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BEHIND THE SCENES

Red Carpet Sneak Peek: Emmy Jewelry

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The **Primetime Emmy Awards** are a month early this year, and Hollywood is abuzz with preparations. For some stars, choosing which gown to wear may be the biggest decision they make. But no red carpet couture is complete without some serious bling. Enter: **Michael O'Connor** and **StyleLab's Jewelry Preview Event**. Stylists and celebs alike come here to

pick out the pieces that will make them shine even brighter on the scarlet strip. So what will television's super stars be wearing on Monday night?

According to stylist and jewelry connoisseur Michael O'Connor, viewers will see several important categories represented at this year's awards show.

1. NECKLACES

That's right, ladies, necklaces are returning in a big way. "We've gotten lots of requests for necklaces," O'Connor said. "We've seen them come back to Hollywood over the past few seasons." It used to be all about the big chandelier drop earrings, so celebs opted out of donning some neck candy. There was also a lot of beading on gown necklines, which alleviated the need for a necklace. "But now we're seeing a simplification of the neckline, and earrings are shorter." [Takat](#) showed a stunning diamond drop necklace, while [Mastoloni](#) put a fresh face on pearls by pairing them with black diamonds on a gorgeous statement piece.



Statement Necklaces by Mastoloni and Takat

2. ONE STATEMENT EARRING + ONE SIMPLE EARRING

Matchy-matchy? Not this year. First we saw it on the runways, and now we very well could be seeing it on the red carpet: one large attention-grabbing earring with a smaller, more understated earring. "It's a transition state," O'Connor said. "It's the best of both worlds for some people. You can mix and match two different pairs of earrings – one long and one short." Not ready for such a dramatic difference? Swap the short earring for a simple stud. O'Connor pulled two dazzling pairs of earrings by [Susan Eisen Fine Jewelry](#); wear one pair together or one of each – your choice!



Wear one of each of these earrings from Susan Eisen Fine Jewelry

3. COLOR

Although traditional neutral hues will still be prevalent, O'Connor is also betting on the appearance of cooler tones. "We're seeing a tremendous amount of blue," he said. For stars who want to keep things monochromatic, [Bellarri](#) offers a stunning blue topaz cocktail ring. But O'Connor loves contrast. He recommends complementing a cobalt gown with jewels in Radiant Orchid (Pantone's Color of the Year) or yellow hues. "I love champagne diamonds because they give a little color, but are still on the neutral side." While I was visiting, the wife of an Emmy nominee stopped by and pulled a pair of yellow, brown, pink and green diamond earrings and three diamond bangle bracelets by [Kallati](#) to complete her awards show style.

Patterned dresses will also be popular this season. Follow O'Connor's advice and wear jewelry that accentuates an understated color in the gown. "Take one minor color and make it pop."



Don't shy away from colorful jewels. Pieces by: Vahan Jewelry; Bellarri; Prestige for The Diamonds With A Story Collection; Brenda Smith

*Breaking Bad's **Betsy Brandt** came by to take advantage of O'Connor's expertise herself. She snagged a pair of pearl and black diamond earrings and a pearl and diamond bracelet by **Mastoloni** to wear to Saturday's festivities. But when it came to choosing earrings for The Main Event, the actress was torn between two different pairs. The solution? She took both to try on with her gown later today and will decide then. I can't wait to see which pair she chose!*



Breaking Bad's Betsy Brandt tries on pieces for her weekend of events.

4. STACKING BRACELETS

Not so long ago, fashion had a period where stacking bracelets was *en vogue*. Then that trend faded out, and it was all about one chunky bracelet. But now, stacks are back. Wear a handful of skinny bangles or just a couple of substantial pieces and you're all set. [Vahan Jewelry](#) had plenty of options to choose from, including one particularly enviable turquoise and gold bracelet that I couldn't resist trying on.



Michael O'Connor helps pick jewelry pieces for the red carpet.

5. JEWELRY GEOGRAPHY

Where you wear your jewelry is just as important as *what* you wear. **Don't** wear a massive cocktail ring on the same hand as a giant stack of bracelets. **Do** wearing a big ring with a big necklace – there's enough space in between the pieces to make them individually magnificent.

Be sure to keep an eye out for all these trends at Monday night's Primetime Emmy Awards. Which piece is your favorite?

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