

STAGE STORES INC  
Form 4  
March 30, 2007

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 \*  
**WARD MEL**

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

HOUSTON, TX 77025

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
**03/28/2007**

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
SVP, Real Estate

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) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Price   |  |                                   |
| Common Stock                    | 03/28/2007                           |  | A                              | 460 <sup>(1)</sup>  | 460   | D  |                                   |
| Common Stock                    | 03/28/2007                           |  | F                              | 122   | \$ 23.15  | D  |                                   |

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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**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 Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------|
| Stock Appreciation Rights (SARS)           | \$ 22.96   | 03/28/2007                           |  | A                              | 6,500   | 03/28/2008 03/28/2014                                    | Common Stock  | 6,500 <sup>(2)</sup>       |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                     | Relationships |           |                  |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|------------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer          | Other |
| WARD MEL<br>10201 MAIN STREET<br>HOUSTON, TX 77025 |               |           | SVP, Real Estate |       |

## Signatures

/s/ R. E. Stasyszen, Attorney in Fact for Mel Ward  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*\*Signature of Reporting Person  
 03/30/2007  
 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 in 2004 and awarded as common stock on March 28, 2007 as a result of the completion of a three year Performance Cycle that began on the first business day of the 2004 fiscal year (February 2, 2004) and ended on the last day of the 2006 fiscal year (February 3, 2007).
- (2) On March 28, 2007, Mr. Ward was granted Stock Appreciation Rights (SARS) with respect to a total of 6,500 shares of common stock. The grant price for the SARS is \$22.96 per share of common stock. The SARS will vest 25% per year on the first of four anniversary dates from the date of grant and expire on March 28, 2014.
- (3) Includes all derivative securities currently owned by the reporting person including those previously reported and options to purchase 4,080 shares of the issuer's common stock received by the reporting person on January 31, 2007 as a result of the three-for-two split of the issuer's common stock payable as a stock dividend to all holders of record of the issuer's common stock at the close of business on January 18, 2007 and the antidilution provisions of the issuer's Amended and Restated 2001 Equity Incentive Plan as approved by the issuer's shareholders on June 3, 2004.

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

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