

Edgar Filing: STAGE STORES INC - Form SC 13G

STAGE STORES INC  
Form SC 13G  
February 14, 2012

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20549

SCHEDULE 13G  
Under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934  
(Amendment No. \_\_)

Stage Stores, Inc.

-----  
(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock

-----  
(Title of Class of Securities)

85254C305

-----  
(CUSIP Number)

December 31, 2011

-----  
(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

- Rule 13d-1 (b)
- Rule 13d-1 (c)
- Rule 13d-1 (d)

\* The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act, but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes.)

CUSIP NO. 85254C305 13G

1 Name of Reporting Person / IRS Identification Number:  
Piper Jaffray Companies / 30-0168701

-----  
2 Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group (a) [ ]  
(b) [ ]

-----  
3 SEC Use Only  
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4      Citizenship or Place of Organization  
       Delaware

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Number of Shares	5	Sole Voting Power 2,274,405 Shares
Beneficially Owned By	6	Shared Voting Power 0 Shares
Each Reporting Person	7	Sole Dispositive Power 2,274,405 Shares
With	8	Shared Dispositive Power 0 Shares

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9      Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person  
       2,274,405 Shares   (See Exhibit A)

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10     Check if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain  
       Shares   [ ]

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11     Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9)  
       7.47%

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12     Type of Reporting Person  
       HC

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Item 1      (a) Name of Issuer: Stage Stores, Inc.  
Item 1      (b) Name of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:  
              10201 Main St.  
              Houston, TX 77025

Item 2      (a) Person Filing: Piper Jaffray Companies  
Item 2      (b) Address: 800 Nicollet Mall Suite 800  
                                  Minneapolis, MN 55402

Item 2      (c) Citizenship: Piper Jaffray Companies is a  
                                  Delaware Corporation

Item 2      (d) Title of Class of Securities: Common Stock  
Item 2      (e) CUSIP Number: 85254C305

Item 3      This statement is filed pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b) or  
              13d-2(b) and the person filing, Piper Jaffray Companies,  
              is a parent holding company in accordance with Section  
              240.13d-1(b) (ii) (G). (Note: See Item 7).

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- Item 4      Ownership
- (a)   Amount Beneficially Owned:  
      Advisory Research, Inc.      2,274,405 Shares
  - (b)   Percent of Class                   7.47%
  - (c)   Number of shares as to which reporting person has:
    - (i)   Sole Voting Power           2,274,405 Shares
    - (ii)  Shared Voting Power        0           Shares
    - (iii) Sole Dispositive Power   2,274,405 Shares
    - (iv)  Shared Dispositive Power  0           Shares

Item 5      Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class:  
If this statement is being filed to report the fact that as of the date hereof the reporting person has ceased to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of the class of securities, check the following [ ]

Item 6      Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person: The clients referenced in Exhibit A have the right to receive or the power to direct the receipt of dividends from, or the proceeds from the sale of the securities held in their respective accounts. No client's interest is known to exceed 5% of the class of securities.

Item 7      Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security being Reported on by the Parent Holding Company:

See attached Exhibit A.

Item 8      Identification and Classification if Members of the Group: Not Applicable

Item 9      Notice of Dissolution of Group: Not Applicable

Item 10     Certification

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of such securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having such purposes or effect.

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

2/14/2012

-----  
Date

Piper Jaffray Companies

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By /s/ Brien M. O'Brien  
-----  
Signature

Brien M. O'Brien  
Head of Asset Management  
-----  
Name/Title

Advisory Research, Inc.

By /s/ Brien M. O'Brien  
-----  
Signature

Brien M. O'Brien  
Chief Executive Officer  
-----  
Name/Title

JOINT FILING AGREEMENT

The undersigned persons, on February 14, 2012, agree and consent to the joint filing on their behalf of this Schedule 13G in connection with their beneficial ownership of the Common Stock of Stage Stores, Inc. at December 31, 2011.

Piper Jaffray Companies

By /s/ Brien M. O'Brien  
-----  
Signature

Brien M. O'Brien  
Head of Asset Management  
-----  
Name/Title

Advisory Research, Inc.

By /s/ Brien M. O'Brien  
-----  
Signature

Brien M. O'Brien  
Chief Executive Officer  
-----  
Name/Title

EXHIBIT A

Pursuant to the instructions in Item 7 of Schedule 13G, Advisory Research, Inc. ("ARI"), 180 N. Stetson, Chicago, IL 60601, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Piper Jaffray Companies and an investment adviser registered under Section 203 of the

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Investment Advisers Act of 1940, is the beneficial owner of 2,274,405 shares or 7.47% of the Common Stock outstanding of Stage Stores, Inc. ("the Company") as a result of acting as investment adviser to various clients.

Piper Jaffray Companies may be deemed to be the beneficial owner of these 2,274,405 shares through control of ARI. However, Piper Jaffray Companies disclaims beneficial ownership of such shares. In addition, the filing of this Schedule 13G shall not be construed as an admission that the reporting person or any of its affiliates is the beneficial owner of any securities covered by this Schedule 13G for any other purposes than Section 13(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.