

Jewelry of Legends creates pieces like those worn by celebrities

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"What I've done is taken the jewelry that the general public wouldn't be able to afford and made it affordable to the everyday woman who wants a little glam and nostalgia in her life," Stacey Whitmore says from her Marilyn Monroe-themed office. / KELLY WILKINSON / The Star



Written by T.J. Banes

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Stacey Whitmore has a sparkle in her eye, accentuated by her bejeweled neckline and enthusiasm for a new business venture.

The wife of Mark Roesler, president and chief executive of CMG Worldwide, mixes her love of Hollywood glitz and glamour with her husband's business ties to create her own line of unique jewelry.

Based in Fishers, with offices in California, CMG was launched in the 1970s to represent the families and estates of deceased celebrities through licensing agreements.

Those celebrities include actors, actresses and athletes. Hollywood legends and female celebrities are the inspiration behind Whitmore's jewelry collection.

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"During my time assisting the estates of numerous legendary clients with various licensing deals, I often browsed through thousands of archived images," Whitmore

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said. She gushes as she speaks their names -- "Marilyn Monroe," "Ingrid Bergman" and "Princess Diana," just to name a few.

Last year, Whitmore launched her business, Jewelry of Legends, which has a website, www.jewelryoflegends.com. It offers near replicas of the gems of the stars at a fraction

of the [price](#).

"What I've done is taken the jewelry that the general public wouldn't be able to afford and made it affordable to the everyday woman who wants a little glam and nostalgia in her life," Whitmore said.

She chatted candidly recently from her office at CMG headquarters, where she's surrounded by images of Marilyn Monroe, as well as items owned by her. A skirt preserved behind a glass frame includes a tribute to the iconic blonde and sex symbol.

One of Whitmore's most popular designs is a replica of the pearl button [earrings](#) that Monroe wore when she struck a windswept pose in her signature white dress in 1955 film "Seven Year Itch."

Whitmore, who introduced her jewelry line through the Home Shopping Network, [prices](#) the button earrings at \$20. Prices go upwards from there, but they are under \$100.

She recently signed an exclusive deal with Heritage Auction to re-create some of the most coveted heirloom pieces sold at auction.

A pair of tear-drop turquoise-and- diamond earrings is listed in the auction house catalog with a starting bid of \$5,000 and an estimated [selling](#) price of \$8,000. As one of Whitmore's first designs from the heritage-inspired collection, she replicated the earrings using synthetic stones and materials to keep the price at \$100. She works with a designer throughout the process, tweaking the patterns until she is ready to offer her stamp of approval.

"All my jewelry is inspired by the people and glamour of the time, but some pieces are a combination of several different originals," said Whitmore, who added that she would never replicate a one-of-a-kind piece created exclusively by a high-end jeweler.

For the interview, she wore a classy long black dress and modeled some of her favorite pieces: a multi-strand pearl necklace featuring a Princess Diana- inspired synthetic sapphire gem and matching earrings.

Whitmore is exploring retail outlets. She's starting with a line for Bettie Page Clothing, a vintage retailer, inspired by the famous '50s model.

She's also in the early stages of creating a collection under the signature Five Iconic Women of Hollywood. The five are Gene Tierney, Ava Gardner, Ingrid Bergman, Ginger Rogers and Natalie Wood.

"I want to give women the most authentic look but keep the price and integrity of the piece intact," Whitmore said.

Call Star reporter T.J. Banes at (317) 444-6815.

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