

# A Real Paige-Turner

[photograph by Isak Tiner]



Over Christmas holidays in Iowa (don't ask), after the turkey has been nibbled to the bone and the various casseroles (don't ask) inhaled, the family descends to the basement for what has become an annual tradition. No, it's not eggnog and carols, nor baking cookies for Santa and the reindeer. It's the *Trading Spaces* marathon, when, for hour after hour after hour, we carry on heated discussions over such mirthful topics as Vern Yip's refusal to do a room without tea candles, Doug Wilson's propensity to upset the poor homeowners, and Paige Davis' ability to remain eternally chipper (when we would have been screaming four-letter words by commercial break number two). In person, Davis is no less ebullient, but, happily, she is equally charming and humble, and is quick to win you over with her no-nonsense attitude and style. This summer, Davis, who once toured the country in *Chicago* long before the *Trading Spaces* halcyon days, hits Broadway as Roxie in the sexy Fosse thriller, and she is ready and revving. Davis is excited to wrap herself around the show. She is also excited to be home in New York City, where she spends one to two days per month (if she's lucky) thanks to the series's Herculean production schedule (there are the regular episodes and myriad specials and spin-offs and, er, a potential

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musical), the book tour (*Paige by Paige: A Year of Trading Spaces*), the press, the Kellogg's photo shoots, and the bank commercials. Davis is all energy, all spring-wound. Still, she concedes that the schedule is exhausting, "I just hit Executive Platinum on American Airlines," she laughs. "I crossed over into the other dimension." When Davis does have the odd day off—and she is in the city—you'll find her relaxing with her husband at her Oprah-renovated home on the Upper West Side, walking the dog in Riverside Park, and dining at such unassuming spots as Mary Ann's and Silk Road Palace. You won't find her, though, browsing the aisles at Gracious Home.—J. OLIVER NIXON

Shot on location at Kreiss Collection in Manhattan; dress by Tahari; watch by Piaget; diamond earrings by Kwiat; Davis' own necklace and rings; for more information see Credit Report, page 300