

LAIL E RANDOLPH  
 Form 4  
 December 30, 2005

**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 \*  
**LAIL E RANDOLPH**

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

HOUSTON, TX 77025

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
 (Month/Day/Year)  
**12/28/2005**

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)  
**EVP and Peebles COO**

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 Indirect Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
|                                 |                                      |  | Code                           | V   | Amount or Price   |  |  |
| Common Stock                    | 12/28/2005                           |  | M                              |   | 11,250 A \$ 20.09   | D  |  |
| Common Stock                    | 12/28/2005                           |  | S                              |   | 11,250 (1) D \$ 30 0  | D  |  |

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

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 (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 Option (Right to Buy)                | \$ 20.09   | 12/28/2005                           |  | M                              | 11,250  | 11/04/2005 11/04/2013                                    | Common Stock  | 11,250                     |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                               | Relationships |           |                     |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer             | Other |
| LAIL E RANDOLPH<br>10201 S. MAIN STREET<br>HOUSTON, TX 77025 |               |           | EVP and Peebles COO |       |

## Signatures

/s/ R. E. Stasyszen, Attorney in Fact for E. Randolph Lail 12/30/2005

\_\_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) This sale was made pursuant to a pre-established, written plan for trading securities pursuant to Rule 10b5-1 adopted by the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.  
Includes all derivative securities currently owned by the reporting person including those previously reported as well as options to purchase 11,250 shares of the issuer's common stock received by the reporting person on August 19, 2005 as a result of the three-for-two
- (2) 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 August 4, 2005 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. 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.