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BEHIND THE SCENES, STYLING TIPS

## *Celeb Style: The Jewelry You'll See At The SAG Awards*



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The first month of the year is coming to an end, which means awards season is in full swing!

Final preparations are being made for the **21st Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards**. Gowns have been chosen, shoes selected, final fittings scheduled. But no red carpet look is complete without an eye-catching piece of jewelry (or two or three!). And since I can't wait until Sunday, I made an appearance at StyleLab's Jewelry Preview Event to get a glance at the gems that will grace the scarlet strip.

In a room filled with \$25 million worth of jaw-dropping jewels from designers like **LVE Diamonds**, **Susan Eisen** and **Vahan Jewelry**, I'm in awe of those who must choose only one or two pieces to actually wear. How can one make such a difficult decision? Thankfully, there are professionals for that.



Keep an eye out for statement necklaces and stacked bracelets.

Jewelry and Style Expert Michael O'Connor always curates an exceptional collection of pieces for the stars. His secret formula to finding the right treasures: "Fashion is the Dictator. Economy is the Tailor. Mindshift relates to how people are wearing their jewelry."

Of course, knowing the right people helps, too. "I'm always acquainting myself with new designers. I attend the jewelry and fashion shows. I meet with designers to see their latest collections. Right before the nominations are announced, I call on designers that I know will have red-carpet-worthy pieces."

For those lucky few that make the cut, the chances are good you'll see some of their finest creations on one of your favorite celebs.



Style Expert Michael O'Connor helps actress Julie Lake pick the perfect jewelry for her SAG Awards ensemble.

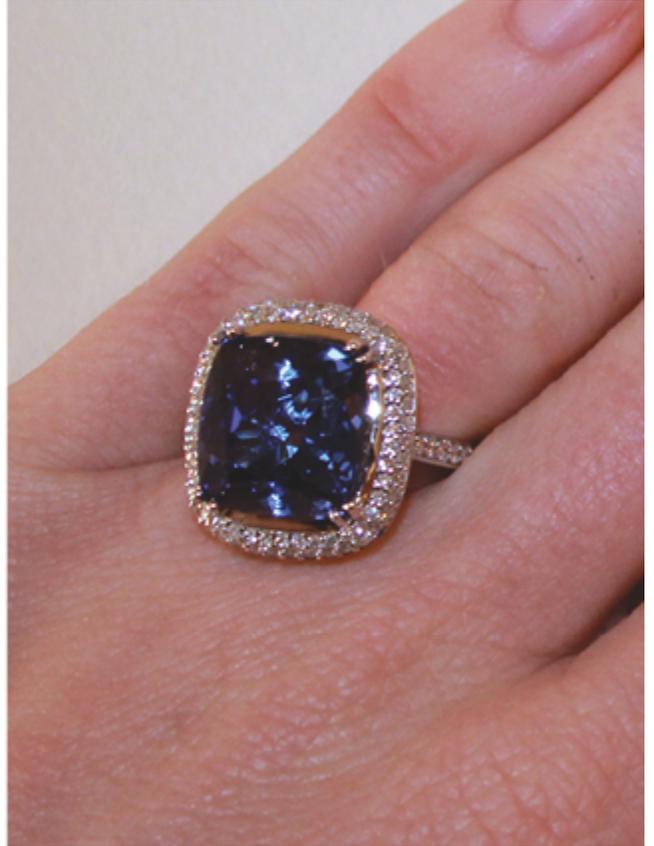
*Orange Is The New Black's* **Julie Lake** enlisted O'Connor's expertise in helping her pick out a little bling for her long black gown. After much debate and a Facetime chat with her stylist, Monique, the trio decided on a gorgeous one-of-a-kind teardrop solitaire necklace from **Jewelry by Gail** and a diamond dual finger ring by **Dena Kemp**. They were still debating between two pairs of earrings, one from each designer. A final decision wouldn't be made until Lake's fitting later that day. I can't wait to see which pair she picks!

The imprisoned actress won't be the only starlet donning a big statement necklace. O'Connor predicts we'll see many stars showing off their assets with equally admirable sparklers. "We saw more necklaces than ever at the Golden Globes. There's less beading on gowns, which allows the accessories to step into the spotlight." Big earrings and stacked bracelets will be prevalent trends, as well.



Diamond palm bracelet and earrings by Dena Kemp

But what you should *really* keep an eye out for is unusual placements, like earrings that go up the ear instead of hanging down, and handlets, which sit across the top of the hand, just past the knuckles. Dena Kemp created a beautiful diamond palm bracelet that is as unique as it is elegant. Her sets of diamond ear cuffs designed to decorate the cartilage were just as spectacular.



A few of my favorite things: Takat necklace and Kallati ring

Of course, if I was attending an awards show, I wouldn't be shy about choosing the biggest, brightest pieces. I love **Takat's** take on updating the traditional pearl necklace by adding a diamond and emerald flower pendant. And **Kallati** boasts a magnificent selection of cocktail rings with bold-colored gemstones.

How would you accessorize your ensemble?