

## MEET THE MODEL

# Jennifer Steele

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The ability to play many roles in front of the camera is a key to success in the modelling world and it's a skill that has allowed Jennifer Steele to build an international career.

Sometimes the 33-year-old is in fashion-forward Singapore, working with younger models and playing the role of someone in her early 20s. On another day, she could be a mom in her early 40s.

Sometimes you'll see her in advertising for big retailers, such as Roots, Sears or Wal-Mart. Or, if you happen to be in Montreal, you might see her image on the side of a truck as part of a campaign for a clothing retailer that also has her on in-store posters and as the face of its women's line on its website.

Sometimes Steele is on fashion runways. Other times she's in bridal wear or doing catalogue work. And sometimes she's hired to try on new clothes to make sure the garments fit properly before going into mass production.

"What I admire most about this industry are the people I meet and the cultures I have gotten the privilege of experiencing while abroad," Steele wrote in an email, following up a telephone interview. "Being in this business allows you to connect with all types of people from all parts of the world, and learn to adapt to new situations. That's what I love about it the most, even though it can be challenging at times."

Still, with all of her different looks and international exposure, this jetsetter may look familiar if you've been a dedicated reader of



You can follow model Jennifer Steele on social media @jsteelemodel

Grand. This is the fourth time you've seen her in our Style pages since 2009, including the cover in November 2010.

Her roots are here. She was born and raised in Kitchener, graduating from Forest Heights Collegiate Institute and then Wilfrid Laurier University, where she earned a bachelor of business administration degree in 2006.

Steele has worked with local agencies Cameo, where she got her start around age 16, and Gemini, where you'll still find her among the headshots on the models roster.

These days she is affiliated with agencies around the world, but the one she considers her home base is the Plutino Group in Toronto.

A quick cruise through her portfolio on that agency's website gives you a sense of the range she possesses.

"My book showcases a lot of variety," she says.

We got a taste of her chameleonic skills shooting this edition's fashion. At one point her long hair could be blowing in the breeze created by the photographer's fan and minutes later it was tucked up short in a vintage bob to go along with the vintage-inspired yellow dress.

After graduating from Laurier, Steele operated her own event and show company in Kitchener-Waterloo and

worked in marketing.

Then a summer of modelling in Beijing in 2010 led to more that fall in Toronto, which led to her diving in full time in 2011. With Toronto as her home, her career has taken her to places such as Tokyo, London, San Francisco, Arizona and Dubai, where she has fond memories of a month spent working in 2015.

She has been so many places, she has trouble picking a favourite.

But sometimes the unique experiences can be found in your own backyard, which was the case in January in Toronto when she worked at a South Asian-themed event called the Suhaag wedding fashion show.

"I was the only Caucasian model in it and wearing elaborate South Asian designs. I really loved it.

"A great learning experience to a culture I am forever intrigued by, especially with our family foundation's current work in the village of Mathigiri, which is located in an impoverished area of Tamil Nadu, South India."

She is referring to the Steele Family Foundation, a charity based in Caledon that focuses on education, hospice and community support. Locally, the foundation is among the supporters of Pride Stables, which offers therapeutic horseback riding programs in Kitchener for people with disabilities.

Her other pursuits involve writing travel and lifestyle reviews of various hotels and fashion and beauty products.

She says she is also beginning to put her years in the fashion business to use by mentoring and coaching new models. 



Nicole Miller

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# Best-dressed guest

There are all kinds of weddings with various themes that you could find yourself invited to this season. Let us help you choose just the right outfit for a variety of occasions.

Styling and Photography • Alisha Townsend

Model • Jennifer Steele

Hair and Makeup • Victoria Elizabeth

Styling assistant • Niveen Shrem



## Formal Wedding

Nothing beats the classic look of elegant lace for a formal wedding.

Whether it is body hugging, sheath style or jacket and pant, a touch of lace is feminine and refined.

Lace overlay, sleeveless dress, Nicole Miller, \$650. Gold high heels naked sandal, Nine West, \$135.

Pandora Jewelry: Fourteen-karat solid yellow gold square-shaped earring with large square cut cubic zirconia, \$330; Sterling silver bangles with crisscross design of silver and cubic zirconia, \$140 each; Sterling silver ring with cubic zirconia, \$90; 14-karat solid yellow gold rings with cubic zirconia from \$330 to \$440

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## Vegas Wedding

If you're lucky enough to catch an impromptu wedding in Las Vegas, go with the flow and have fun. Flashy, flirty and fantastic will do the trick. Remember what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas.



Sequin blush, cap sleeve dress, Molly Bracken, \$99.99.  
Pandora Jewelry: Sterling silver bangles - some with cubic zirconia or shaped stones - from \$100 to \$140;  
Sterling silver bracelet with 14-karat yellow gold and cubic zirconia stones set into circular-shaped clasp, \$110;  
Sterling silver bangle with solid 14-karat yellow gold clasp, \$395;  
Sterling silver band with small circular cubic zirconia, \$75.

## Country Wedding

Easy and breezy is the way to do a country wedding. Complement your surroundings by picking up hints of floral patterns or floral colours. Keep in mind that there might not be air conditioning so fabric choice and fit become critical.

Pleated off-the-shoulder flower pattern dress, Nicole Miller, \$365. Black highheels, Nine West, \$140. Pandora Jewelry: Sterling silver necklace with 14-karat rose gold plating, \$110; Daisy Pandora Rose charm with cubic zirconia, \$115; Sterling silver open circle "eternity style" pendant with cubic zirconia, \$120; Long sterling silver necklace with 14-karat rose gold plating, \$200; Pandora Rose, feather-shaped pendant with micro pave set cubic zirconia, \$140. Sterling silver dangle feather earrings with micro pave set cubic zirconia, \$115. Pandora Rose feather ring with micro pave set cubic zirconia, \$110; Sterling silver vintage style statement ring with large centre stone and square-shaped detailing around outside of stone, \$140; Slender sterling silver necklace chain wrapped around twice and being worn as anklet, \$35.

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## Vintage-inspired Wedding

If vintage is the choice of the bride, why not complement her wedding theme with something inspired by Jackie O. Classic pearl accents and a Mad Men-style silhouette is the way to go.



Sleeveless yellow dress with pearl and pocket detail, Molly Bracken, \$89.99. Floral strap stiletto, Steve Madden, \$150. Pandora Jewelry: Two-tone sterling silver with solid 14-karat gold clasp Essence bracelets, \$360 each, and charms ranging from \$60 to \$210; Sterling silver Essence bracelets, \$70 each, and charms ranging from \$60 to \$120 each. Three stacked sterling silver rings with white crystal pearl, \$55 each; Sterling silver petite cultured-pearl ring with two leaf-shaped (marquise-cut) cubic zirconia on each side, \$55.

## Contemporary Wedding

Think artsy and unique for a contemporary wedding. Crops and non-classic cut lines are interesting and add drama. Hint: If your outfit is more minimalist in style, don't forget to accent with jewelry. Large pieces or layering smaller ones will complete your look.



Flare-sleeve black blouse, \$395; Elegant black palazzo capri, \$395, both by AirField; Silver metal waist belt, \$27. Open-toe double straps, shiny silver high heels, Sam Edelman, \$185. Pandora Jewelry: Sterling silver medium-sized floating locket necklace, \$110, with love and family petite charms inside, valued at \$55 for all three; Sterling silver large-sized floating locket necklace, \$140; Slender sterling silver necklace, \$35, with small floating locket with petite cubic zirconia heart inside, \$55; Sterling silver necklace with tree pendant adorned with cubic zirconia, \$140; Solid sterling silver bangle, \$75.

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## Elegant Wedding

Think beautiful and classic when attending an elegant wedding. Hint: So your wedding attire is not a one-hit wonder, try purchasing a multi-piece or three-piece outfit. This allows you to divide the pieces and mix and match with others after the big day.



Rose floral clip jacket, \$360, Rose floral clipped skirt, both by Comrags, \$360. Camisole, model's own.

Pandora Jewelry: Slender sterling silver necklace chain, \$35; Delicate sterling silver bow pendant with cubic zirconia, \$60; Slender sterling silver necklace chain with circular pave-studded stations, \$95; Sterling silver bow earrings with cubic zirconia, \$65; Sterling silver bow bangles with cubic zirconia (stacked on right wrist), \$140 each; Rhodium-plated sterling silver "tennis style" bracelet with cubic zirconia and adjustable clasp (stacked on left wrist), \$55 each; Sterling silver twisted statement bow ring, \$150; Delicate 14-karat solid gold bow ring with cubic zirconia, \$440; Delicate Pandora Rose bow ring with cubic zirconia, \$80; Delicate sterling silver bow ring with cubic zirconia, \$60.

## Backyard Wedding

Casual but still put together is the attire for a backyard wedding. Add a jean jacket over the shoulders to add style and make a more formal dress appear cool and casual. Hint: Wearing stilettos can be lethal on grass. Go with pretty flats or a wedge.

Belted floral dress, Yumi, \$129.99; Cropped jean jacket, Mavi, \$55; Pandora Jewelry: Slender sterling silver necklace chains, \$35 each; Sterling silver pendant with clear rock crystal (being worn at shortest length), \$45; Sterling silver pendant with aqua coloured blue crystal (being worn at mid length), \$45; Sterling silver pendant with synthetic sapphire (being worn at longest length), \$45; Five sterling silver bangles with alternating-shaped stones, \$110 each; Three plain sterling silver bangles, \$75 each; Sterling silver ring with clear rock crystal stone, \$50; Sterling silver ring with aqua coloured blue crystal, \$50; Sterling silver ring with synthetic sapphire, \$50 each (stacked).

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