

lake norman

WOMAN

CELEBRATING THE BEST OF WOMEN

real-life
ACTION HEROES

great
MOTHER'S DAY
gift ideas

ACTION
figures

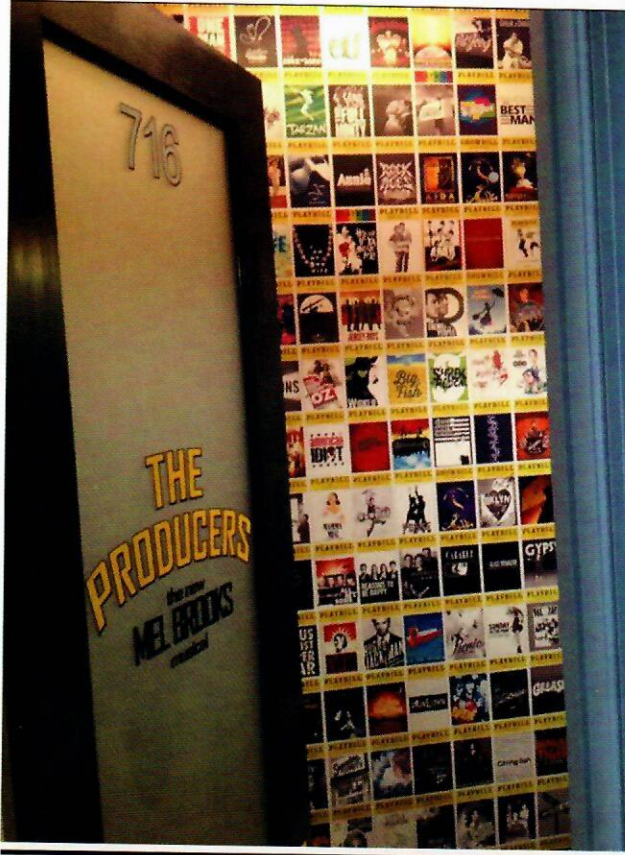
featuring DR. MEGAN LINEBERGER



MY ACTION HEROES Sing and Dance

BY: STARR MILLER

IT IS A RARE TREAT TO FIND CLIENTS WITH WHOM YOU SHARE SIMILAR PASSIONS. IT IS EVEN RARER TO FIND CLIENTS WHO WANT TO ENTERTAIN GUESTS AT EVERY TURN.



THE CLIENT: He works in racing engineering; she is a party planner, flutist, and speech therapist. One of their sons is an acclaimed Broadway and *Smash* choreographer; another son was 3rd finalist on “So You Think You Can Dance” and a highly sought-after Broadway dancer; and the third son is a creative Google engineer genius, who sings in a barbershop quartet.

THE MISSION: To design a home that reflects their passions and humor

THE SPACE: The powder room

THE DESIGNER: FanGirl



AT THE RIPE OLD AGE OF 14, I fell in love with the Broadway theater. Since then, I have seen more than 40 shows on the Great White Way. Imagine my surprise when I connected the dots and found my new clients’ son’s bio in my collection of Playbills!

When we started discussing options for their powder room we knew that ordinary, expected, and serene were not the adjectives we were working toward. How do you surprise and enchant guests? What does the family collect? Broadway, of course!

When I learned that they had a massive collection of Playbills, we decided they could be made into a fabulous custom wallpaper. Picture it: one wall, 196 playbills, all actual size. Some signed by the cast, others special because a family member was in them or a fiancé of one son had cast the show.

We painted the ceiling Playbill yellow, the other three walls a mid-range gray found in many of the Playbill images. We removed the plain white door and replicated the door from the show *The Producers*. We replaced the vanity with a sharp, contemporary, white vanity to reflect the sharp lines of the celebrated programs. The slim mirror over the vanity looks as if a young Maria wrote, “I feel pretty...” on it in lipstick, while the iconic dressing room mirror hangs from the ceiling.

What you can’t see from this small peek inside this marvelous home is that the black and yellow connect to the colors we have used in the other public spaces of the home. So while this is a fun treat, aesthetically, it remains consistent with the entire house.

Aren’t I a lucky girl to always have such fabulous clients?

IT IS OKAY TO HAVE A THEME ROOM WHEN:

1. it is truly a passion, not just this week’s whim.
2. you are showing a collection that has meaning in your life.
3. you’re sure that the level of design is elevated—and not a Hildi explosion from “Trading Spaces” (If you need to Google that reference, it’s worth your time.).

AVOID THEME ROOMS:

1. usually.
2. when a client does not have a vested interest in the theme.
3. when the necessary items to fill the space are all just “stuff” that have no meaning to the client.



Starr Miller is the president and principal designer at StarrMiller Interior Design, Inc. Contact her at 704.896.3321 or visit www.starrmiller.com.