

LONG ISLAND

Plainview guy's makeover

BY BRIAN HARMON
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MANY A MAN would have a hard time with another man rifling through his bedroom closet and chanting "crap, crap, crap" as he tosses sweatshirt after T-shirt to the floor.

Not Gary Klausner — the married father from Plainview who will be featured tomorrow night on Bravo's "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" at 10 p.m.

Having your fashion sense sized up and flat-out revoked by a group of five gay guys came easily to a man who has fought cystic fibrosis for 30 years and survived the past seven years with a double-lung transplant.

"I lived in jeans and sweat-shirts. That was my whole ward-

After inspiring struggle, a new look

robe," said Klausner, 40. "And anything ["Queer Eye" consultant Carson Kressley] saw, he just kept throwing to the floor, saying, 'Crap, crap, crap.'

"Now, when I go on interviews, people always make nice comments about my suits," added the former equity trader.

That's because the show's Fab Five took

Klausner on a shopping spree for clothes in Manhattan during the taping of the show in April.

Along with the new attire, Klausner — the father of 7-year-



Gary Klausner

old twins, Matthew and Steven — scored a \$6,000 kitchen, a new basketball hoop for the driveway and a trip for two to the Bahamas. His wife, Robyn, enjoyed a day at a Manhattan spa.

"They gave us a kitchen that is almost out of a magazine," Klausner said.

The TV show's hosts also introduced Klausner, who is embarking on a career change to sales, to a career counselor.

And perhaps most exciting for Klausner was getting paired with

famed chef David Rocco for a lesson in preparing shrimp scampi. On the show, "David Rocco's Dolce Vita," Klausner surprises his wife with the dish in their new kitchen.

Klausner got on the show when a friend, former New York Jets quarterback Boomer Esiason, told Klausner's story to a producer friend at Bravo.

Esiason helped the family put together a videotape audition and, according to Klausner, the producers of "Queer Eye" immediately fell in love with the Klausners.

"They called three days after we sent them the tape," Klausner

said.

One of Klausner's favorite moments during the taping of the show was watching the Fab Five and Esiason play Twister and Candy Land with his sons in the family's playroom.

Klausner said he is glad the show will allow the story of his illness and survival to be told to a national audience.

"It's a story of inspiration, not some feel-sorry-for-this-guy story," he said.

Mary's Backyard restaurant at 729 S. Oyster Bay Road in Bethpage will host a viewing party tomorrow from 8:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. The \$20 admission will go toward organ-donation programs.

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