

Edgar Filing: STAGE STORES INC - Form SC 13D

STAGE STORES INC  
Form SC 13D  
November 20, 2001

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13D

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934\*

Stage Stores, Inc.

-----  
(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock, \$0.01 par value

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

85254C305

-----  
(CUSIP Number of Class of Securities)

Daniel S. Loeb  
Third Point Management Company L.L.C.  
12 East 49th Street, 28th Floor  
New York, NY 10017  
(212) 224-7400

-----  
(Name, Address and Telephone Number of Person  
Authorized to Receive Notices and Communications)

Copies to:  
Daniel Schloendorn, Esq.  
Willkie Farr & Gallagher  
787 Seventh Avenue  
New York, NY 10019-6099  
(212) 728-8000

November 15, 2001

-----  
(Date of Event which Requires  
Filing of this Schedule)

If the filing person has previously filed a statement on Schedule 13G to report the acquisition which is the subject of this Schedule 13D, and is filing this schedule because of ss.ss. 240.13d-1(e), 240.13d-1(f) or 240.13d-1(g), check the following box:

NOTE: Schedules filed in paper format shall include a signed original and five copies of the schedule, including all exhibits. See Rule 240.13d-7 for other parties to whom copies are to be sent.

\* 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 disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required on 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).

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SCHEDULE 13D

-----  
 CUSIP No. 85254C305  
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 Page 2 of 13 Pages  
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1	NAME OF REPORTING PERSON I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)	
	Daniel S. Loeb	
-----		
2	CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/>	
-----		
3	SEC USE ONLY	
-----		
4	SOURCE OF FUNDS*	
	N/A	
-----		
5	CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDING IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO ITEMS 2(d) or 2(e) <input type="checkbox"/>	
-----		
6	CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION	
	United States	
-----		
	7	SOLE VOTING POWER
		0
-----		
NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH	8	SHARED VOTING POWER
		1,250,000
-----		
	9	SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER
		0
-----		
	10	SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER
		1,250,000
-----		
11	AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH PERSON	
	1,250,000	
-----		
12	CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (11) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES* <input type="checkbox"/>	

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-----  
 13 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (11)  
 6.3%  
 -----  
 14 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON\*  
 IN  
 -----

SCHEDULE 13D

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 CUSIP No. 85254C305 Page 3 of 13 Pages  
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-----  
 1 NAME OF REPORTING PERSON  
 I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)  
 Third Point Management Company L.L.C. I.D. #13-3922602  
 -----

-----  
 2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (a)   
 (b)   
 -----

-----  
 3 SEC USE ONLY  
 -----

-----  
 4 SOURCE OF FUNDS\*  
 N/A  
 -----

-----  
 5 CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDING IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO  
 ITEMS 2(d) or 2(e)   
 -----

-----  
 6 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION  
 Delaware  
 -----

-----  
 7 SOLE VOTING POWER  
 0  
 -----

-----  
 NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH  
 8 SHARED VOTING POWER  
 1,250,000  
 -----

-----  
 9 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER  
 0  
 -----

-----  
 10 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER  
 -----

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1,250,000

11	AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH PERSON
	1,250,000
12	CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (11) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES* [ ]
13	PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (11)
	6.3%
14	TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON*
	OO

This Schedule 13D is being filed on behalf of Third Point Management Company L.L.C., a Delaware limited liability company (the "Management Company"), and Daniel S. Loeb, an individual ("Mr. Loeb" and, together with the Management Company, the "Reporting Persons"). This Schedule 13D relates to the common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of Stage Stores, Inc., a Nevada corporation (the "Company"). Unless the context otherwise requires, references herein to the "Common Stock" are to such common stock of the Company. The Management Company is the investment manager or adviser to a variety of hedge funds and managed accounts (such funds and accounts, collectively, the "Funds"). The Funds directly own the Common Stock to which this Schedule 13D relates, and the Reporting Persons may be deemed to have beneficial ownership over such Common Stock by virtue of the authority granted to them by the Funds to vote and to dispose of the securities held by the Funds, including the Common Stock.

## Item 1. Security and Issuer.

This statement on Schedule 13D relates to the Common Stock of the Company, and is being filed pursuant to Rules 13d-1 and 13d-5 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"). The address of the

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principal executive offices of the Company is 10201 Main Street, Houston, Texas 77025.

## Item 2. Identity and Background.

(a) This statement is filed by the Reporting Persons. Daniel S. Loeb is the managing member of the Management Company and controls the Management Company's business activities. The Management Company is organized as a limited liability company under the laws of the State of Delaware.

(b) The address of the principal business and principal office of the Management Company and Mr. Loeb is 12 East 49th Street, 28th Floor, New York, NY 10017.

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(c) The principal business of the Management Company is to serve as investment manager or adviser to the Funds, and to control the investing and trading in securities of the Funds. The principal business of Mr. Loeb is to act as the managing member of the Management Company.

(d) None of the Reporting Persons, nor, to the best of their knowledge, any of their directors, executive officers, general partners or members has, during the last five years, been convicted in a criminal proceeding (excluding traffic violations or similar misdemeanors).

(e) None of the Reporting Persons, nor, to the best of their knowledge, any of their directors, executive officers,

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general partners or members has, during the last five years, been a party to a civil proceeding of a judicial or administrative body of competent jurisdiction and as a result of such proceeding was or is subject to a judgment, decree or final order enjoining future violations of, or prohibiting or mandating activities subject to, federal or state securities laws or finding any violation with respect to such laws.

(f) Mr. Loeb is a United States citizen.

### Item 3. Source and Amount of Funds or Other Consideration.

The Funds expended an aggregate of approximately \$9,106,811 of their own investment capital to acquire the 1,250,000 shares of Common Stock held by them (the "Shares"). 702,047 shares of the Shares were acquired by the Reporting Persons on September 25, 2001 upon conversion of 8.5% Senior Notes of the Company, due 2005, having a face amount of \$15,175,000, issued on June 17, 1997 ("Notes"). The remainder of the Shares were acquired in open market purchases.

The Funds effect purchases of securities primarily through margin accounts maintained for them with Bear, Stearns Securities Corp. (the "Primary Broker") which may extend margin credit to the Funds as and when required

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to open or carry positions in the margin accounts, subject to applicable Federal margin regulations, stock exchange rules and the firm's credit policies. In such instances, the positions held in the margin accounts are pledged as collateral security for the repayment of debit balances in the accounts.

### Item 4. Purpose of Transaction.

The purpose of the acquisition of the Shares by the Funds is for investment. The Reporting Persons may cause the Funds to make further acquisitions of Common Stock from time to time or to dispose of any or all of the shares of Common Stock held by the Funds at any time.

As further detailed in a letter, dated November 20, 2001, from Mr. Loeb as managing member of the Management Company, to the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company (the "CEO"), a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit 2, the Reporting Persons believe that the Company's Common Stock remains significantly undervalued. For the reasons set forth therein, the Reporting

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Persons are urging the CEO to manage the Company's operations and be attentive to corporate governance issues in a manner to maximize the value of the Common Stock.

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The Reporting Persons are engaged in the investment business. In pursuing this business, the Reporting Persons analyze the operations, capital structure and markets of companies, including the Company, on a continuous basis through analysis of documentation and discussions with knowledgeable industry and market observers and with representatives of such companies (often at the invitation of management). From time to time, one or more of the Reporting Persons may hold discussions with third parties or with management of such companies in which the Reporting Person may suggest or take a position with respect to potential changes in the operations, management or capital structure of such companies as a means of enhancing shareholder value. Such suggestions or positions may relate to one or more of the transactions specified in clauses (a) through (j) of Item 4 of Schedule 13D of the Exchange Act, including, without limitation, such matters as disposing of or selling all or a portion of the company or acquiring another company or business, changing operating or marketing strategies, adopting or not adopting certain types of anti-takeover measures and restructuring the company's capitalization or dividend policy.

Except as set forth above, the Reporting Persons do not have any present plans or proposals that relate to

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or would result in any of the actions required to be described in Item 4 of Schedule 13D. Each of the Reporting Persons may, at any time, review or reconsider its position with respect to the Company and formulate plans or proposals with respect to any of such matters, but has no present intention of doing so.

Item 5. Interest in Securities of the Issuer.

(a) As of the date of this Schedule 13D, the Management Company beneficially owns 1,250,000 shares of Common Stock. The Management Company shares voting and dispositive power over such holdings with Mr. Loeb and with the Funds. As of September 1, 2001, the Shares represented 6.3% of the total 19,973,000 shares of Common Stock outstanding as reported in the Company's Form 10 filed on October 29, 2001 to register securities of the Company. None of the individual Funds owns a number of shares of Common Stock equal to or greater than 5% of such total Common Stock outstanding.

(b) The Management Company and Mr. Loeb share voting and dispositive power over the 1,250,000 shares of Common Stock held directly by the Funds.

(c) Schedule A hereto sets forth certain information with respect to transactions by the Funds, at the direction

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of the Reporting Persons, in the Common Stock during the past sixty days.

All of the transactions set forth on Schedule A, except as may be otherwise noted therein, were effected in open market purchases on the New York Stock Exchange through the Primary Broker.

Except as set forth above, during the last sixty days there were no transactions in the Common Stock effected by the Reporting Persons, nor, to the best of their knowledge, any of their directors, executive officers, general partners or members.

(d) Other than the Funds which directly hold the Shares, and except as set forth in this Item 5, no person is known to have the right to receive or the power to direct the receipt of dividends from, or the proceeds from the sale of, the Shares.

(e) Not applicable.

Item 6. Contracts, Arrangements, Understandings or Relationships With Respect to Securities of the Issuer.

Pursuant to Rule 13d-1(k) promulgated under the Exchange Act, the Reporting Persons have entered into an agreement with respect to the joint filing of this statement, and any amendment or amendments hereto.

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By virtue of the relationships among the Reporting Persons and the Funds, as described in Item 2, the Reporting Persons and the Funds may be deemed to be a "group" under the Federal securities laws. Except as otherwise set forth in this Schedule 13D, each Reporting Person expressly disclaims beneficial ownership of any of the shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by any other Reporting Person or the Funds and the filing of this Statement shall not be construed as an admission, for the purposes of Sections 13(d) and 13(g) or under any provision of the Exchange Act or the rules promulgated thereunder or for any other purpose, that any Reporting Person is a beneficial owner of any such shares.

Except as set forth herein, there are no contracts, arrangements, understandings or relationships among the persons named in Item 2 or between such persons and any other person with respect to any securities of the Company.

Item 7. Material to be Filed as Exhibits.

1. Joint Filing Agreement, dated as of November 20, 2001, by and among the Reporting Persons.

2. Letter from the Management Company to Mr. James Scarborough, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, dated November 20, 2001.

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Schedule A

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(Transactions by the Funds in Common Stock  
during the past sixty days)

Date	Shares Purchased	Shares Sold	Price Per Share
----	-----	----	-----
09/25/01	702,047*		\$5.3700
10/30/01	70,000		\$8.9375
11/15/01	461,978		\$9.8175
11/19/01	15,975		\$11.0000

\* These shares of Common Stock were acquired by the Funds in connection with the conversion of Notes held by the Funds into Common Stock.

SIGNATURES

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

Dated: November 20, 2001

THIRD POINT MANAGEMENT  
COMPANY L.L.C.

By: /s/ Daniel S. Loeb

-----  
Name: Daniel S. Loeb  
Title: Managing Member

Dated: November 20, 2001

/s/ Daniel S. Loeb

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Daniel S. Loeb