

SWARTZ JOANNE  
Form 4  
March 31, 2011

**FORM 4**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
Expires: January 31, 2015  
Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
SWARTZ JOANNE

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
STAGE STORES INC [SSI]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
10201 MAIN STREET  
  
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
03/29/2011

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
EVP, Sales Promotion & Mktg

HOUSTON, TX 77025  
  
(City) (State) (Zip)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V Amount (A) or (D) Price			
Common Stock	03/29/2011		A	6,858 (1) A \$ 0	12,644	D	
Common Stock	03/29/2011		F	1,814 D \$ 18.72	10,830	D	
Common Stock	03/29/2011		A	5,000 (2) A \$ 0	15,830	D	

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control**

SEC 1474 (9-02)

number.

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	Amount or Number of Shares
Stock Appreciation Rights (SARs)	\$ 18.84	03/29/2011		A	10,000 (3)	03/29/2012 03/29/2018	Common Stock	10,000

## Reporting Owners

### Reporting Owner Name / Address

### Relationships

SWARTZ JOANNE  
10201 MAIN STREET  
HOUSTON, TX 77025

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

EVP, Sales Promotion & Mktng

## Signatures

/s/ R. E. Stasyszen, Attorney in Fact for Joanne Swartz

03/31/2011

\_\_Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

(1) Represents Performance Shares granted March 28, 2008 and awarded as common stock on March 29, 2011 as a result of the completion of the three year Performance Cycle that began on the first day of the 2008 fiscal year (February 3, 2008) and ended on the last day of the 2010 fiscal year (January 29, 2011).

(2) On March 29, 2011, the reporting person was granted 5,000 shares of restricted common stock. The shares will vest 25% per year on the first four anniversary dates from the date of grant.

(3) On March 29, 2011, the reporting person was granted Stock Appreciation Rights (SARs) with respect to a total of 10,000 shares of common stock. The grant price for the SARs is \$18.84 per share of common stock, which was the closing price of the Issuer's common stock on that date. The SARs will vest 25% per year on the first four anniversary dates from the date of grant. They will expire on the earlier of (i) sixty days after termination of employment (one year if termination is due to death, disability or retirement), or (ii) seven years from the date of grant.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.