s glitz of the show.

"I think things have gotten simpler, less ostentatious," Miller says. "Entertaining is simpler. There



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are not so many lavish balls and black-tie events. You know, the White House sets the pace. ... We sell five short dresses to every long gown now."

Miller, a native Texan, thinks Dallas is more formal than Los Angeles. "I think people dress much more here. You go to a party here, and everybody has made an effort. And I never saw as many blondes as in Dallas. Even at important parties in L.A., you see people who look like they just came from the office."

Miller finds he has to teach most actresses how to wear clothes. He dressed Sally Field for her latest film, "Soapdish." She'd never worn such formal clothes in a film and felt uncomfortable in them, he said. But she wasn't half as bad as Rebecca de Mornay, whom he dressed for the television mini-series "An Inconvenient Woman." She showed up for her fitting with long stringy hair and jeans, and he said, "You have a hell of a nerve. How am I going to dress you like this?"

Miller yearns for the old days of the studio system when actresses were taught the social graces. "Girls never learn to dress. They go to school in jeans and a sweat shirt. ... They rely on a magazine and buy a label, and they come in saying, 'How do you like my Norma Kamali?' And I say, 'You mean your dress?' ... They don't have the faintest idea how to move or sit in an evening gown or how to walk in heels. The other day I was in Beverly Hills (Calif.) and Jane Wyman walked in. She must be 80 years old, but her posture is perfect, she's elegant. Every one stopped and looked around."

Last 'Oswald' sighting

We promise, we think, that this is the last "JFK" movie location story. Director Oliver Stone couldn't leave last month for New Orleans without shooting a last scene, which took place in a North Dallas neighborhood in a '60s-type ranch home similar to the one where Lee Harvey and Marina Oswald spent their last night together. Real-estate agent Sandra Courie donated her house to the cause. It was in her kitchen that the couple have a big fight at breakfast. Oswald storms out of the house carrying a brown package, which he claims is curtain rods. Sandra's neighbors were invited to watch the action from tents in neighbor Judy and Phil Nimmar's driveway.

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