

## TELEVISION

# "I HAVE TO REMIND MYSELF I'M NOT JOAN ANYMORE"

As we await the end of *Mad Men* on Thursday, *Stylist* speaks to Christina Hendricks about leaving behind one of TV's most iconic female characters

**What can you tell us about the ending for Joan?**

I want it to be a surprise and I think it will be. When we did the table-reading of the last script everyone was emotional. Then, Matt Weiner [the show's creator] pulled a few of us into his office and said, "That's not how it's going to end; it's actually going to end like *this*." It's been very secretive.

**How did it feel when you were filming those last scenes?**

I could have filled a bath tub with the tears I cried that day. We were all emotional. Someone would wrap their scene, give a toast and thank the cast and crew. We'd hug each other, go outside and drink champagne, then run back in to watch whenever someone else was filming their last scene. It was major.

**You recently experimented with going blonde – was it a psychological step away from Joan?**

Absolutely. Even though I was a redhead before Joan, I started associating the colour with her. It was so emotionally gruelling leaving her behind that I had to do something to separate myself. When the show ended, my life was all

change. Not only did I have to let go of Joan, I was moving from LA [where *Mad Men* is filmed] to New York.

**Is there one thing you'll miss about playing her?**

Playing Joan changed me entirely. I never thought I struggled with confidence until I took on that role. I would read scenes and think, 'Whoa, she's got some chutzpah,' it made me realise I was lacking in comparison. Even now, when I'm playing someone else, I have to take a second to stop and think, 'Oh hang on, this is my new show – I'm not Joan.'

**Are you surprised at how people reacted to her?**

Yes. I think when the show first started people thought she was a bit of a bitch. Then it transformed to, "You go girl!" I found it fascinating.

**What did you do on your first day off after filming?**

I slept for half the day. I was exhausted. We were on set until 8am; we danced, we sang, we hung out, we cried.

**How are you planning to spend your free time now?**

I have a million things I want to do. I've just started reading *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt.

I also want to take more vacations – I'm desperate to go to Italy – and get more knitting done. I just finished a sweater for my husband and a hat for [director] Cameron Crowe. We were in Canada [filming comedy pilot *Roadies*] and it was freezing cold. He was very appreciative.

Christina Hendricks is ambassador for Clairol's nice 'n easy's Shift a Shade campaign

DON'T EVEN BOTHER ASKING  
HER HOW IT FINISHES, SHE  
WON'T TELL ANYONE