



'Closet Cases' faces bad hang-ups

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"Closet Cases"

Fine Living Network

Find your puns where you will in "Closet Cases," a frivolous bit of good fun debuting Monday on FLN.

It's all about fashion and style tips, and while that doesn't distinguish it from a dozen other shows, host [Lloyd Boston](#) is a likeable guy who, at least for Monday night's premiere, picks a likable woman to redecorate.

Like [Tim Gunn](#) on his style guide show, [Boston](#) doesn't simply set rules for his subjects. He dives right into their closets and gets hands-on with what's hanging there.

His first impulse, tonight and presumably on many future episodes, is to throw almost everything out. But he does it in a pleasant way, feeding the viewers some entertaining one-liners while not becoming uncomfortably

rude to the person whose taste he is trashing.

Boston seems to have a good sense, in other words, of just when the insults would stop being good fun to the recipient.

Happily, tonight's subject takes his digs with a smile, and even adds a few of her own.

Deanna dresses like a hip 20-year-old, which is a problem because she's 40. Apparently, her sister has been noticing this for years, and "Closet Cases" gave Sis the chance to sic Boston on Deanna.

Deanna has a great closet, a big walk-in, which leaves plenty of room for Boston to stroll around and make assessments, most of which run along the lines of "You don't really wear this, do you?"

And Deanna will say, "Yes."

And Boston will say, "Where?"

And she'll say, "To work."

And he'll say, "When?"

And she'll say, "Last week."

And he'll say, "Last week?"

And she'll say, "Yeah. Every day last week."

His first task, then, is to sell her on the concept of age-appropriate dress. She's skeptical right up until he delivers his killer punch line: If you're 40, wearing the clothes of a 20-year-old makes you look older, not younger.

Once she's sold, they go shopping. They're getting a little more in sync by now, but ultimately he insists she buy the one dress she declares she would never wear.

They bring it home, he shows her how the style and color can be complemented and accessorized with other items, and voila, she loves it.

He also explains, in detail, why it works. The general lesson: Shop by item, not by outfit.

No one is going to be curing Parkinson's disease or fixing the world economy on "Closet Cases." But for an amusing round of stress-free banter about looking better, it fits just right.