

# VOGUE

AUSTRALIA

BELLA  
HEATHCOTE

PHOTOGRAPHED BY  
PAOLO ROVERSI

COLLECTOR'S EDITION

ICONIC  
DIOR

CELEBRATING A  
FASHION LEGEND



# ins*o*vie

AUSTRALIA

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5 HOW-TOS  
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## BELLA Heathcote

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All the looks to revamp your style



# VOGUE

AUSTRALIA

CIAO,  
BELLA



Dolce & Gabbana dress.  
Eugenia Kim hat, \$150.  
Tiffany & Co. earrings, \$510.  
Lacoste shirt, \$65.  
S&S, Sylvia's book.  
All prices approximate;  
details last pages.  
Fashion editor Stevie Dance

# CIACIO, BELLA

Hazy sunlit days provide a backdrop for a country tale starring Bella Heathcote. Photographed by Will Davidson.





The pictures flashed around the world. On this year's Cannes film festival's magnificent red carpet, dressed in a black and olive Gucci dress and sparkling with Bulgari jewels, Melbourne-born actress Bella Heathcote more than held her own alongside Jane Fonda, Naomi Watts and Salma Hayek at the special screening of the Gucci-sponsored restored 1984 classic *Once Upon A Time in America*.

And while an appearance at such an event, and the whirl of accompanying parties, is *de rigueur* for any upwardly mobile starlet, Heathcote, who starred this year in Tim Burton's *Dark Shadows* alongside Johnny Depp, was far from swept up in all the hoopla. "I didn't know what to expect," she says, her husky Australian accent firmly intact, "and it was just out of control." In grand tradition, she stayed at the legendary Hôtel du Cap. "It was a really beautiful retreat away from the freak show," she says with a deep laugh. "There were people who got dressed up in eveningwear to parade down the main promenade just to pretend that they're important or going to events. It's just insane."

When we speak, Heathcote and her partner, New Zealand-born director Andrew Dominik (*Chopper*, *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*), are preparing for a Fourth of July orphans' barbecue at their Los Angeles home. The young actress first gained notice in Australia as Amanda Fowler in *Neighbours*, but her breakout role was in 2010's First World War drama *Beneath Hill 60*, opposite Brendan Cowell. She also scooped the Heath Ledger Scholarship in 2010, which included a return flight to Los Angeles. Gathering up her courage, she got on that plane, and after a brief appearance as Amanda Seyfried's mother in the sci-fi thriller *In Time* she landed the dual roles of Josette DuPres and Victoria Winters in *Dark Shadows*.

A rapidly expanding resumé matched with red-carpet nous and delicate wide-eyed beauty mark her as a girl on the rise. Indeed, she knows, and loves, her fashion. Apart from the smouldering Gucci she wore at Cannes, she's sported angelic white Chanel to the LA premiere of *Dark Shadows* and peek-a-boo Emilio Pucci to the London event. In her down time, like the early-morning call for the *Vogue* shoot, she pairs an on-trend Prada denim dress with patent Stella McCartney sandals. Stylist Stevie Dance describes Heathcote's look as easygoing, carefree and chic. "She looks like she's in a Wes Anderson film – that's her aesthetic."

She shares a stylist with close friend Rose Byrne, whom she met through *Beneath Hill 60* co-star Cowell. "She has incredible style," says Heathcote, who turned to Byrne for advice when the juggernaut of a promotional tour for *Dark Shadows* loomed.

Later this year, she will appear in *The Sopranos* creator David Chase's directorial feature-film debut, *Not Fade Away*. Shot before *Dark Shadows*, it's a coming-of-age story about a group of teenagers who form a band in the 1960s. "Something about it reminds me of *The Sopranos*," Heathcote says, "in the sense that [Chase] does that thing where he can cut from something that is so awful to something so hilarious. It's quite shocking but in a great way. There are moments where you are watching it and you're not sure if you should be laughing – I kind of love that."

She describes the *Sopranos* creator as a visual perfectionist, who knows exactly how to work with actors. "I've told him if he ever does anything ever, and wants me in it, I'll do it no matter what it is – I'll play a tree," she says, only half-jokingly, I suspect.

Partner Dominik is also about to launch his new film *Killing Them Softly*, starring Brad Pitt, and despite numerous rumours to the contrary, Heathcote plays no role in it, other than as the

supportive partner. The two often discuss their work projects. "I always use him as a sounding board, more than most people," she says. "I know he is always going to be honest with me and I trust his judgement and taste. He chooses projects for the right reasons and encourages others to do so."

Heathcote studied acting at Melbourne's National Theatre drama school. She remembers it as an escape, which has now grown into a form of expression. "It's something in the time between 'action' and 'cut' that puts me completely at ease, and I haven't experienced that in many other parts of my life."

One of her favourite pastimes at drama school was singing and, at the *Vogue* shoot, she sang along to tunes by Elvis and the Supremes ("She had a great voice," says Dance). "At drama school I felt a lot less self-conscious singing than I did acting." But she's not harbouring any secret recording ambitions. "I don't have those delusions of grandeur," she says, laughing, "but I would love to have a role in a film where I could sing." Films like *West Side Story*, *Grease* and *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* – "probably the best musical of all time" – are her favourites.

Instead, her ambitions are simple. "That someone will keep employing me," she says, that refreshing honesty firmly intact. "I have been really fortunate so far in the jobs I've got so hopefully I can continue [getting] interesting roles with good directors."

Almost reluctantly, she admits to being determined. "It's embarrassing saying things like that. It's like 'ambitious' is a dirty word." Nonetheless, taking the leap to LA must have required some fortitude. "I was lucky," she demurs. "I had the scholarship, so I had a bit of support. But there is the work here and I wanted to make a career out of this. I was working at a law firm, doing a few episodes of *Neighbours* here and there, and I'd done two features in Australia in the course of two or three years. I thought

*"I don't have delusions of grandeur, but I'd love to be in a film where I could sing"*

if I want to make this my career and I don't want to keep working part-time jobs for the rest of my life, I'll have to take the leap."

Initially she went for a month, staying with a friend during the pilot season, before deciding to make it a more permanent move. The scholarship was a good calling card, giving her something to discuss on the endless merry-go-round of meetings with directors, casting agents and "anyone who will see you". "Basically, other than *Neighbours*, the Heath Ledger Scholarship was the only link they'd recognise. So that definitely was a big deal." She has been surprised to find how supportive people in Hollywood are. "Whether or not it's fake, I don't know, but most people here seem to have a fairly positive attitude."

There is a long pause when I ask her if she feels successful. "I can't answer that. I do feel fortunate, but I don't know if that's to be confused with success. [It's] going back to that determined nature. I'm very self-critical [so] it's hard to feel success." She finds it hard to watch herself onscreen, and impossible to judge her own work. "Nothing is ever good enough in my own self." Although it's something she'd like to work on, it's part of what drives her. And then, our time up, I thank her and ask if she'd like to add anything. "No, I think I sound like a pretentious snob," she says, laughing again. I'd say she sounds anything but. **Alexandra Spring**





*Rouge  
awakening*  
Christian Dior dress,  
\$8,700. Tiffany & Co.  
earrings, \$305, and  
necklace, \$545.







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# V E R S U S

10-Year Anniversary · A Cinematic Point of View  
Bella Heathcote · Sasha Luss · Margaret Qualley





Black jumpsuit MARCIANO  
"Love Bands" diamond earring  
OLE LYNGGAARD COPENHAGEN

With her doll-like visage, it's no wonder **BELLA HEATHCOTE** was cast as two of Johnny Depp's love interests in her breakout film *Dark Shadows*. Now she's enjoying a banner year, with roles in Victorian apocalypse flick *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* and Winding Refn's *The Neon Demon*. Don't let that enchanting face fool you, Heathcote is one tough chick, and she means business.

## UNMASKED...

**B**

WORDS Jenna Marotta  
PHOTO Ellen von Unwerth  
STYLING Deborah Afshani  
ART DIRECTION Jakob F.S.

Her name suggests she was born from Arthurian legend. Perhaps Isabella Heathcote was an alternate epithet for the Lady of the Lake, Avelon's most notorious enchantress. After all, Heathcote's countenance is just as bewitching: wide-set, steely eyes, full, contoured cheeks and a mouth that rests in an effortless pout.

In reality, Heathcote's kingdom is Toorak, the Melbourne neighborhood where she was raised. "None of my friends were from my area, so they were like, 'Eh Toorak, you're so fancy.' So I used to just lie about where I lived." When asked to describe it, the place she spent the first two decades of her life, she's mostly stumped, as if she's blocked it out. "It felt like a lot of old people, there weren't any kids. There wasn't playing in the streets or anything. Everyone kept to themselves." Except for that one time, ten years before Heathcote's birth, when the next-door neighbors pulled a gun on her father.

Her dad is a lawyer, and her mom stayed at home to raise their two kids; Bella and Sam. "Sam and I were pretty close. No, that's a lie. We were not close at all, and then we kind of became close when I was around 15 and he was around 20." These days, reunions happen in London, where Sam works as a sommelier. Heathcote saw her family for a 24-hour detour during a recent month-long European vacation with her boyfriend of a half-decade, director Andrew Dominik. Their trip included stops in Berlin, Barcelona, and Paris.

Her life may sound idyllic, but it's a far cry from the hardships she faced back in Toorak. When Heathcote was 12, her mother died of breast cancer, after a long battle with the illness. "It was pretty fucked. I guess that's when I started doing speech and drama classes more." As a young child, Heathcote, now 28, was enrolled in dancing and singing classes. At school, she initially signed up for acting classes because her friends were doing the same, but her attitude changed following her mother's death. "I liked it because I guess it was like a healthy outlet for my feelings. There was always a distraction or an escape or all of the above."

Heathcote attended Deakin University in Melbourne for a year before dropping out to pursue acting full-time. Her first role, in 2009, was a 10-episode arc on the Australian soap opera *Neighbors*, the same series that launched the careers of Margot Robbie, Russell Crowe and both Chris and Liam Hemsworth. The following year, the group Australians in Film granted her the second annual Health Ledger Scholarship, an award that allowed her to relocate to Los Angeles. In 2012, Tim Burton cast Heathcote as not one but two love interests of a vampire named Barnabas Collins (Johnny Depp) in *Dark Shadows*, a reboot

of the hit 60s TV series of the same name. She cemented her "rising star" status by fronting Miu Miu's Spring 2014 campaign alongside Elle Fanning and Lupita Nyong'o.

The next-biggest year of Heathcote's career is currently underway. Earlier this month, her much-anticipated film *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* was released. In director Burr Steers' adaptation of Seth Grahame-Smith's savage, best-selling homage to Jane Austen, Heathcote plays Jane Bennet, the eldest of the family's five weapon-wielding daughters. Connections can be drawn between *PPZ* and *The Leftovers*, the HBO series with which she's riveted. "I like the way it deals with people's grief and their rage and all sorts of ugly feelings. I love that the situation is never explained, like why the people disappeared, or how." Similarly, the audience is given no explanation for the undead apocalypse that plagues the film.

Before shooting, Heathcote studied kung fu in Los Angeles for three months with Grandmaster Don Baird. Then, she and her onscreen siblings — Elizabeth (Lily James), Mary (Millie Brady), Kitty (Suki Waterhouse) and Lydia (Ellie Bamber) — practiced sword fighting and choreography for an additional two weeks in London. But, somewhat surprisingly, Heathcote found the toughest part of the role was horseback riding ("I'm rubbish at it. Terrible"). Despite her lack of equine prowess, she could relate to her character because, like Jane Bennet, "I probably look like someone who's far more ladylike than I actually am."

For instance, she and her co-stars would oft kill time on set with semi-lewd rounds of the game "Would You Rather?" Once, Bamber was asked whether she'd rather lick inside a fellow actor's nostril or kiss Heathcote. "Ellie was like, 'I think I would rather kiss Bella because I think she's [formerly] vegan so her mouth will be fairly clean' [laughs] — that was her reasoning. I was like, 'Really? That's why you'd rather kiss me than lick someone's nostril? Thanks.'"

Next up, Heathcote will appear in *The Neon Demon*, written and directed by *Drive*'s Nicolas Winding Refn. The protagonist, Jesse (Elle Fanning), is a would-be model who falls prey to group of women with a cult-like obsession with physical perfection (Jena Malone, Christina Hendricks, Heathcote). Somewhere between the fashion campaigns and the kung fu, it becomes clear that Heathcote's life is far from ordinary. Despite her success, there are times when she can't help but fantasize about following her father into law and living a "normal life". "I like security. I love nine to five, I like rigidity, I like all those things that acting did not provide but law does." Lucky for us, she didn't.



# IB

Cover star **BELLA HEATHCOTE** channels the prima donnas of Hollywood's golden age: gorgeous, glamorous and fabulously over the top. Captured by Ellen von Unwerth, this movie star is modernized with structured leathers and opulent sheer frocks from Chanel, Versace and Dior. And while she smolders on film as a fearless heroine attempting to elude the bad guys, off screen it becomes clear this star is never out of character.

*Photography* ELLEN VON UNWERTH — *Styling* DEBORAH AFSHANI  
*ART DIRECTION* Jakob F.S. — *PROP STYLIST* Carl Hopgood / *Opus Beauty* — *HAIR* Peter Savic / *Opus Beauty*  
*MAKEUP* Samuel Paul / *Forward Artists* — *MANICURE* April Foreman / *The Wall Group* — *MALE EXTRA* Micah Fitzgerald / *LA Talent* — *1ST PHOTO ASSISTANT* John Ciamillo — *2ND PHOTO ASSISTANT* Timothy Mahoney  
*3RD PHOTO ASSISTANT* Ben Thomson — *DIGITAL TECH* Jerome Vivet — *FASHION ASSISTANTS* Kristen Layne & Kirsten Alvarez — *PROP ASSISTANTS* Ali Rad & Karl Gresco — *LOCATION* Studio 60  
*PRODUCTION* Cynthia Hadden / *Lyric Productions*  
THANKS TO Studio 60 & PMK-BNC



*Leopard dress* VERSUS VERSACE  
*Black studded wrap around heels* DSQUARED2  
*Studded onyx earrings* GLYNNETH B  
*Rhodium phoenix knuckle ring w. black diamonds* LOREE RODKIN at THE RESIDENCY





Red silk wrap dress HANEY  
Multicolored floral sandal CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN  
Pearl & diamond necklace TIFFANY & Co.  
Yellow gold hoop earrings TIFFANY & Co.  
Yellow gold link bracelet TIFFANY & Co.  
Love bands® white gold & diamond bracelet  
OLE LYNGGAARD COPENHAGEN  
Black & iridescent cat eye glasses A-MORIR

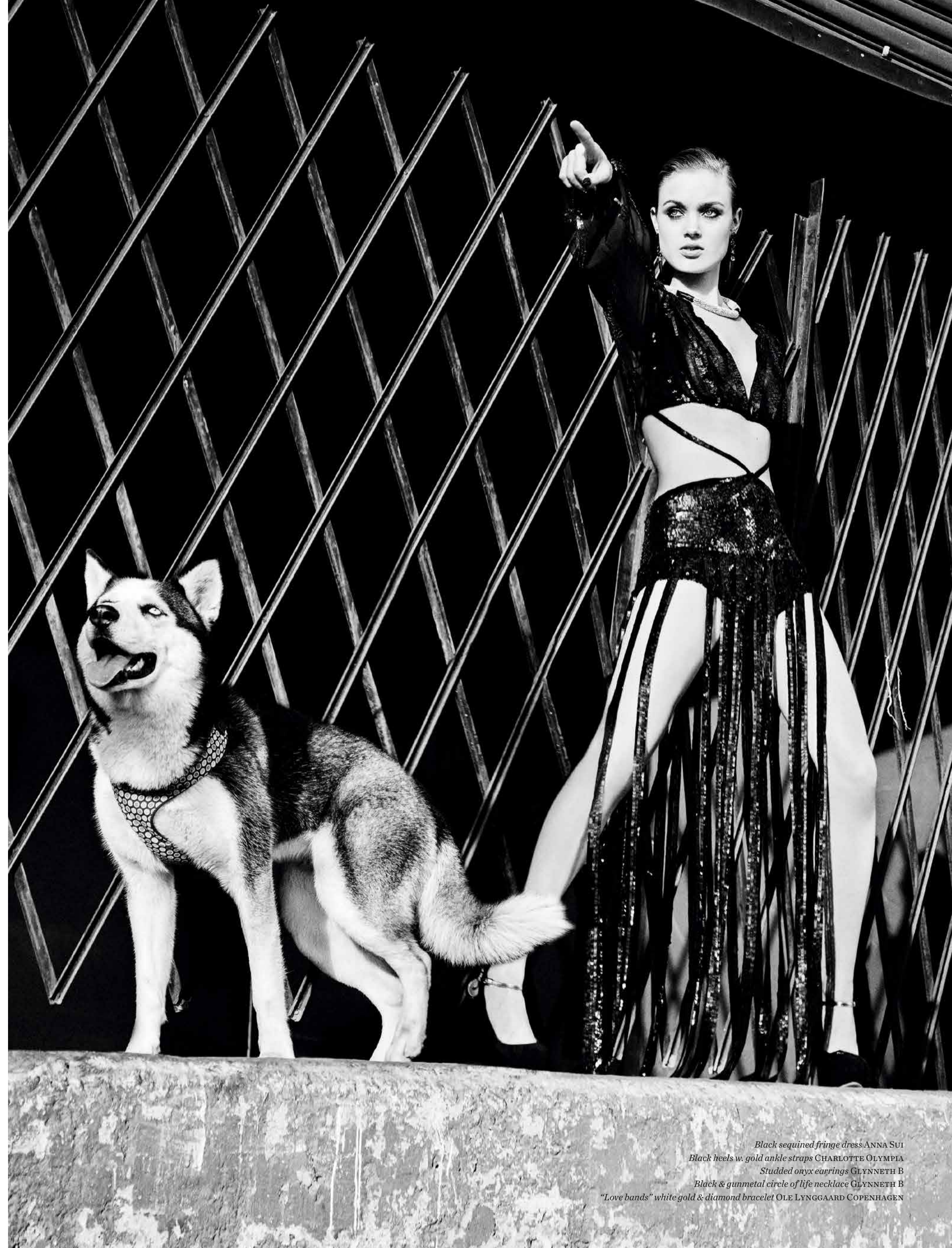


Black jumpsuit MARCIANO — “Love Bands” diamond earring & “Shooting Star” diamond earring OLE LYNGGAARD COPENHAGEN





Sheer white robe THOMAS WYLDE — White top & shorts CHRISTIAN DIOR — White leather heels GUCCI — “Love bands” white gold & diamond bracelet OLE LYNGGAARD COPENHAGEN — “Parantesi” white gold & diamond bracelet BULGARI — “Winter Frost” white gold ring w. diamonds OLE LYNGGAARD COPENHAGEN — Champagne DOM PÉRIGNON



Black sequined fringe dress ANNA SUI  
 Black heels w. gold ankle straps CHARLOTTE OLYMPIA  
 Studed onyx earrings GLYNNETH B  
 Black & gunmetal circle of life necklace GLYNNETH B  
 “Love bands” white gold & diamond bracelet OLE LYNGGAARD COPENHAGEN





*Black leather coat VINTAGE YSL at THE WAY WE WORE*

*Black suede pump w. metal heel PAUL ANDREW*

*Black studded headband w. face veil JENNIFER BEHR*

*Studded onyx earrings GLYNNETH B.*

*"Parantest" white gold & diamond bracelet BULGARI*

*"Love bands" white gold & diamond bracelet OLE LYNGGAARD COPENHAGEN*

*"Lotus" onyx & diamond ring OLE LYNGGAARD COPENHAGEN*





Lace dress SHARON WAUCHOB — Robe w. feathers BALESTRA at THE WAY WE WORE — Black beaded body chain MAISON CLOSE  
 Studded onyx earrings GLYNNETH B — Black gold deco ring w. diamonds JOELLE JEWELRY at THE RESIDENCY



Tulle fringe pleated dress CHANEL  
 "Love bands" white gold & diamond bracelet OLE LYGGAARD COPENHAGEN  
 "Victoria" platinum & diamond alternating bracelet TIFFANY & CO.  
 "Parantesi" white gold & diamond bracelet BULGARI  
 "Parantesi" white gold ring BULGARI  
 "Enchant Fleur" platinum w. diamonds ring TIFFANY & Co.  
 Champagne DOM PÉRIGNON



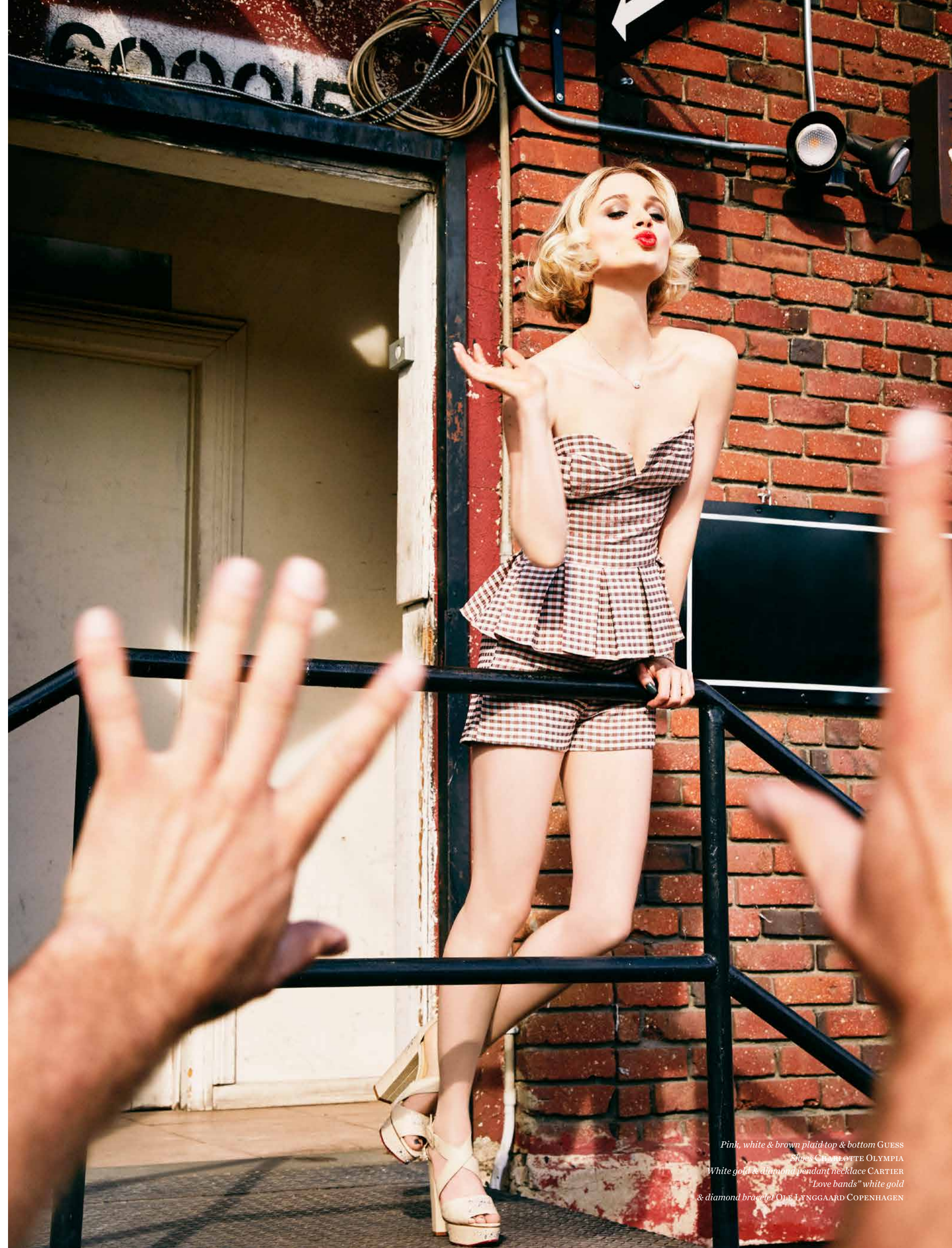


Multicolored belted sequin skirt GUCCI  
Vintage red feather coat THE WAY WE WORE IT  
Black corset WHAT KATIE WORE  
Multicolored beaded heels LANVIN  
"Atlas" yellow gold wide cuff TIFFANY & CO.  
"Love bands" white gold & diamond bracelet  
OLE LYNGGAARD COPENHAGEN  
"Juste un Clou" yellow gold diamond ring CARTIER  
"Amulette" ring CARTIER





Black halter w. gold dress ALEXANDRE VAUTHIER — Studed onyx earrings GLYNETH B — "Love bands" white gold & diamond bracelet OLE LYNGGAARD COPENHAGEN — "Snakes" white gold & diamond ring OLE LYNGGAARD COPENHAGEN



Pink, white & brown plaid top & bottom GUESS  
Shoes CHARLOTTE OLYMPIA  
White gold & diamond pendant necklace CARTIER  
"Love bands" white gold & diamond bracelet OLE LYNGGAARD COPENHAGEN



15 CULT BEAUTY BUYS ★ 15 HOTTEST NEW ACCESSORIES ★ 15 BEST DRESSES

# InStyle AUSTRALIA



COLLECTOR'S EDITION  
**15<sup>th</sup>**  
**BIRTHDAY**  
**ISSUE**

**STARRING**  
BELLA HEATHCOTE  
ISABEL LUCAS  
GRACE HUANG  
MADDISON BROWN  
MIRANDA KERR...

**Featuring**  
SARAH SNOOK  
TERESA PALMER  
ABBY EARL  
MADELEINE MADDEN  
COURTNEY EATON  
YAEL STONE...

**Presenting**  
JESSICA GOMES  
ISABELLA MANFREDI  
MAIA MITCHELL  
OLIVIA DEJONGE  
MEG MAC





*Let's*  
**CHEER  
FOR  
AUS!**

Since our launch in 2000, *InStyle* has honoured hundreds of talented women. So how to mark our 15th birthday? Ask three-time cover star Miranda Kerr to head up our list of Australia's most wanted.

**PHOTOGRAPHED BY HUGH STEWART  
PRODUCED BY AMBER MACKAY AND JESSICA IRVINE  
STYLED BY KATHERINE GREEN AND GEMMA KEIL**







Prada wool jacket, \$2,920, and cotton and silk-organza shirt, \$840; 02-9223 1688.

HAIR: JOHN D.  
MAKE-UP: KARA YOSHIMOTO BUA  
MANICURE: DEBBIE LEAVITT.

“My level of self-awareness and the ability to take responsibility for my own actions has become a bit more solid. I don’t know if I’m there yet; I’m crawling towards it.”

It was 2010, Bella Heathcote was 22 and she had just won the Heath Ledger Scholarship. She was on the international stage and life started to move quickly. But, she says, “I was pretty happy to go along for the ride.” Since then, she has only gathered speed.

Heathcote has just wrapped one of her biggest roles to date, appearing in the film version of *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* with Suki Waterhouse and Lily James. It was also one of her most gruelling: “I did kung-fu for months leading up to it,” she says. “It was actually great because I get really anxious

before a job so it was nice to be able to channel that into something productive.”

Another perk? The cast. “It’s really rare to shoot with a bunch of young people, rarer still to shoot with a bunch of girls. It was fantastic and nurturing.”

With this film in the can and another just announced (horror movie *The Neon Demon*, again with a female-centric cast), Heathcote is one step closer to where she’s headed. “In 15 years, I’d like to still be earning a living doing what I love, surrounded by people I love, laughing, learning and being curious.”

**BELLA  
HEATHCOTE**



Here's the thing: what could you tell your 15-year-old self that she would actually listen to? Everything that I did shaped who I am. I don't have any regrets. But I'd say be kind to yourself, look after yourself.

—BELLA HEATHCOTE



Chanel tweed coat, \$9,470, and metal and tweed cuffs, \$2,740 each; 1300 242 635.



# Swept Away

What's new now: fairy-tale dressing—without the damsel-in-distress bit. Let Bella Heathcote, costar of *Pride and Prejudice* and *Zombies*, demonstrate. By Kate Branch

Photographs by **Will Davidson** Fashion editor: **Jillian Davison**

## A Boyish Charm

That girly dress in the back of your closet? Pair it with your menswear tweed blazer and a collared shirt. Tiara optional.

**Miu Miu** coat, shirt, tiara, necklace, shoes. **Nasty Gal** sheer dress. **Rochas** briefs. On him: **Dolce & Gabbana** vest, pants. **Dunhill** shirt. Vintage hat. **Gucci** tie.







**Something Old...  
Something Bold**  
Make vintage tulle modern with a contrasting jacket. Your grandmother's pearls? They work here too.

**Dries Van Noten** jacket, sheer vest, bra, skirt, belt. **Fallon** pearl ear cuff (worn throughout story). **Simone Rocha** earrings. **Nina Ricci** necklace. **Derek Lam** booties.

### And Now, About Bella

In perhaps the most badass scene in this month's *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*, Bella Heathcote, Lily James, and Suki Waterhouse attend a ball in hopes of finding a suitor. But in *this* riff on Jane Austen's classic English tale, the girls (dressed in corseted gowns and elbow-length gloves) take down and tear apart an entire ballroom of flesh-eating zombies. "I had a big grin on my face filming that scene," says Heathcote, 28, who studied kung fu for months to play Jane. "This time we're not the damsels—the *guys* are the damsels. I always had to rescue Douglas [Booth, who plays Mr. Bingley]." Next up, the Australian will star alongside Elle Fanning and model Abbey Lee in *The Neon Demon*, set in the underbelly of the modeling world; Heathcote got a taste of that universe when she walked Balenciaga's spring runway in real life last fall. "I love fashion," she says, "but I'd rather do more action movies!"

**Gucci** dress, earrings, brooch, shoes.





### In the Driver's Seat

A quick updo? Barely-there makeup? It all looks better with a shoulder-dusting statement earring.

**Dior** dress. **Colette Malouf** combs. **Simone Rocha** earrings. **Stephen Jones x Giles** hat (on car). For her natural eye look, try **Maybelline New York** Eye Studio Color Tattoo Concentrated Crayon in Barely Beige (\$10, at drugstores).



### Make Him Blush

Forever timeless: a loose slipdress and a trench coat. The 2016 way? Pick them in a next-to-naked shade for a touch of sexiness.

**Bottega Veneta** trench. **Jill Stuart** dress. **Nina Ricci** top (worn under dress). **Simone Rocha** earrings.







**Swan Song**  
Sequins? Fancy—and fun. Just keep everything else simple, simple.

**Marc Jacobs** dress. Love her piecey updo? Try **Sexy Hair Style Sexy Hair** Frenzy Matte Texturizing Paste (\$18, sexyhair.com).



**Sitting Pretty**  
A menswear-inspired tie balances a featherlike skirt and a string of delicate buttons.

**Erdem** dress. **Simone Rocha** earrings. **Marc Jacobs** heels. **See Glamour Shopper for more information.** Model: Philip Muscato at Wilhelmina; makeup: Fiona Stiles for Fiona Stiles Beauty; hair: Maranda at The Wall Group; manicure: Michelle Saunders at Forward Artists; production: Wanted Media; set design: Gille Mills at The Magnet Agency.



# I'm an instant star just add water and stir

What do Nicolas Winding Refn, Miuccia Prada and Alexander Wang have in common? They're all fans of Bella Heathcote, the bubbly blonde Australian actress who looks set to take this year by storm.

PHOTOGRAPHY BEAU GREALY STYLING NICOLAS KLAM  
Hair: Johann's Sjöberg at Jed Root. Make-up: Darlene Jacobs at Starworks Artists. Photography assistance: Porter Count. Styling assistance: Ali Miller. Production: Pippa Mockridge.  
BELLA WEARS DRESS COURRÈGES.

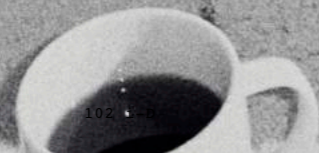
*"The Neon Demon is a horror film about vicious beauty and the electricity of Los Angeles..."*

BELLA HEATHCOTE



TOP PROENZA SCHOUER  
TROUSERS BASSIKE.  
WATCH OMEGA.

**“Walking in the Balenciaga show was really exhilarating. It was a bit like acting or being on stage – a full-on adrenaline rush!”** BELLA HEATHCOTE





JUMPER SONIA RYKIEL.  
TROUSERS BASSIKE. WATCH  
OMEGA. SHOES REPETTO.

“Being an actress feels so so good, fuuuuck that office job!”

BELLA HEATHCOTE





# bella heathcote

TEXT STUART BRUMFITT

Nothing quite prepares you for the joviality and guffaws of Melbourne-born actress Bella Heathcote. She's heartily laughing as she tells i-D that she's on her way to the car shop in her adopted LA. "I smashed my side mirror. I damaged it well in that respect!" she says, jolly about not writing it off in a more serious way. Cars are a good place to start with Bella, since one of her big movies hitting cinemas in 2016 is directed by Nicolas Winding Refn, the man behind one of the best ever cruising movies, *Drive*. Bella loves the Ryan Gosling-led film and says that when she was cast in Winding Refn's upcoming *The Neon Demon* ("a horror film about vicious beauty" and "the electricity of Los Angeles", according to the director), she started "driving round LA, listening to the soundtrack." Imagine that: you've been hand-picked by one of your favourite directors (now "Nick" to Bella), you're breaking the Hollywood you came from Australia to crack, and now you're revving around the giant, gridded plain and magical hills of LA listening to epic, ethereal electronica. Talk about the feels!

Like most actors, 28-year-old Bella's career didn't start in the rarefied world of the movie industry's most celebrated auteurs though. Instead, she got her break on Aussie TV show, *Neighbours*. It may be an after-school soap opera, but *Neighbours* has historically been the perfect platform for young Australian talent to show casting directors that they can shine on screen: the Hemsworth brothers, Margot Robbie, Russell Crowe and Guy Pearce all cut their teeth on Ramsay Street. Did Bella always have one eye on Hollywood though? "I don't know that I had thought as far as LA, but my dream was mostly to have an acting job so I could quit my job at the law firm, because I was taking time off to shoot *Neighbours*, then going back to do admin and just hating my life. I wanted to do acting full time." Now that she's pulled it off, she feels "so, so good!" and flips the bird at the work she had to do to support herself before: "Fuuuuuck that office job!"

Bella's big movie breakthrough came in Tim Burton's *Dark Shadows* where she shared the screen with a stellar cast that included Johnny Depp, Michelle Pfeiffer, Helena Bonham Carter, Eva Green, Jonny Lee Miller and Chloë Grace Moretz. "I guess that was pretty high profile," she jokes, "but it didn't light the box office on fire! It was really cool to be like, 'I'm in a Tim Burton film' though." The film, in which she pulls off prim pussy bow blouses and 60s garb, was arguably the reason she was cast in Miu Miu's spring/summer 14 campaign shot by Inez & Vinoodh. Endorsement from Tim Burton certainly suggests you have something special and strange about you, and Mrs Prada surely paid attention to that. Bella took her place in the campaign alongside a crop of heavyweight emerging talent, including Elizabeth Olsen, Lupita Nyong'o and Elle Fanning. Last year, Bella had another brush with the high fashion world, when Alexander Wang asked her to walk in his final Balenciaga show. "The walk was really fun, but during the lead-up, I was like, 'What the fuck!? I'm no model!'" Bella squeals. "But there was something about it that was really exhilarating. It was a bit like acting, or being on stage - a similar feeling, walking out there and having a full-on adrenaline rush." So how did she get asked? "I wasn't mates with Alexander. Maybe someone else couldn't do it and I was called in..." she says, self-deprecatingly.

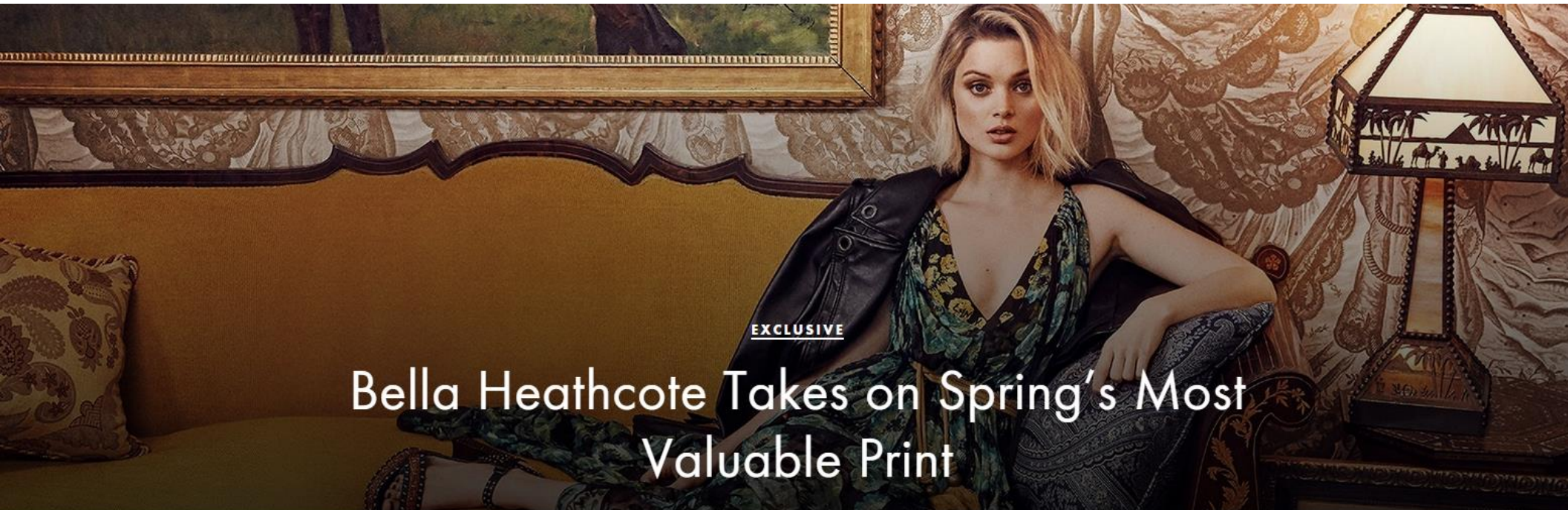
Bella's Miu Miu mate, Elle Fanning, is the lead in *The Neon Demon*. The film is inspired by the true tale of Countess Bathory, a late 16th century Hungarian aristocrat who killed virgins so she could bathe in their blood to absorb their beauty. Fanning plays an aspiring model whose youth and vitality are devoured by a group of beauty-obsessed women. Bella says she's "on full secrecy" about the film, but we do know her character Gigi "is obsessed with the way she looks. She's obsessed with anything external, and she'll do *anything* to preserve or enhance her beauty." It can't have been hard finding inspiration for the role in famously beauty-obsessed LA, but Bella says she actually got more insight for her character from model and co-star Abbey Lee - not because of any extreme vanity on Abbey's part, but because "she was a huge model, and she's seen it all!" By "all", we assume she means narcissism, envy and desperation, hopefully not youth-enhancing blood baths!

The role was a big change from her previous acting gig (also out this year). Bella filmed *Pride & Prejudice & Zombies (PPZ)* - a movie inspired by the best-selling book that makes Jane Austen heroines fight an undead hoard - just before *The Neon Demon*. "It was a very sharp contrast. Jane to Gigi is a pretty big jump! The feeling of *The Neon Demon* is so much darker, and that kind of feeling permeates the set as well." *PPZ* also involved beauties and barbarism, but is instead a comedy, killer romp, awash with heaving bosoms, Regency curls and daggers in garters. It's a who's who of hot young talent, most of it British (Lily James, Suki Waterhouse, Douglas Booth, Sam Riley and Matt Smith all appear) and has a feminist slant - Bella, like the rest of the female cast, gets to kick ass while the men look wimpy on the sidelines.

"That was probably the best memory of any job I've had," Bella says. "I love that cast! The tone of the film works. I love the fight sequences, particularly the ones with the girls. It makes it a lot easier when you love the cast. You don't have to fake a feeling, because it's there. It felt like we were all sisters and good mates, which makes it safe to mess up, try different things or do fight scenes when you're feeling insecure about your fighting skills!"

With a globalised film industry and location shoots all over the world, moving to LA almost seems unnecessary these days, but most actors still head there for the agents, the studio bosses and the enviable lifestyle. Bella is certainly enjoying being part of the canyon-hiking, juice-sipping yogi crowd, but admits, "Then I go do a job in London or New York and become a full-blown alcoholic!" On the whole though, she likes the healthy lifestyle there, although she tries "not to get too crazy with it." On her Instagram, she has a message for all the manic, body-obsessed warrior posers: "Yoga is not about tightening your ass. It's about getting your head out of it," she writes. Which sums Bella up pretty nicely: the Melbourne girl has remained remarkably grounded for an actress who's fast winning over the world's greatest designers and directors.





EXCLUSIVE

# Bella Heathcote Takes on Spring's Most Valuable Print



February 3, 2016 /

WHO WHAT WEAR EXCLUSIVES

by JESSICA BAKER





**PHOTO CREDITS:** Gucci Herbarium Print Silk Gown (\$8500), Lion Head Ring With Crystals (\$490), and Double Wrap Ring with Tiger Head (\$530); Dior Set Earrings (\$490, 800.929.Dior); Chanel Plexiglass Bracelet (\$1375, 800.330.0003) and Metal Cuff (\$3350, 800.330.0003).



It's safe to say that *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* isn't your average Jane Austen corset drama, and it turns out the film's star Bella Heathcote also subverts all of our assumptions, too. Despite the fact that the 28-year-old Australian actress looks like a Georgian-era lady of the manor (thanks to her flawless, milky complexion and wide, doll-like eyes), in real life Heathcote is anything but a delicate flower.



PHOTO CREDITS: Valentino Lace-Paneled Pleated Printed Silk Dress (\$14,000); Dior Set Earrings (\$490, 800.929.Dior); Coach Patchwork Bandit Shoes (\$495).

When Heathcote arrived at the Beverly Hills estate of her *Who What Wear* shoot, we have to admit we were a bit taken aback. A string of period dramas and feminine red carpet looks led us to believe we were dealing with someone of a girlish nature. But as the Australian actress pulled up in a muscle car dressed in head-to-toe black, we knew she wasn't the innocent we so naively drew up in our minds. Instead, we were greeted by the real Bella: cool, confident, and witty. She is (dare we say it?) the true embodiment of a rose with thorns—beautiful but tough.

That disposition lent itself well to her latest role, that of Jane Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*. In this cheeky retelling of Jane Austen's famous novel, in which a zombie plague takes place, Bennet is not the sweet lady-in-waiting we remember from reading the book in high school, but rather a fearless, sword-wielding protagonist who isn't about to let the undead get in her way of a suitable marriage. Heathcote recalled reading the script for the first time, feeling both excited and nervous about whether or not it would translate on the big screen. But, as we would soon learn, she was ready for a risk.





PHOTO CREDITS: Coach dress, Chiffon Biker Jacket (\$795), and Patchwork Bandit Shoes (\$495); Dior Set Earrings (\$490, 800.929.Dior).

After landing the part, she dove immediately into four months of martial arts training, which she claims was a welcome distraction. “I get really nervous before a film, so for me to be able to do something productive with that—as opposed to just sitting and spinning out—was fantastic,” she says. “I loved the kung fu and the sword training, but I’m rubbish at horse riding,”

Building the onscreen sister dynamic with co-stars Lily James and Suki Waterhouse proved to be a much easier task for Heathcote, who formed a fast bond with the girls off set. “We played a lot of *Would You Rather*,” she laughed. “I think at one point we even scandalized Sam [Riley] and the boys. It got pretty wrong. I grew up with boys, so it was really fun for me to have that kind of environment.”





In her hometown of Melbourne, Australia, acting work was hard to come by and the community was very small, but that didn't deter a young Heathcote from pursuing her first love. "I remember meeting with the counselor, and they told me, 'That's not a career. You need to come up with what you are going to study at university.' I went to college for a year and then basically dropped out and went to drama school. I guess I always knew that's what I wanted to do, but I finally admitted it to myself when I was 19."



"I LOVED THE KUNG FU AND  
THE SWORD TRAINING.  
BUT I'M RUBBISH AT HORSE RIDING."



PHOTO CREDITS: Giambattista Valli Cap Sleeve Dress (\$2,700); Rochas coat and Metallic Leather Clutch (\$632); Chanel Brooch (\$350, 800.550.0005) and Glass Pearl Necklace (\$3625, 800.550.0005); Gucci Crossover Sandals (\$595).

Heathcote would land her first role in the 2008 film *Acolytes* alongside Joel Edgerton, followed up with a part in the infamous soap opera *Neighbours*. The series has become a right of passage of sorts for Australian actors, launching the careers of Russell Crowe, Margot Robbie, and the Hemsworth brothers, to name a few. "It's a machine, and they have to turn out such a huge quantity of material," she says. "I remember being really bad the first couple of days, because I was so nervous and inhibited, but I found my feet." After that, it was time for her to make her move to the big leagues.





PHOTO CREDITS: Lanvin Grammet-Embellished Moto Jacket (\$3490), Printed Fil Coupe Silk-Blend Chiffon Gown (\$4985), and Lucia Rope Tassel Belt (\$685); Dior Set Earrings (\$490, 800.929.Dior).

But Heathcote landed in Los Angeles to find a much different business. While the bustling, health-conscious L.A. lifestyle perfectly suited the 28-year-old, the casting rooms in Hollywood weren't so inviting. "In Australia, I always felt like it was very collaborative and like you were waking into a workshop and the director was there. My first experience auditioning in L.A. was pilot season, and it was such a shock to the system. You get half the time, there's no camera in the room, and you don't even know who you are reading with. It was pretty rough, initially."

While rejection is par for the course in the entertainment industry, Heathcote has done a good job of not letting it get to her. "My boyfriend is a director and I see what goes into the casting process, and it's so rarely just about the talent or whether you are right for it. There are so many other factors. Every now and then there's one that you feel like is yours and you don't get it and you are heartbroken for a little while, but you just have to get back on the horse."



Tim Burton's 2012 flick *Dark Shadows* would be Heathcote's thoroughbred to stardom in the U.S., and ultimately would also put her on the fast track to fashion darling. She played it smart during the film's press tour, hiring stylist Penny Lovell to help build her an impressive sartorial resume (think Chanel, Emilio Pucci, and Rodarte) straight out of the gate. "I just trust her implicitly," she tells us of working with Lovell. "I think there were two looks ever that I disagreed with, and they are the only looks that now I'm like: I should have trusted Penny and gone with option A." Though a self-proclaimed "white T-shirt and jeans" gal in real life, Heathcote sees the red carpet as the perfect opportunity to play dress up. "It feels like I'm putting on a costume, and that it doesn't have to be a reflection of me all the time," she says. A series of romantic frocks, edgy minis, and daring sheer numbers over the years mimic her ever-changing sensibilities.

But if there was ever a moment to cement Heathcote's It-girl status, it was being tapped by Alexander Wang, the prince of downtown cool, to walk in his final show for Balenciaga S/S 16, which offered a swan song of ethereal ivory looks. Along with fellow beauties Zoë Kravitz, Riley Keough, and Suki Waterhouse, Heathcote took to the runway in effortless looks showing the brand's softer side. "Being out on the catwalk was a complete adrenaline rush," she remembers. It's like being on stage."



**PHOTO CREDITS:** Miu Miu Coat (\$2965), Dress (\$3805), and Necklace (\$915, select Miu Miu boutiques); Freen By Thorton Bregazzi Carlisle Sunglasses (\$200); Dior Parure Shoes (\$1080, 800.929.Dior).

"IT FEELS LIKE I'M PUTTING ON A COSTUME  
AND THAT IT DOESN'T HAVE  
TO BE A REFLECTION OF ME ALL THE TIME."





PHOTO CREDITS: Burberry Floral Lace and Macramé Dress (\$4095); Vionnet Single Flower Stud Earing (\$230) in Gold.

Looking at the year ahead, Heathcote told us she has one simple goal in mind: Take more risks. While she's already ticking that box on the fashion front, it's clear her career, much like this season's floral trend, is only just beginning to bloom. So the question now isn't whether or not Bella Heathcote will succeed, because that's a given, but rather, how far she'll grow.

*Photographer: Olivia Malone; Stylist: Sean Knight; Hair: John D.; Makeup: Monika Blunder.*

***Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* hits theaters February 5. To see more of our exclusive celebrity features, click [here!](#)**



## SPÉCIAL MODE

## BELLA HEATHCOTE HOLLYWOOD CRINOLINE ET ZOMBIES

**E**n corset, elle dégomme gracieusement des zombies à coup de katana dans le film parodique très attendu *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*. Bella Heathcote, Australienne de 28 ans, n'en est pas à son coup d'essai dans le gothique détourné puisqu'elle était déjà l'héroïne éthérée de *Dark Shadows* de Tim Burton (2012). On la verra sûrement à Cannes cette année dans la fable cruelle et sulfureuse *The Neon Demon* de Nicolas Winding Refn, avec Elle Fanning, sur les mésaventures d'un jeune mannequin à Los Angeles. Bella n'a pas fini d'avoir la cote.

BELLA HEATHCOTE EN DIOR

L 16943 - 188 - F: 3,00 € - RD



**TENDANCE**

100 LOOKS  
CROSSOVER



**DIOR**

CAMILLE ROWE  
IS POISON

**CINÉMA**

ZOOLANDER 2  
LA FASHION  
WEEK FAIT LA  
BLAGUE



**DESTIN**

GIA CARANGI  
LA JAMES DEAN  
DES TOP MODELES



# LAMODE

**COVER GIRL!**  
**BELLA HEATHCOTE**

PAR  
**KENNETH CAPPELLO**

PAGES 104-115

**ELIZABETH DAVISON**

PAR  
**PICZO**

PAGES 116-135







BELLA HEATHCOTE

ROBE LINGERIE EN SATIN  
DE SOIE, **BALENCIAGA**. PULL  
EN LAINE VIERGE, **COURRÈGES**.  
COLLIER "ME" EN MÉTAL  
DORÉ, **LOUIS VUITTON**.

**HANNAH BENNETT**

PAR  
**AMY GWATKIN**

PAGES 136-153

**ANNETT DREN  
LEA HOLZFUSS**

PAR  
**HILL & AUBREY**

PAGES 154-169



# BELLA HEATHCOTE

## À LA CONQUÊTE DE HOLLYWOOD

ON L'A DÉCOUVERTE EN POUPÉE INQUIÉTANTE DE PERFECTION DANS LE "DARK SHADOWS" NOSTALGIQUE ET GOTHIQUE DE TIM BURTON. CETTE ANNÉE, ELLE CASSE DU ZOMBIE EN CRINOLINE DANS LE BIZARROÏDE ET DRÔLE "PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES", RELECTURE GORE DU CLASSIQUE DE JANE AUSTEN. ALTRUISTE AUTANT QUE RAVISSANTE, BELLA HEATHCOTE, AUSTRALIENNE À HOLLYWOOD, COMPAGNE À LA VILLE DU TALENTUEUX METTEUR EN SCÈNE ANDREW DOMINIK ("COGAN, LA MORT EN DOUCE"), SE FRAVE SUBILEMENT UN CHEMIN DANS LA JUNGLE DORÉE DE L'INDUSTRIE CINÉMATOGRAPHIQUE AMÉRICAINE. DERNIER COUP DE MAÎTRE EN DATE : SA PARTICIPATION À "THE NEON DEMON", NÉBULEUX CONTE D'APPRENTISSAGE SIGNÉ NICOLAS WINDING REFN.

Propos recueillis par Jean-Pascal Grosso

Photos Kenneth Cappello

Réalisation Helena Teiedor

Assistentes stylisme Francesca Roth et Marine Becker

Coiffure John D.

Maquillage Kate Lee

GILET IMPRIMÉ  
EN ANGORA,  
**SAINT  
LAURENT  
PAR HEDI  
SLIMANE.**  
ROBE EN  
SATIN DE SOIE  
AVEC JUPE  
PLISÉE EN  
MACRAMÉ,  
**BURBERRY.**  
T-SHIRT RAYÉ  
EN COTON,  
**PETIT  
BATEAU.**  
COLLIER  
RUBAN EN  
MÉTAL ET  
RÉSINE,  
**DIOR.**







# B

**ella signifie “belle” en italien comme en espagnol. Vos parents avaient de jolies certitudes vous concernant à la naissance...**

[Elle rit]. Non, ce n'est pas ça. Mon vrai prénom, c'est Isabella. Mais comme en Australie on a très vite fait de vous donner un surnom, je n'avais pas trop envie qu'on m'appelle Izzy ou quelque chose dans le genre. Alors, ça a été Bella, que j'ai gardé comme nom d'actrice.

**Depuis quand êtes-vous installée à Los Angeles?**

Cela va faire six ans en mai. La première année fut assez extraordinaire. Beaucoup d'adrénaline. La deuxième,

tique et puis, sur un coup de téléphone, tout est bouleversé. C'est la surprise permanente.

**N'auriez-vous pas pu poursuivre votre carrière uniquement en Australie?**

Oui, j'avais un rôle récurrent à la télévision. Mais, regardez, en Australie, vous avez à peu près une audition par mois. Quatre grand maximum. Ici, à Los Angeles, je peux en avoir autant en une seule journée! Vous restez toujours en alerte. Il y a de la compétition, bien sûr. Mais cela ne vous inquiète que les mauvais jours.

**Dépeignez-nous ces personnes avec lesquelles vous avez eu la chance de collaborer. Tim Burton, pour commencer...**

Un amour. Un homme adorable. Beaucoup plus “normal” que ce à quoi je m'attendais, une sorte de savant fou du cinéma. Et c'est un homme avec un sens de l'humour ravageur.

**“EN AUSTRALIE, VOUS AVEZ À PEU PRÈS UNE AUDITION PAR MOIS. QUATRE GRAND MAXIMUM. ICI, À LOS ANGELES, JE PEUX EN AVOIR AUTANT EN UNE SEULE JOURNÉE!”**

j'ai un peu bougé pour le travail. Mais la troisième année, bizarrement, je me suis sentie comme une étrangère. J'ai commencé à beaucoup travailler. L'Amérique a pris peu à peu des allures de salle d'attente entre deux tournages. J'attendais un nouveau contrat, c'est tout. Mais à force, vous vous habituez, vous vous acclimitez. Je me suis fait des amis sincères. Aujourd'hui, Los Angeles, c'est ma maison. Ça aura pris du temps, mais je m'y sens bien.

**Aimez-vous travailler là-bas?**

Professionnellement, je m'y sens mieux qu'en Australie parce qu'il y a beaucoup plus de propositions de travail. Et donc plus d'espoir pour une actrice. Ce qui est bien avec Hollywood, c'est que tout change perpétuellement. Vous pouvez être au top un jour et vous remettre en question le lendemain, c'est très stimulant. Vous êtes dans une situation cri-

**Nicolas Winding Refn?**

Là, c'est autre chose. Lui aussi a beaucoup d'humour – un humour très particulier. C'est quelqu'un qui sait très bien ce qu'il veut et n'a pas peur de tout tenter pour arriver à ses fins. Sur *The Neon Demon*, c'était un défi pour nous tous. C'est le rôle le plus difficile de ma jeune carrière, je crois, celui dans lequel j'ai dû m'impliquer le plus. Nicolas changeait tout en permanence. Impossible donc de se rattacher à quoi que ce soit dans le scénario, dans le fil de l'histoire. Cela ne le dérangeait pas d'abandonner des scènes ou de les modifier complètement. Parfois, cela devenait très troublant.

**Bret Easton Ellis?**

Il a écrit le scénario d'un de mes derniers films réalisé par Derick Martini, *The Curse of Downers Grove*. Mais malheureusement, nous ne nous sommes jamais croisés.

CARDIGAN EN CACHEMIRE, ZADIG & VOLTAIRE. ROBE EN MAILLE SEQUINS, SONIA RYKIEL. T-SHIRT EN COTON, ISABEL MARANT ÉTOILE. BRACELET EN ARGENT, ANNELEISE MICHELSON.







**Le plus épuisant ou frustrant dans l'industrie du cinéma américaine?**

La vie peut être épuisante en général, alors rien de très dérangeant. Le plus gênant, c'est d'être loin de mon pays, des personnes qui me sont les plus chères.

**Qu'est-ce qui vous manque le plus de l'Australie?**

Les gens. Leur sens de l'humour, leur ironie, un sens du sarcasme assez délicieux qui, je pense, passerait mal en Amérique. Ah, et aussi le café. C'est compliqué de trouver du bon café aux États-Unis, même si ça s'améliore un peu.

**"JE ME SUIS RAREMENT AUTANT AMUSÉE QUE DANS 'PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES'. C'ÉTAIT DÉLIRANT. ET PUIS, CASSER LA GUEULE À QUELQU'UN DANS UN FILM, J'ADORE ÇA."**

**Des metteurs en scène avec lesquels vous aimeriez travailler?**

David Lynch! Ce serait mon premier choix. Mais la liste est très longue.

**On vous voit souvent sur les tapis rouges habillée**

**par des créateurs. Est-ce que la mode vous passionne?**

Pas vraiment. Bien sûr, j'aime les beaux vêtements. J'adore en porter lors d'événements. Mais au jour le jour, je suis beaucoup plus détendue, casual. Je ne fais pas plus attention que ça à mon look. Je cherche le confort, pas l'uniforme.

**Une marque que vous appréciez?**

Gucci est incroyable. J'ai toujours aimé Miu Miu, Chanel... Des noms assez classiques.

**En mode, votre péché mignon?**

Les manteaux. J'en ai plusieurs. Même si cela ne m'est pas très utile à Los Angeles.

**Vous fréquentez le réalisateur Andrew Dominik, qui a tourné l'excellent polar Cogan, la mort en douce et le néo-western L'Assassinat de Jesse James par le lâche Robert Ford. Êtes-vous sa muse?**

Je n'ai jamais vu ça comme ça. Mais l'idée est jolie, c'est vrai [Rires].

**Le plus beau moment de votre carrière jusqu'à présent?**

J'ai un gros coup de cœur pour chacun des films dans lesquels j'ai tourné. Ils m'ont tous apporté quelque chose d'un point de vue personnel ou professionnel. Même les moins importants restent chers à mes yeux. Mais le moment le plus beau, je trouve, c'est quand je suis arrivée à Los Angeles. Sur la carte destinée à la douane américaine, j'ai écrit, dans la case "profession", le mot "actrice". Même si je ne faisais que débiter, j'étais fière. Les choses se concrétisaient, ce n'était plus un hobby. C'était cool. Ça voulait dire que ma carrière décollait, que je pouvais en vivre dignement sans devoir faire autre chose à côté.

**Vous retrouvez-vous entre Australiens à Hollywood?**

Oui. D'ailleurs, la plupart de mes amies ici sont des actrices australiennes. C'est assez facile de rester en contact avec mon pays, finalement. Abbey Lee, qui joue également dans *The Neon Demon*, et que vous avez interviewée dans *Jalouse*, est une copine. Il y a aussi Phoebe Tonkin. Elles sont géniales.

**Venons-en à *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*...**

Je me suis rarement autant amusée sur un tournage. C'était délirant. Et puis casser la gueule à quelqu'un dans un film, j'adore ça. C'est une histoire où les femmes prennent les choses en main. C'est vraiment bien. Sincèrement, avant de découvrir le scénario, je me demandais comment cela pouvait fonctionner. À la lecture, j'ai beaucoup ri. Je suis immédiatement entrée dans l'histoire, j'étais rassurée. C'était le ton qui m'intriguait : comment traiter l'histoire d'amour entre les principaux personnages et l'attaque de morts vivants? Mais, contre toute attente, ça marchait.

**Êtes-vous plus Jane Austen ou chasse aux zombies ?**

Les deux ont leurs charmes, et me plaisent tout autant.

CARDIGAN EN CACHEMIRE, CHANEL. ROBE EN SOIE ET DENTELLE, CÉLINE. DÉBARDEUR EN JERSEY, MAJESTIC FILATURES. BOUCLE D'OREILLE EN BRONZE PLAQUÉ OR, ANNELESE MICHELSON. BRACELET EN ARGENT ET VERMEIL, CHARLOTTE CHESNAIS. BOOTS EN CUIR, LOUIS VUITTON.









PULL BRODÉ  
EN COTON,  
**CARVEN.**  
ROBE  
BICOLORE EN  
TULLE, **DRIES**  
**VAN NOTEN.**  
BOUCLE  
D'OREILLE  
MIROIR,  
**LOEWE.**





GILET IMPRIMÉ  
EN ANGORA,  
**SAINT  
LAURENT  
PAR HEDI  
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ROBE EN  
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AVEC JUPE  
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EN COTON,  
**PETIT  
BATEAU.**  
COLLIER  
RUBAN EN  
MÉTAL ET  
RÉSINE,  
**DIOR.**  
BOOTS EN  
CUIR DE VEAU  
ET CHÈVRE,  
**LOEWE.**





MANTEAU EN  
CUIR PEINT ET  
COLLIER "ME"  
EN MÉTAL  
DORÉ, **LOUIS  
VUITTON.**





ROBE LINGERIE  
EN SATIN  
DE SOIE,  
**BALENCIAGA.**  
PULL EN  
LAINE VIERGE,  
**COURRÈGES.**  
COLLIER "ME"  
EN MÉTAL  
DORÉ, **LOUIS  
VUITTON.**





CARDIGAN EN  
CACHEMIRE,  
**CHANEL.**  
ROBE  
FRANGÉE EN  
SOIE, **SAINT  
LAURENT  
PAR HEDI  
SLIMANE.**  
COLLIER "ME"  
EN MÉTAL  
DORÉ, **LOUIS  
VUITTON.**





PULL EN LAINE  
JACQUARD,  
ROBE  
LINGERIE  
EN VOILE  
DE COTON,  
COLLIER  
RUBAN EN  
MÉTAL ET  
RÉSINE ET  
CEINTURE EN  
CUIR, **DIOR**.



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MARIOS SCHWAB dress

ZINK





CHRISTIAN DIOR dress

ZINK





MARIOS SCHWAB dress

ZINK





YVES SAINT LAURANT dress  
GIUSEPPE ZANOTTI shoes

ZINK



# WOMAN OF THE YEAR

BELLA  
HEATHCOTE

REBEL  
WILSON  
LAUGHING ALL  
THE WAY TO  
HOLLYWOOD

FASHION

AGE-APPROPRIATE  
PARTY LOOKS

COLOUR BLOCKING  
FOR SUMMER

SHOULD YOU BE  
WEARING BUDGIE  
SMUGGLERS?

(CLUE: PROBABLY NOT)

+  
10

THINGS  
EVERY MAN  
SHOULD  
SAY ONCE

GUNS, DRUGS,  
CORRUPTION  
LIFE IN CENTRAL  
AMERICA'S  
MURDER CITY

(PAGE 188)

+ GLAM UP THE AUSSIE BBQ | THE CASSETTE REVIVAL | BEACHY INTERIORS | OFFICE MEDITATION | UTES





WOMAN  
of the  
YEAR


IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
QANTAS

BELLA  
WHAT  
THE  
TR

IS SHE CONFIDENT OR UNCERTAIN?  
GENTLE OR ACERBIC? A HOLLYWOOD  
STARLET RUMOURED TO HAVE SEDUCED  
BRAD PITT, OR A REAL  
WOMAN WHO'S BLISSFULLY ANONYMOUS  
ON THE STREET? THIS MELBOURNE  
ACTRESS IS ALL THE ABOVE,  
AND SO MUCH MORE.

WORDS CERI DAVID PHOTOGRAPHY BEAU GREALY STYLING WAYNE GROSS



A woman with short brown hair and bangs is sitting on a large pile of cut logs. She is wearing a black, long-sleeved, fitted silk dress with a deep V-neckline and a high slit on the left side. She is also wearing black strappy high-heeled sandals. The background is a dense forest of tall trees. The lighting is bright, creating strong shadows on the logs and the woman's face.

**THIS PAGE:** SILK FITTED DRESS, APPROX. \$4400, BY TOM FORD; SUEDE HEELS, \$1295, BY RALPH LAUREN COLLECTION; PEARL AND MARQUASITE EARRINGS (WORN THROUGHOUT), \$65, BY THE BANGLE BUSINESS.  
**OPPOSITE:** SILK STRAPLESS BEADED DRESS, POA, BY LANVIN, FROM A SELECTION AT DAVID JONES.



## IT'S TIME FOR TEA, WITH A VIEW.

Facing the window, up on the 21st floor, she gets the clear blue sky and Sydney, bustling far below. I, on the other hand, get Bella Heathcote, so everyone's a winner, really. This has been a big year for the 24-year-old from Melbourne with the release of Tim Burton's ghost-buster *Dark Shadows*, while her next film *Nor Fide Away* is out soon. And with co-stars including Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter and James Gandolfini, she's certainly been in good company. Today, in a crumpled white shirt, black jeans and no make-up, she's all long limbs and big blue eyes, bringing to mind a baby deer. It's a far cry from the femme fatale persona she stepped into for our shoot.

**You're quite a chameleon. Do you like playing with the way you look? Definitely. I love costumes. I love the transformation.**

**So we see. Do fans recognise you in the street?**

No — I can't imagine anyone ever recognising me! Well, there's no denying you're famous. You've been in the gossip mags and everything! You had an affair with Brad Pitt, right?

I've no idea where that came from! I remember being in New York when that story came out, and a friend emailed and said, "I can't believe you didn't tell me!" It's one thing if you're in a movie with someone, but I hadn't even met him. Have you met him since? I have.

**And did you chat about it?**

No! I'm sure he wouldn't even have heard about it!

She clearly finds the notion hilarious. Still, hearing tales of one's own horizontal encounters — true or not — with the king of the A-list surely means you've made it. It must feel quite surreal for a girl who quite likes time on her own, away from the action.

**What were you like growing up?**

I went through everything: trying to be a tomboy, a skater, a surfer, a goth. But I was always a nerd. I remember lots of lunchtimes in the library. There was a lot of stuff going on in my childhood and reading was an escape for me.

**What did you want to escape from?**

There's a long pause as she gazes over my shoulder and out of the vast window, high into the sky.

*My mum got really sick, and she passed away when I was 12. So there was lots of reading.*

*Was that why you got into acting? Yeah — it was fun not to be me; to be someone else. I always had fantasies about doing something creative. I wanted to be an artist, or an author, or a singer. I picked up acting that year, when I was 12. I did school plays and it grew from there.*

Her first 'real' roles were in a couple of Australian films and a recurring bit-part in *Neighbours*. Then, in 2010, she beat 100 other hopefuls to win the Heath Ledger Scholarship, designed to help young Australian actors crack Hollywood.

**Your career went into almost instant overdrive. Were you expecting that?**

Not at all. I remember coming to LA and my manager was, "It took Naomi Watts seven years. I just kept saying it: seven years, seven years. I thought I'd have to do a few shoe-kicking jobs and work my way up. I was really fortunate. Hopefully I won't have to go backwards!"

**Do you like the people in LA?**

Everyone's really encouraging. But when I first went over, my manager told me I had to talk myself up. I was getting really bad feedback because I was saying, "Yeah, I did a film, you know, whatever".

Well, you are quite low-key. Yes, but if I went in and said, "Yeah! I'm Bella! I'm great!" they'd just think what a dick — we're not giving you anything.

**Have you met many people you think are dicks?**

Yeah. Some of the American girls just seem so completely precocious. I wonder what they make of you. I don't feel Americans get self-deprecation as much, or irony.

They might feel I'm making fun of them — which I am. But it's what we do in Australia.

Glancing down, Heathcote realises her shirt has slipped ever so slightly to one side, revealing a few millimetres of bra. "Crap," she mutters, putting things right, and looking genuinely disappointed in herself. In a world that's flooded with Kardash-alikes, it's nice to meet a woman who's finding success right at the other end of the spectrum, without a hair extension, acrylic nail or reality-show cameraman in sight. We're not suggesting her life isn't a little out of the ordinary; she's a breathtakingly beautiful woman, who lives in LA with her partner, NZ director Andrew Dominik (*Copper*, *Killing Them Softly*). She's also very, very normal. She worries, has trouble sleeping, feels self-conscious at times. All of which makes acting a bit of an odd choice.

**You don't sound like the perfect fit for show business.**

I do tend to veer toward the highly-strung. I'm an anxious person. But when I'm acting, that completely dissipates. It's like — I don't know — a holiday from my own mind.

**How else do you unwind?**

It's all very LA-centric: yoga, bikes. The best is when you find a new TV series and you go away to a beach house and watch the whole thing for two days. I'm obsessed with *Breaking Bad* and *Mad Men* and *Girls*.

**What do you miss about Australia?**

The people. The coffee. The coffee! It's rubbish in LA. There are maybe three boutique coffee shops that think they're so good and I'm like, whatever, come back to Australia and I'll show you good coffee.

And yet here she is, in Sydney, drinking a cup of tea. She's an interesting one, Bella Heathcote, full of contradictions and surprises, dark corners and hidden depths. She doesn't add up, but then, real people rarely do. And in a world of identikit starlets lacking in personality (not to mention facial expression), that's why she's our Woman of the Year. ■

WWW WATCH BELLA HEATHCOTE LIGHT UP THE AWARDS AT GQ.COM.AU





BEADED SILK JERSEY  
EVENING DRESS, \$3000,  
BY RALPH LAUREN  
COLLECTION:  
VELVET SHOES, \$555,  
BY GUCCI.

HAIR ADIR ABERGEL AT  
STARWORKS, L.A.  
MAKE-UP FIONA STILES  
AT THE WALL GROUP, L.A.  
SHOT ON LOCATION IN  
LOS ANGELES WHERE THE  
GQ TEAM STAYED AT THE  
MONDRIAN L.A.  
(MONDRIANHOTEL.COM).





ISSUE 28 — Fall/Winter 2012 — Ajak Deng — Alanis Morissette — Ali Michael  
 — Cat Power — Ezra Miller — Kendall Jenner — Khloe Kardashian — Kiernan Shipka — Laird Hamilton  
 — Logan Lerman — Maya Angelou — Riff Raff — Ruby Jean Wilson — Yeasayer

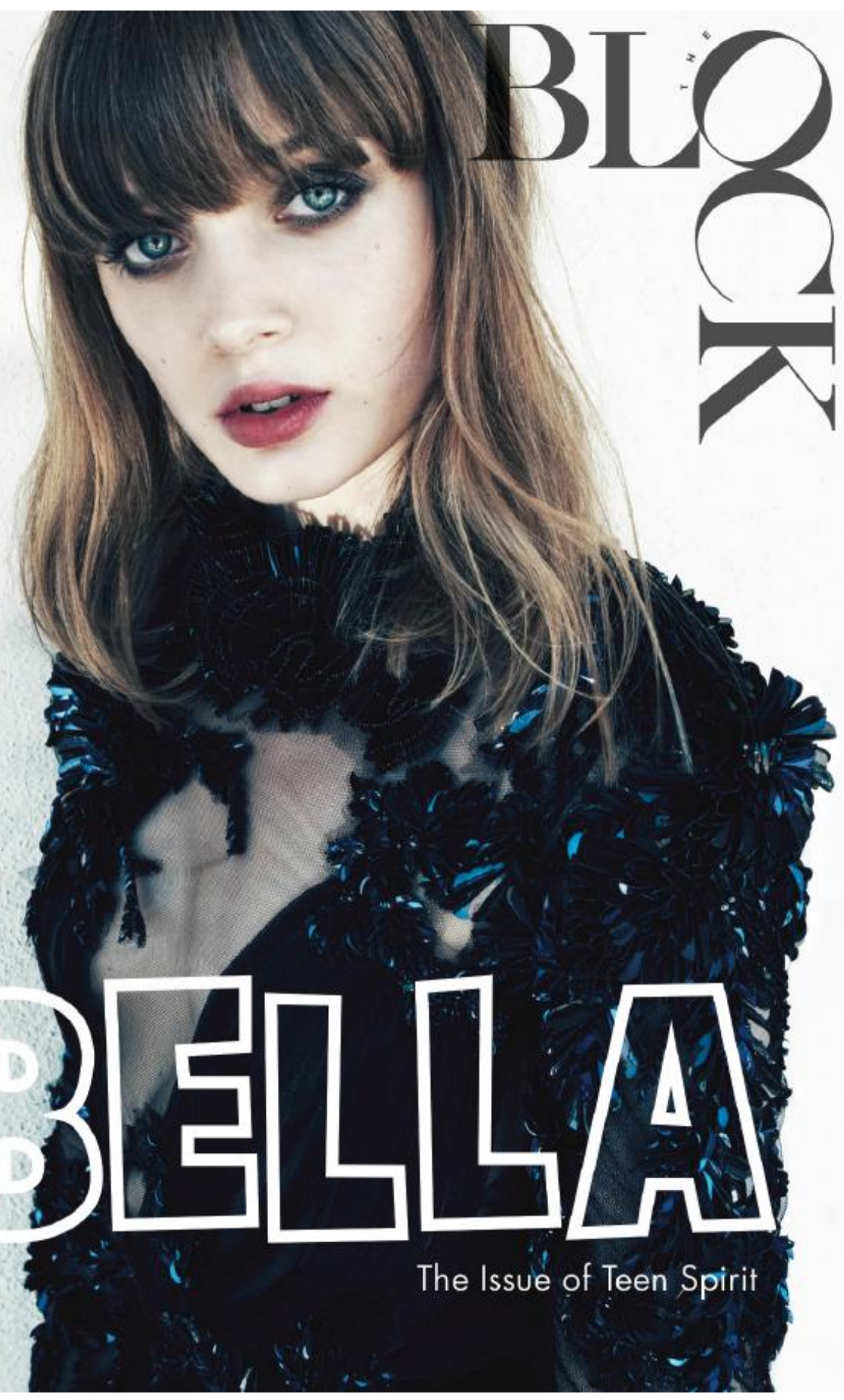
BELLA HEARHCOTE photographed by BEAU GREELY wearing GUCCI

\$6.95 CDN \$6.95 US  
 DISPLAY UNTIL MARCH 2012

# BELLA

The Issue of Teen Spirit

# BLOO T H E OOK





A woman with long brown hair and bangs, wearing a black lace dress, stands in a doorway. The doorway is framed by a bright blue border. The background is a dimly lit room with white cabinets and a television. The word "BELLA" is overlaid in large, white, bold letters on the left side of the image.

**BELLA**





Dress PETER PILLOTO Headband JENNIFER BEHR







Dress PRABAL GURUNG, Clutch BURBERRY PROFSUM, Cuff (left hand) JENNIFER FISHER, Bracelet (right hand) PAMELA LOVE

Fashion Editor - JAMES WORTHINGTON DEMOLEZ  
Hair - ALEX POLILLO  
Make Up - JO STRETTILL  
PHOTO ASSISTANT - DREW SCHWARTZ

Producer - CATLIN TAFFS  
Location Scout - CHARLES DANEX  
Location - HARVARD HOUSE MOTEL





ON LASHES, L'ORÉAL PARIS  
DOUBLE EXTEND MASCARA  
IN BLACK QUARTZ

ON FACE, L'ORÉAL PARIS  
TRUE MATCH POWDER  
IN NATURAL BEIGE



star

# FAST TRACK

Australian actress Bella Heathcote shakes up the *Fifty Shades* franchise.

By Carita Rizzo

**A**s a result of her performances in films like *Dark Shadows*, *Not Fade Away* and *Pride and Prejudice* and *Zombies*, Bella Heathcote has quickly established herself as a force on screen. Even with that success, the Australian actress was a little nervous to join the sequel to the megahit *Fifty Shades of Grey*.

"It was a well-established [film], and [the cast had] worked together before, so I didn't know what I was stepping into," she admits. "I felt like the new kid at school." Luckily for Heathcote, there was no reason for concern. "The first week Dakota [Johnson] said, 'Let's all go out for dinner,'" muses the actress. "And Jamie [Dornan] is hilarious, which was just such a delightful surprise. Everyone was really sweet and welcoming."

That same warm reception unfortunately won't be extended to her character, Leila

Williams—a former submissive of Christian Grey who stalks and threatens his current flame, Anastasia. "I really felt for her," says Heathcote. "I see her as a girl who's completely heartbroken and grief-stricken and doesn't have the tools to cope with that."

The 29-year-old, who came to Los Angeles in 2010 from Melbourne, Australia, knows what it's like to find her feet when the ground underneath feels shaky. "The first six months [in the United States] were a whirlwind. After I shot *Dark Shadows* and *Not Fade Away*, I kind of had a crisis. I realized [that] I had been treating L.A. like a waiting room—some place that you go to when you're waiting for your next job," she says. "I hadn't actually set up a home life."

Heathcote has since made L.A. her home base, complete with friends, a house she calls her sanctuary and practices she never believed she would adopt. "I used to give people [a hard time] about going to L.A. and drinking green juice and meditating," she laughs. "Now, I am one of those people!"



GREY AREA  
Bella Heathcote  
can be seen in *Fifty  
Shades Darker*, which  
hits theaters Feb. 10.

PHOTO BY JUSTIN R. CAMPBELL



DAVID MANDELBERG

Zimmermann silk dress, \$1,250; zimmermannwear.com. Chanel metal and strass earring, \$890, and metal and strass necklace, \$10,270; 1300 242 635

"27 AND ONWARDS HAVE BEEN THE BEST YEARS OF MY LIFE AND I FEEL LIKE THEY'RE JUST GETTING BETTER AND BETTER"

-BELLA HEATHCOTE

# MARK





# bright STAR

Romance Was Born  
silk blouse, \$590;  
romancewasborn.com.  
Chanel crepe de Chine  
dress, \$46,100, and metal,  
glass pearl and strass  
necklace, \$10,270;  
1300 242 635

ABOUT TO TURN 30 AND STEALING SCENES IN THE NEW FILM, *FIFTY SHADES DARKER*, **BELLA HEATHCOTE** IS ON THE BRINK OF GLOBAL FAME. SMART, FUNNY AND DOWN TO EARTH, THIS MELBOURNE GIRL IS TAKING IT ALL IN HER STRIDE

by **FAITH CAMPBELL** photographed by **DAVID MANDELBERG** styled by **KATHERINE GREEN**





Chanel georgette-crepe ensemble, \$13,080; cotton-tweed skirt, \$8,420, and metal with glass pearl necklace, \$3,830; 1300 242 635. Ellery embossed leather boots, \$1,250; elleryland.com. OPPOSITE: Chanel cotton jacket, \$6,530, lace dress, \$3,050, and metal and strass earring, \$1,560; 1300 242 635





Chanel cotton-blend cardigan, \$2,380, organza and strass skirt, \$36,300, lace dress, \$3,050, metal and strass necklace, \$4,750, metal, strass and glass pearl necklace, \$5,150, and grosgrain shoes, \$830; 1300 242 635





#### BEAUTY NOTE

To re-create Heathcote's chic neutral polish, try Chanel Le Vernis in Beige Beige. \$41; 1300 242 635

Kitx silk top, \$595; kitx.com.au. Chanel metal, strass and resin with glass beads earring. POA; 1300 242 635

In the round of “try to make her comfortable” questions at the beginning of our interview, it’s Bella Heathcote who ends up doing all the disarming. She’s in her living room at home in Los Angeles, and her smiling, make-up free face fills my iPhone screen.

Unfazed by the awkward first date-nature of Skyping with a stranger, the actor has just come from the gym and is still in workout clothes. “I probably wear them more than I should—sadly, you can get away with that in LA,” she laughs. Her off-duty outfit suits our conversation—an easy, comfortable, rambling chat that’s punctuated with frequent laughter and even more regular use of the word “mate”—but gives few clues to the leading lady-status she’s made time to talk about: her star turn in Hollywood’s much-hyped mega sequel, *Fifty Shades Darker*—and dressing up for *InStyle*’s “completely surreal” cover shoot in Paris.

If you can’t quite place her name, here’s A Very Brief History of Bella Heathcote: she had a recurring role on *Neighbours* (arguably an Australian actor’s rite of passage); was awarded the 2010 Heath Ledger Scholarship (“it was a big deal, and still is to me”); and kissed Johnny Depp in her 2012 breakout role in Tim Burton’s *Dark Shadows* (exciting, yes, but also her job: “no-one is saying to Johnny, ‘who’s a better kisser?’”). And if her face seems familiar you should commit it to memory now—she’s a chameleon on-and-off set. From a brunette beehive and winged eyeliner to a messy blonde bob with bright pink lips, the actor is almost unrecognisable from one role to the next. But it’s the diversity of her performances—as a German filmmaker in the Amazon series, *The Man in the High Castle* (2016), a model with a dark side in *The Neon Demon* (2016), and a ghost and governess in *Dark Shadows*—that proves her capacity to develop and inhabit a character is more than just skin deep. “When I’m looking at roles I’m just looking [for] something that interests me,” she says. “Because I relate to it, or because it’s unlike anything I’ve done before, or just because I find it interesting.”

It was both the role and the opportunity to work with director James Foley that drew Heathcote to the second instalment of the *Fifty Shades* juggernaut. She plays Leila Williams, a former submissive of central character Christian Grey who can’t accept the end of their relationship and suffers a breakdown. “When I’m digging my way in [to a role] it’s usually through the things I relate to,” she explains. “I kind of related to the idea of someone who is grief-stricken, but hopefully I handle grief slightly better than she does—and breakups in general!” she adds, laughing. Mercifully, working with such intense material, “the vibe on set was pretty light, pretty fun”, she says. “I was nervous going in because everyone had already shot one and I felt like the new kid at school on the first day, but everyone was really welcoming.” Heathcote calls co-star Dakota Johnson “lovely” and leading man Jamie Dornan “hilarious”, and did what most of us do to “try and zone out” at the end of a long day: binge-watched TV. “I can just not leave the house for a couple of days and get really into a show,” she confesses (*The OA* and *The Leftovers* are recent favourites). Following the success of *Fifty Shades of Grey*, it would be natural to feel a certain level of pressure when appearing in the sequel, yet Heathcote is not particularly bothered by the anticipated attention from critics or the press. “I was nervous, to be honest, about the fans,” she says. “I was worried that I’d disappoint them, or not live up to the idea they had in their minds of who she should be.”

Our catch-up comes a couple of weeks after the actor modelled for *InStyle* in an elegant Paris apartment, in town as a guest of Chanel to attend their Metiers d’Art presentation. She recalls the experience with charming enthusiasm: “I remember FaceTiming



“

I WAS NERVOUS, TO BE HONEST,  
ABOUT THE FANS. I WAS WORRIED  
THAT I'D DISAPPOINT THEM,  
OR NOT LIVE UP TO THE IDEA  
THEY HAD IN THEIR MINDS OF  
WHO SHE SHOULD BE”

with my dad and telling him I was going to the show, and I was like ‘guess where they’re putting us up?!’ and he said, ‘not the Ritz?!’ and I was like, ‘yeah!’” Without a character to convey, she admits feeling a little uncomfortable posing—“oh, mate, how do you pose in front of a camera?”—but maintains that the shoot felt like a dream. Away from work, and apart from the athleisure look she’s sporting today, Heathcote’s personal style is evolving as she gets older: “I hope it’s changing because it’s been so bad in the past...” Staple labels include APC, Rag & Bone and J Brand, and her daily uniform is “very casual, masculine-leaning. I feel most comfortable in a button-down shirt, jeans and boots.”

Heathcote will turn 30 in May—a milestone she says is a relief to reach: “I mean, the early twenties are horrendous—I wish more people had told me that.” Moving to LA at 22 and missing “that safety net of family and friends you’ve grown up with” was both challenging and liberating. “It forces you to go out and meet new people, which I never would have because it doesn’t come easily,” she says. “You really choose your people here.” Her tight-knit chosen family includes Australians Teresa Palmer, Phoebe Tonkin, Ashley Hart and Jess McNamee, a group of antipodean mates who share the same brand of humour and a comforting sense of spontaneity. “When I first moved here, when I was really trying to make friends, there were a couple of American girls I was friendly with and trying to hang out with them was *so* difficult. It was like ‘let’s get a coffee—oh I can’t, let’s do it two weeks from Thursday but only if we meet on the west side between 11 and 12,’” she laughs.

As her career gains momentum, Heathcote tries to resist the urge to “compare and despair”. She and her friends “don’t go there together, which is helpful”, and it makes sense that her relief at turning 30 has much to do with her growing self-confidence. “I still have my insecurities and I’m still a highly anxious person, but it’s nowhere near as bad as when I was in my early twenties. I definitely care less about what most people think, most of the time.” The actor is thoughtful when considering how 30 would look were she still living in Australia. “I feel like a lot of my mates are settling down and having kids, buying houses, and I’m sure I would have been the same if I’d stayed in Melbourne, or hadn’t been in this industry.” She laughs at the irony of craving stability in a notoriously fickle profession—“security, routine, rigidity—all those things acting can’t afford”—and admits that her adopted home across the pond can sometimes feel “like a one-horse town”. A reflective Heathcote says she never really had a five-year plan, and that

“27 and onwards have been the best years of my life and I feel like they’re just getting better and better”.

With her dad in Melbourne and her brother based in London (her mum passed away when she was 12), Heathcote’s home is now wherever she is with her partner, New Zealand writer and director Andrew Dominik: “Typically I feel most homesick when I’m away from my man.” Very obviously in love, she credits their six-and-a-half year relationship to “him being excellent!” and values Dominik’s opinion most, relying on him for “reassurance that I’m not being crazy, or reassurance that I’ve made the right choice”. Though keen to work with her acclaimed filmmaker boyfriend (*Chopper*, *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*), at this stage collaboration is “a pipe dream”. Settled in LA, she hasn’t made it to Australia since 2013 and misses “the people, *my* people—I have great friends in Melbourne”, the self-deprecating sense of humour, and brunch at The Galleon cafe in St Kilda. Talking to her dad every couple of weeks helps, as does Skyping with friends, but she can’t see herself moving back anytime soon. “I lived there for 22 years and I feel like, if I’m going to move, I should check somewhere else out.” Wherever she goes, though, it seems the actor carries something of her homeland with her and, throughout her chat with *InStyle*, Heathcote’s responses often reveal an Australian connection. The last thing that cracked her up was Jess McNamee’s most recent Instagram Story, and the first time she heard the new album by Nick Cave & the Bad Seeds “my boyfriend [found me] sitting in a pile of laundry, crying hysterically”.

After wrapping work on her most recent film, *Professor Marsten & the Wonder Women*, with Luke Evans and Rebecca Hall, Heathcote is on holiday until a third season of *The Man in the High Castle* begins shooting in May. While she’s happy to stick with acting for now (“watching Andrew direct, there’s no part of me that thinks ‘I wanna do that!’ It looks absolutely terrifying”) she isn’t blind to the benefits of one day branching out: “I should create work for myself...be more proactive instead of sitting around being like, ‘gimme a job!’” However as her career unfolds, it can’t be long before Johnny Depp faces the question: “So, what was it like kissing Bella Heathcote?” ■



Chanel cotton-tweed jacket, POA, satin blouse, \$4,190, lace top, \$2,740, crepe de Chine shorts, \$1,890, cotton-tweed brooch, \$900, metal and strass cuffs, POA and grosgrain shoes, \$830; 1300 242 635

Hair: Ken O'Rourke  
Make-up: Emma Kotch using Chanel



# insovle

AUSTRALIA

Hot  
HAIR  
5 HOW-TOS  
TO TRY NOW

BELLA  
Heathcote  
*Fifty Shades* fairytale:  
the Australian actress  
charming Hollywood

EXTRA  
CREDIT  
ACCESSORIES  
TO ADD TO  
YOUR WISHLIST

FASHION  
REFRESH  
HOW TO STEP OUT  
OF A STYLE RUT

# The New LOOKS

YOUR NEXT-SEASON  
WARDROBE STARTS HERE







# HOMECOMING QUEEN

FRESH FROM A HEAD-TURNING ROLE IN THE *FIFTY SHADES* SEQUEL, LOCAL ACTOR BELLA HEATHCOTE RETURNS TO AUSTRALIA IN SERIOUS STYLE

Photography SYLVE COLLESS Styling GEMMA KEIL Words ALLEY PASCOE

She may have been living in Los Angeles for seven years, but Bella Heathcote hasn't lost her Australian accent. The Melbourne-born actor, who starred on *Neighbours* before her big move, scoffs at the notion that it's as glamorous as aspiring actors imagine: "Oh mate, not at all."

Despite receiving a Heath Ledger Scholarship, which helps Aussies trying to break into Hollywood, Heathcote says the reality of making it in Tinseltown involves a lot of hard work.

"When I'm in LA, most of the time I'm hustling to get a job or running around going to auditions and meetings," she explains. "It's a lot of rejection. I've gone a year or so without working before - and then you get a good run. You've just got to ignore the rejection and keep going at it."

This year will be a "good run" for Heathcote, 29, who starred as Christian Grey's former submissive, Leila, in the recently released blockbuster *Fifty Shades Darker*, and will appear in the upcoming biographical picture *Professor Marston & The Wonder Women*, as well as filming the third season of TV drama *The Man In The High Castle*.

Heathcote insists that the roles haven't flooded in since *Fifty Shades Darker*, although the director of the last film she shot did tell her that being in

the erotic drama helped her get the part in that film. After cracking the mainstream, she isn't about to rest on her laurels. Dressed in local Aussie labels, Heathcote epitomises understated style at the

*Stellar* shoot in LA. "I always feel like every job is going to be my last," she says. "That's the prerogative of an actor; to think you're going to be unemployed for the rest of your life."

Despite roles alongside Johnny Depp in *Dark Shadows* in 2012 and in the cult hit *Pride And Prejudice And Zombies* last year, Heathcote doesn't consider herself the Next Big Thing. "I feel like I was called a 'break-out star' five years ago. That gets said - and it's a lovely sentiment - but I don't put too much stock in it," she admits. "I feel like ▶





**BELLA WEARS**

Kaliver jacket and  
bra, kaliver.com;  
Bianca Spender pants,  
biancaspender.com;  
(opposite) Bianca  
Spender dress, as  
before; Levanter  
socks, davidjones.  
com.au; Chanel shoes,  
1300 242 635





I 'break out' and then I crawl back into the box. And then five years later, I break out again."

If her career to date has been anything, it's been diverse. Heathcote has ticked off horror (*The Neon Demon*), sci-fi thriller (*In Time*) and history-drama (*Beneath Hill 60*) from her genre list. She insists the variety of roles has not been a deliberate decision on her part. She simply isn't gunning to be the next Nicole Kidman. "I don't think about following in anyone's footsteps. It almost feels like a jinx or not the right way to look at it [to do that]," she tells *Stellar*. "I just want to be a working actor. Seriously, I just hope I get to keep working and do different roles that excite me. I don't have to be a leading lady."

Just as she doesn't want to follow in anyone's footsteps, Heathcote also

**"I THINK 99.9% OF THE TIME WHEN SOMEONE ELSE GETS A ROLE, I'M HAPPY FOR THEM... THERE'S JUST THAT 0.1%"**

doesn't compare herself to other actors. When she did her obligatory Melbourne-actor stint on *Neighbours* in 2009, Heathcote starred alongside Ashleigh Brewer (who has gone on to find fame on *The Bold And The Beautiful*) and Margot Robbie (who has become a megastar since starring in *The Wolf Of Wall Street*, *The Legend Of Tarzan* and *Suicide Squad*). And yet, Heathcote doesn't feel pressure to become the next Aussie A-lister: "They've got Margot for that. I'm just going to cruise along."

With the number of Aussies in LA, you'd think there would be some

healthy competition between them. Not so, says Heathcote. "I don't think there's rivalry. These chicks are all my friends and everyone's pretty supportive. I think we're each other's allies, more than competition. We all understand each other and stick together," she insists. "I think 99.9 per cent of the time when someone gets a role, I'm genuinely happy for them. There's just that 0.1 per cent that I have to manage. [That feeling] is natural, and it's pretty fleeting."

What helps her get through that 0.1 per cent of the time? "The thing that makes me feel better [when I don't get a role] is that we're all so different; we all get cast for different reasons," Heathcote says. "My fiancé [Andrew Dominik, 49] is a director and I see him go through the casting process and people are either right for the part or not. There's nothing you can do about that. It's a relief having that knowledge."

While Heathcote and her New Zealand-born, Australian fiancé are firmly planted in the LA acting scene, Melbourne will always be her home. She's heading back Down Under next month for the first time in three years to launch and attend the Virgin Australia Melbourne Fashion Festival (VAMFF), a public event celebrating fashion, art and ideas across three weekends. "I love great Australian fashion. Every time I come home I make a mental shopping list, so I'm excited to see what's on offer,"

she says, listing Camilla and Marc, Dion Lee and Macgregor as some of her favourite brands. Of the 30 runway shows in the program, Heathcote says she is most looking forward to the National Designer Award featuring Australia's up-and-coming talent.

The actor herself is no stranger to the world of fashion, having starred in a Miu Miu campaign in 2014 and walked for Balenciaga in 2015. But that's not to say she's comfortable being a clotheshorse. "Before the Balenciaga show, I remember thinking, 'I am not a model. I don't know how to do this.' I was absolutely





terrified," she admits. "But once you're on the catwalk it's an adrenaline rush."

How will she calm her nerves when she launches VAMFF in front of her home crowd? "I find two tequila shots help. One is not enough and three is too many," she quips.

While she's ruled out becoming an actor-slash-model, Heathcote is already a secret food blogger and shares photos and recipes on Instagram. Although the dishes vary from nutritious choc-chip cookies to zucchini noodles with lentil ragu, Heathcote says her dream isn't to be the next Nigella Lawson - what she really wants is to mix business with pleasure.

"I would love to do a film with my man," she says, adding that one of the benefits of being engaged to a director is that Dominik understands and supports her as an actor.

"It's great to be with someone in the [film] industry; but not two actors... because then it gets crazy." ✦

VAMFF runs from March 1-19: [vamff.com.au](http://vamff.com.au).

#### BELLA WEARS

Michael Lo Sordo jacket and pants, [michaellosordo.com](http://michaellosordo.com); (opposite) Scanlan Theodore dress, [scanlantheodore.com](http://scanlantheodore.com); Chanel brooch, 1300 242 635; Manning Cartell pants, [manningcartell.com.au](http://manningcartell.com.au); Bally shoes, 1800 781 851

