

COMPOSURE

ISSUE Nº 24



meg donnelly
YOUNG HOLLYWOOD



Earrings: Natalie Mills Jewelry
Dress: Krikor Jabotian

WWW.COMPOSUREMAGAZINE.COM

page

03

IN THIS
ISSUE

it girl

BEAUTY FASHION



page

14

Honestly, the best moment in all three of the fields is the actual creating part.



page

36

It's hard when aspiring actors or actresses ask me for advice. I can't even give them that same advice of starting your own web series, because it's not as easy to do. We don't live in the same time, but I'm really grateful for that experience because I was so young.



page

28

Gymnastics is all about commitment to perfecting what you do. You have to give your all at every moment. By using that same thought in all my other avenues of life, I have been able to be successful.

THE
TEAMS

Editor in Chief — **Jane Hong** Managing Editor — **John Hong**
Associate Managing Editor — **Olivia Lee** Fashion Editor/Creative Director — **Robiat Balogun**
Feature Editor — **Min A. Lee** Beauty Editor — **Chelsea Yusuf** Art Director — **Ricky Riantono**

Contributing Photographer — **Emillyn Rose, Nolwen Cifuentes, Leriam, Mario Barberio, Matt Dohney**
Contributing Fashion — **Marche' Dorsey** Contributing Make up and Hair — **Lucy Gedjeyan, Archangela Chelsea, J Michael, Matilde Campos, Tiffany Tarazi, Selda Cortes, Nicole Sanchez**
Contributing Retoucher — **Nicoletre Monroe**

Composure Magazine (ISSN 2378-8135) is published by Composure Magazine, LLC
Write to us at hello@composuremagazine.com



When it comes to the bright-eyed actress, Meg Donnelly, one can't help but smile. Her tenacity for her two passions, acting and singing, are why we were excited to interview her for Composure's 24th cover story. She's taken on the major role of Taylor Otto in ABC's hit television show *American Housewife* since 2016, while simultaneously playing the lead in Disney Channel's Original Movies *Z-O-M-B-I-E-S* and soon *Z-O-M-B-I-E-S 2*.

STORY BY MIN A. LEE

In a short amount of time, Donnelly's talents and work ethic have propelled her onto screens everywhere. As her career continues to grow, she also dived into the music industry with the successful singles "Smile" and "Digital Love." Now, her debut album Trust has dropped to the excitement of fans everywhere, and to the new fans who are falling in love with her powerful, smooth vocals.

Earrings: Natalie Mills Jewelry
Dress: Khosla Jani

PHOTOGRAPHER EMILLYN ROSE
STYLING/CREATIVE DIRECTOR ROBIAT BALOGUN
FASHION ASSISTANT MARCHE' DORSEY
MAKEUP ARCHANGELA CHELSEA @CELESTINE AGENCY
HAIR MATILDE CAMPOS @SIXK MANAGEMENT USING HIDDEN CROWN EXTENSIONS
LOCATION ROSE STUDIO LA

At only nineteen years old, Donnelly has shown the world that she is determined to find that perfect equilibrium between two aggressive industries. As time progresses, we know she'll become an unstoppable force that will continually impress us with the roles she takes on and the music she will create.

TO BEGIN, YOU PORTRAY TAYLOR OTTO IN AMERICAN HOUSEWIFE. TAKING ON A PRIMARY ROLE AT A YOUNG AGE AND EIGHTY-ONE EPISODES IN, WHAT DID LANDING THIS JOB MEAN TO YOU?

—Everything! I am forever grateful for getting the opportunity to play Taylor Otto. It was my big break! I am blessed to be part of such a wonderful cast and crew!

NOW IN ITS FOURTH SEASON, WHAT WERE SOME OF THE BEST MOMENTS YOU'VE HAD WITH YOUR FELLOW AMERICAN HOUSEWIFE CASTMATES?

—Oh my, there are too many to name! We are one big family and have so much fun as we work really hard together. A few do stick out in my mind, though. We all love to sing and dance during breaks — cast and crew! We had some great bonding moments. If anyone does something out of sorts, we will all stop and sing “Happy Birthday” to recognize we are all in it together. I also graduated high

school on set, and they surprised me with my diploma, a cake and gown. Katy Mixon made a wonderful speech, and everyone cheered. I will never forget that special moment; it meant so much to me, still does.

AT THE SAME TIME, YOU'VE STARRED IN DISNEY'S Z-O-M-B-I-E-S. THE SEQUEL FILM RELEASES ON VALENTINE'S DAY, AND YOUR SNEAK PEEK ON INSTAGRAM HAS FANS INSANELY EXCITED FOR Z-O-M-B-I-E-S 2! HOW WAS IT WORKING WITH A NEW GROUP OF CAST ADDITIONS, AKA THE WEREWOLVES?

—Amazing! We did not skip a beat, and we became a family instantly. We are all based in LA, so we are able to hang out all the time.

FILMING BETWEEN A COMEDY SERIES AND DISNEY'S MUSICAL MOVIES, HOW DO YOU LIKE THE CHANGE OF PACE BETWEEN THE TWO?

—Taylor and Addison have been dream roles for me. I love comedy

and being part of American Housewife. I have learned so much about timing and delivery. I grew up a theater kid, so singing and dancing in the Zombies and Zombies 2 DCOMs bring that all together for me. Additionally, Addison is a strong female character, and I love playing her, as so many young girls look up to her.

YOU'VE BRANCHED INTO THE MUSIC INDUSTRY WITH YOUR SINGLES “SMILE” AND “DIGITAL LOVE.” HOW DID THESE FIRST EXPERIENCES LEAD UP TO YOUR NEW ALBUM TRUST?

—I have been writing my thoughts and feelings in my journal since I was a kid, and as I grew up, these writings eventually became lyrics. “Smile” and “Digital Love” really helped me focus on what I wanted to say and helped me create my sound. It's such a journey, and hopefully, the songs will continue to evolve with new experiences.

Dress: Michael DePaulo



Earrings: Natalie Mills Jewelry
Dress: Krikor Jabotian
Shoes: Nina Smith



IT’S NOW BEEN A BIT OVER A MONTH SINCE TRUST DROPPED. HOW DOES IT FEEL?

—So surreal! I’m so happy that I was able to drop a body of work that my fans can relate to it.

CAN YOU TELL US SOME OF THE INSPIRATIONS BEHIND YOUR NEW SONGS?

—Of course! There are two types of songs on the album. First, those about past or ideal relationships, and then I have a good mix of dance songs that I hope people can vibe out and dance to.

ANY PLANS FOR A SECOND ALBUM OR SINGLES THIS YEAR?

—I am always in the studio making music when I get time off from American Housewife, so you never know what new things may be released!

AS YOU CONTINUE TO GROW AS A RECORDING ARTIST, DO YOU HOPE TO FOCUS MORE ON MUSIC IN THE FUTURE OR FIND THE RIGHT BALANCE BETWEEN YOUR ACTING CAREER?

—Such a hard question because I love them both. Acting allows me to immerse myself into another person/character. Whereas, music lets me express what I feel. Both are grounded in creativity and extremely therapeutic to me. Hopefully, I can continue to pursue both.

WITH A SOLID FILMING SCHEDULE AND THE ALBUM RELEASE, HAS IT BEEN CHALLENGING OR PERHAPS MORE EXCITING?

—I am blessed with all that I have going on, and it is extremely exciting! I would not be here if it weren’t for the support and love of my family, especially my mom and dad, friends and my fans!

TO END WITH, ANY LAST WORDS YOU’D LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOUR FANS AND FOLLOWING?

—I love you all!! You are the best, and I am forever grateful for you!!



Dress: Puey Quinones



COMPOSURE

BEAUTY

ISSUE #24

DANILEIGH

Earrings: J.ING
Jewelry: Her own
Blazer: No.J
Choker: Natalie Mills Jewelry



PHOTOGRAPHER EMILYNN ROSE
FASHION STYLIST/CREATIVE DIRECTOR ROBIAT BALOGUN
FASHION ASSISTANT MARCHE' DORSEY
MAKEUP ARCHANGELA CHELSEA @CELESTINE AGENCY
HAIR J MICHAEL @CELESTINE AGENCY
RETOUCHER NICOLETTE MONROE @MONROERETOUCH
LOCATION ROSE STUDIO LA



DaniLeigh

STORY BY MIN A. LEE

The Plan (LP), Latest Singles “Cravin” featuring G-Eazy, “Easy” remix featuring Chris Brown and “No Limits”

FROM DANCING TO DIRECTING AND CREATING MUSIC AS AN ARTIST, WHAT WERE SOME OF THE BEST MOMENTS FROM EACH OF THESE CAREER FACETS FOR YOU?

—Honestly, the best moment in all three of the fields is the actual creating part. People see the final product and think that’s the best part, but to me, creating something from scratch and then seeing it blossom is the greatest part of dancing, direction, and music-making.

AS YOU WERE TRANSITIONING TO A RECORDING ARTIST, WHAT WAS ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT CHALLENGES YOU HAD TO OVERCOME?

—I had to gain confidence as an artist. I had to understand the responsibility that came with being the lead over background. I love dance, but I had to become a dancer and singer, which requires discipline and confidence.

AFTER DIRECTING PRINCE’S VIDEO FOR “BREAKFAST CAN WAIT” AND HAVING HIM AS A MENTOR, WHAT WORDS FROM HIM DO YOU CARRY WITH YOU ALWAYS?

—Words I will always carry from Prince are, “Be yourself and create what you feel when making music. Don’t ever settle, go after everything you’ve envisioned for yourself.”

WHAT ARTISTS DID YOU LISTEN TO GROWING UP, AND HOW DO YOU FEEL THEY’VE INFLUENCED YOU AND YOUR MUSIC?

—I grew up listening to Drake, Rihanna, Alicia Keys, and Missy. They’ve influenced me creatively, as far as truly growing into my own as an artist.

YOU’VE BEEN WORKING HARD ON A NEW ALBUM SET TO DROP SOMETIME THIS YEAR. CAN YOU GIVE US A PEEK INTO THE MUSIC ON IT?

—I have some incredible collabs on this album coming up. You can expect to hear Ty Dolla \$ign, Yella Beezy and a few more artists I really respect in the game. This album will touch on some current and past circumstances I have dealt with when it comes to relationships.

AS YOU CONTINUE TO GROW CONFIDENTLY IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY, COLLABORATE WITH ARTISTS SUCH AS G-EAZY, LIL BABY, CHRIS BROWN (TO NAME A FEW!) AND GARNER RESPECT AND ADMIRATION, WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO THOSE JUST STARTING OR THOSE WITH ASPIRATIONS FOR BECOMING A RECORDING ARTIST?

—I think every artist should really use the power of manifestation. These collabs I have gotten are all things I would just say I want to happen, and I put strong momentum behind these things, and they all came to pass. You have to have confidence in your vision and then see it through.

AS OUR FIRST BEAUTY COVER OF 2020, CAN YOU SHARE WITH OUR READERS YOUR TOP GO-TO’S FOR MAKEUP AND SKINCARE PRODUCTS?

—My top go-to is Kiehls for makeup and skincare products.



Jewelry: Her own
Top: LOULOU
Pants: Her own



Earrings: J.ING & Her own
Turtleneck: House of Hollan
Top: Hardeman



Jacket: Déath by Dolls
Jewelry: Her own



Eyewear: Haze Collection
Turtleneck: House of Holland
Top: Harderman
Jewelry: Her own

beauty editor's pick spring essentials



BEAUTYBLENDER WAVE SHADESHIFTER SPONGE

We all know how BeautyBlender has changed the makeup game! It helps you to create a flawless makeup, makes makeup stay longer, and definitely makes our life way easier! And what's fun about this new limited edition BeautyBlender is that, it changes color when it is wet! —**\$20.00**



IBY BEAUTY CITY LIMITS EYESHADOW PALETTE

Create a fun everyday look using this new palette from IBY Beauty! It contains 12 pigmented yet highly blendable shades that you can wear everyday. —**\$20.00**

H2O+ CREAMY FOAMING GEL CLEANSER

Cleanse and refresh your sensitive skin using this creamy gel cleanser twice a day. Its light formula will help to remove dirt and impurities and also to reduce redness to your skin. —**\$28.00**



GOOD SCIENCE BEAUTY HYDRATING FACE CREAM

Our skin tends to become drier when the weather is pretty cold like what we are feeling now. This hydrating face cream does it all. With its serum component, such as Hyaluronic Acid and Omega 3 within this one cream, your skin will keep hydrated that furthermore can help to minimize any wrinkles and fine lines. —**\$98.00**

SUMMIT LILY ALDRIDGE EAU DE TOILETTE

If you love a delicate with a touch of spice scent of fragrance, then this new Lily Aldridge's fragrance, SUMMIT, will be your new best friend. What makes this fragrance even better is that all of the packaging is responsibly sourced that will minimize any extraneous waste. —**\$50.00**



SELIA & CO. JASMINE GREEN TEA FACIAL STEAM

Start detoxing your skin to get a more radiant look using this mixture of organic tea. Add 1-2 tbs of this mixture to a hot water and place a towel over it and detox your skin using the warm towel for about 5-8 minutes. Breathe and enjoy the floral aroma! —**\$30.00**



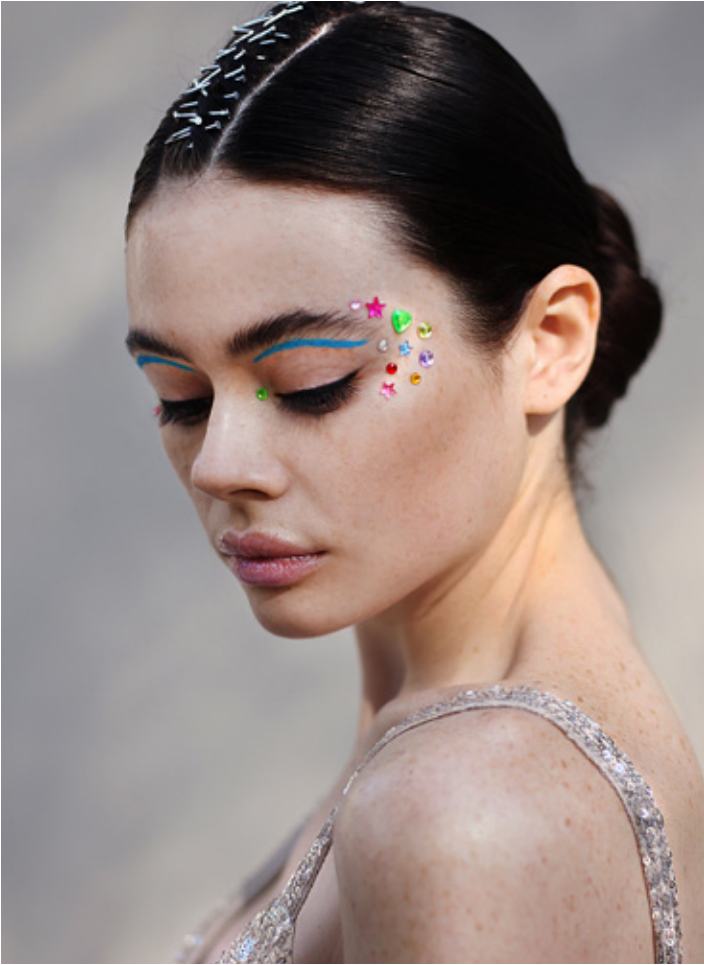
JOHN MASTERS ORGANICS ANTIOXIDANT CREAM

We all want a plump, healthy looking skin for sure! With its mixture of Rose and Apricot, this lightweight formula will nourish and hydrate your skin. —**\$29.00**



FentyBeauty, CozeteBeauty (Topshop dress)

PAINTED UNIVERSE



Inglot, MacCosmetics, KikoMilano (Pul&Beardres)



PHOTOGRAPHER LERIAM (@LERIAMPHOTO)
MAKEUP TIFANYTARAZI(@TIFANYTARAZI)
HAIR SELDACORTESFOREUFORA(@SELDACORTES)
MODEL AVAROSEWITHMUSE

ByTery, Sleek Make up (Juicy Couture Dres)



Annie LeBlanc

STORY BY MIN A. LEE

Chicken Girls, A Girl Named Jo, EP Coming Soon!

STARTING WITH GYMNASTICS ON YOUTUBE AT JUST THREE YEARS OLD THROUGH YOUR CURRENT ACTING AND MUSIC, HOW HAS THE DISCIPLINE OF GYMNASTICS HELPED YOU IN THESE AREAS?

—Gymnastics is all about commitment to perfecting what you do. You have to give your all at every moment. By using that same thought in all my other avenues of life, I have been able to be successful.

YOU'VE RELEASED SEVERAL SINGLES, AND TWO SUCCESSFUL SONGS LAST YEAR, CAN YOU TEASE US ON ANY UPCOMING RELEASES?

—I am taking some time to work on my EP! I want to really focus hard on it so that it will be something that you and I are very proud of.

YOU ALSO STAR IN THE TELEVISION SERIES CHICKEN GIRLS, WHICH IS IN ITS SIXTH SEASON! OVER THE YEARS, HOW HAS THE SHOW HELPED YOU GROW AS AN ACTRESS SO FAR?

—As my first scripted series, I learned about how the behind-the-scenes of production work and everything that goes into making a show.

HOW WAS THE INITIAL TRANSITION FROM YOUTUBE TO FILM SETS FOR YOU?

—On YouTube, I was just being myself, doing normal daily activities. In film, I had to learn how to play a different person who has different feelings and mannerisms, which was a pretty big jump.

CAN YOU SHARE WITH US YOUR FAVORITE MOMENT FROM ALL THE SETS YOU'VE ACTED ON?

—When I was on the Camp Nick set, I got slimed many times

Earrings: Elizabeth Stone Jewelry
Top/Skirt: Elliat
Top: Harderman
Shoes: JustFab



and, trust me; you will never forget your first time getting slimed!

AS WE LOOK AT ALL THE ASPECTS OF YOUR WORK, HOW DO YOU HOPE TO SEE YOUR SINGING AND ACTING PROGRESS OVER THE COMING YEARS?

—I hope that one day I can transition into films that my fans can see in movie theaters. As far as music goes, I would love to collaborate with other talented artists.

YOU SPEAK OF YOUR FAMILY AS AN INCREDIBLE SOURCE OF SUPPORT. HOW DO YOU STAY GROUNDED AND UNWIND FROM THE HECTIC SCHEDULES OF FILMING AND RECORDING STUDIOS?

—My family has always been by my side, and we always make sure to set times aside for me to relax and do normal kid things.

FINALLY, YOU'RE OUR FIRST IT GIRL! LET'S TALK IT GIRL STYLE, HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR AESTHETIC?

—I personally love everything related to fashion. I love shopping, I love piecing together different looks, and lastly, I love when the perfect outfits come together that makes me feel like me. If I don't like my outfit, I don't feel as confident as I usually do. Fashion is a big part of my life, and I generally really love expressing myself through it.

Necklace: 8 Other Reasons
Rings: Elizabeth Stone Jewelry
Dress: Elisabetta Franchi
Shoes: ShoeDazzle

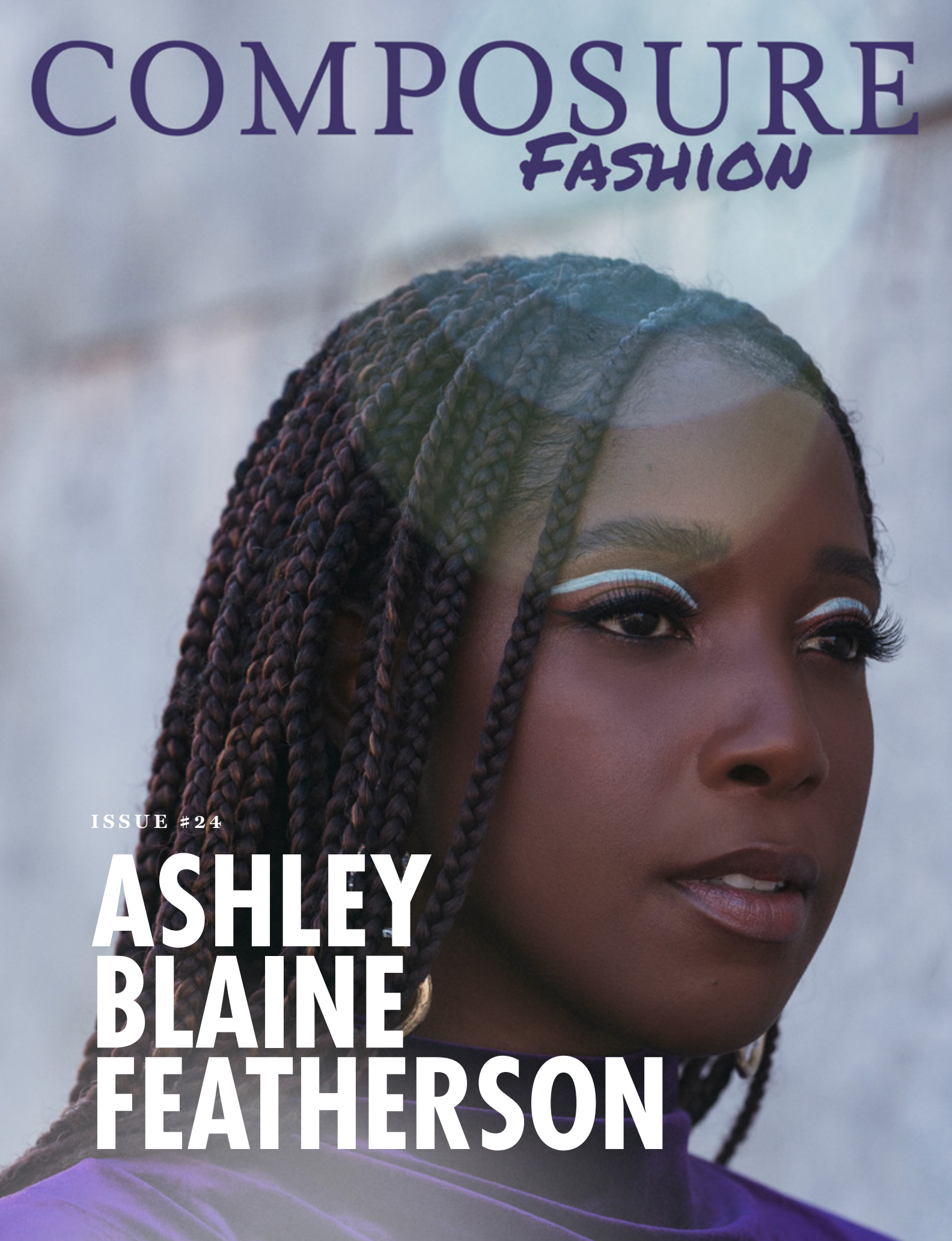




Rings: Elizabeth Stone Jewelry
Top: English Clientele Collection
Dress: Pinko
Shoes: Lilianna



PHOTOGRAPHER EMILYNN ROSE
FASHION STYLIST/CREATIVE DIRECTOR ROBIAT BALOGUN
FASHION ASSISTANT MARCHE' DORSEY
MAKEUP ARCHANGELA CHELSEA @CELESTINE AGENCY
HAIR J MICHAEL @CELESTINE AGENCY
LOCATION ROSE STUDIO LA

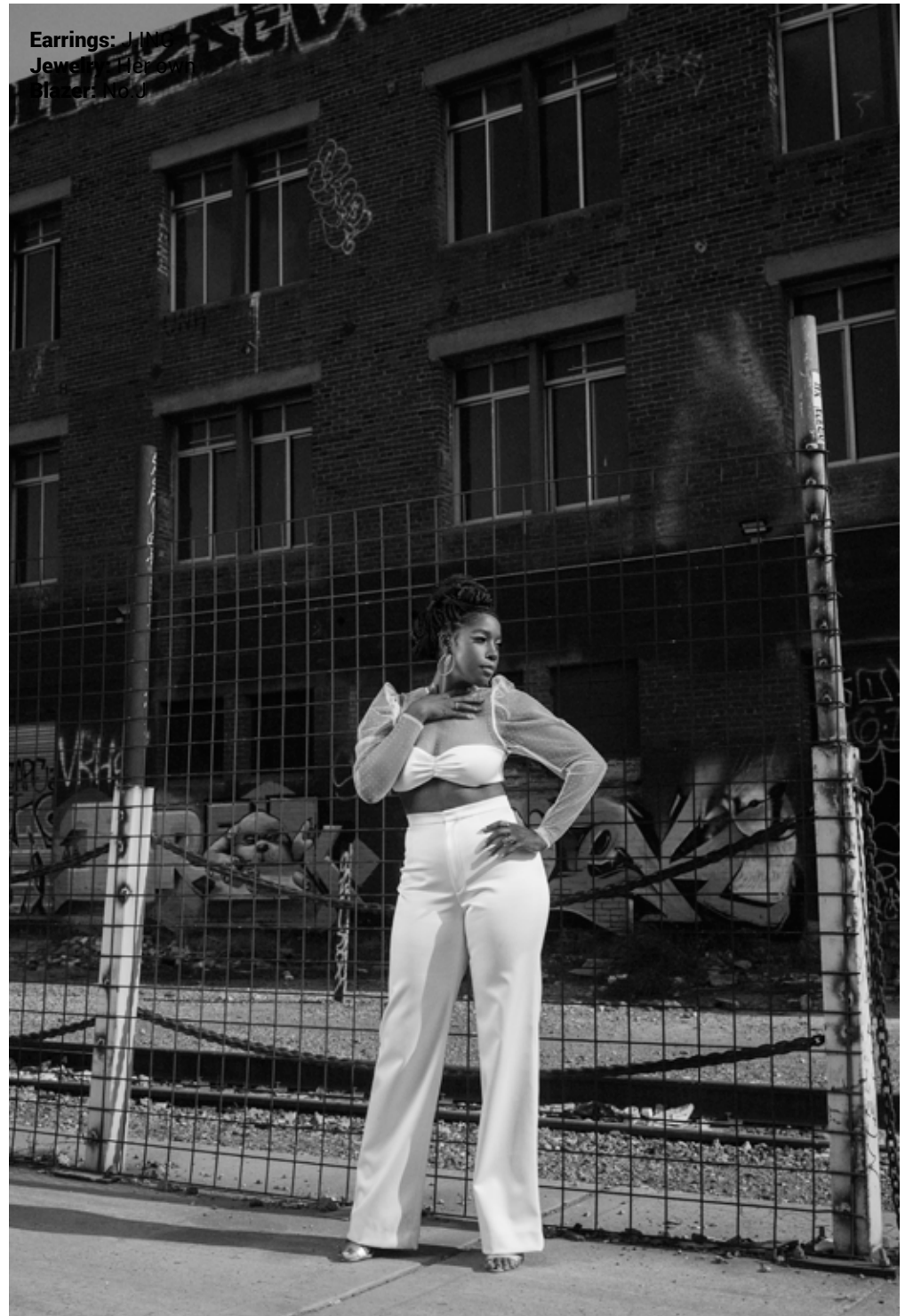


COMPOSURE

FASHION

ISSUE #24

**ASHLEY
BLAINE
FEATHERSON**



Earrings: JING
Jewelry: Her own
Blazer: No. 0

PHOTOGRAPHER NOLWEN CIFUENTES
FASHION STYLIST/CREATIVE DIRECTOR ROBIAT BALOGUN
FASHION ASSISTANT MARCHE' DORSEY
MAKEUP ARCHANGELA CHELSEA @CELESTINE AGENCY
HAIR MATILDE CAMPOS @SIXK MANAGEMENT USING RITUEL BY SISLEY

Ashley Blaine Feathererson

STORY BY MIN A. LEE

Film & Netflix— Dear White People Hello Cupid

Earrings: Maison Louella
Dress: Forever Unique

YOU STARRED IN BOTH THE ACCLAIMED FILM AND THE NETFLIX SERIES DEAR WHITE PEOPLE. IN THE MOVIE AND SHOW YOU PLAY JOELLE BROOKS (“CURLS”). WHAT HAS THIS ROLE MEANT TO YOU AND YOUR CAREER?

—I’m so grateful to Justin Simien, who is our writer, director, producer, showrunner, everything under Dear White People, who has always believed in me and has always made it a point to collaborate with me in all of his projects and to bring me into the fold. To play this role in the movie that has grown so much into who she is now going into the fourth season of Dear White People the series, it’s really a blessing because it’s basically a dream job, right? I’ve been able to expand this character and work on this character since 2013, and now it’s seven years later, and the chapter is closing a bit because it’s our final season. It’s been the ride of my life. It’s been the role of a lifetime. I’m so grateful in the ways I’ve been able to inspire young women, particularly Black women. They’ve been able to inspire, encourage and uplift me. I’m really living the dream.

CAN YOU GIVE US A SNEAK PEEK OF WHAT’S TO COME IN SEASON 4 FOR JOELLE?

—Honestly, I’m not sure, I wish that I knew, but I will say this I know that fans and supporters and viewers of the show will feel very satisfied with how her story wraps up. I do know that. I don’t know all the details, but I know that is of importance, and that Joelle gets her send-off in a way that she deserves.

HAVING DONE VARIOUS CHARACTERS THROUGHOUT FILM AND TV, WHAT MADE YOU PURSUE ACTING?

—Honestly, it was something that I was always drawn to. When I was young, my older sister and I—we’re nine years apart—I was always inspired by the things my sister was doing. She was always involved in the performing arts, whether it was dancing or acting or singing, and I think that part of it is I was just born this way and was destined to do. I was also really inspired by my sister and wanted to do anything that she was doing. It was easy to get involved in the arts, because I already kind of had an example who was doing it. My mom’s a singer, and she always encouraged my artistic talents and abilities, as has my father. You know, I always joke I was that kid, who at a very young age, knew I always wanted to be an actor and move to LA, since I was probably two or three years old. I know that I’m one of the blessed ones, who has been blessed to know their

purpose since they were very young. So to surmise it all, it’s half my sister, but it’s half I was just born to do this—really, truly.

YOU ALSO CO-PRODUCED AND WROTE FOR A TV SERIES IN THE PAST, WAS IT CHALLENGING NAVIGATING BETWEEN THESE FIELDS?

—When I co-created Hello Cupid with Lena Waithe, and we did it for Black & Sexy TV, it came out at that time—it was 2012, 2013—it came out of a place because I wasn’t seeing myself on TV, and Lena wasn’t hearing or seeing the type of voices and characters that she wanted to see on TV either. It was at the time in which when web series were really up-and-coming, and a really good way for actors, writers and producers to get their start and introduce people to their work. It happened because, I needed to create a lane for myself. I had a friend who also wanted to the same and really believed in me and I believed in her. We kind of took our careers into our own hands, and it kind of sucks honestly, because it’s not easy to do that now. The industry changes so fast, because at that time people were watching web series more than TV. Web series were the thing, and now TV has become a place where we can see ourselves more and feel more represented. There’s a more wide range of projects that can appeal to many different types of people.

It’s hard when aspiring actors or actresses ask me for advice. I can’t even give them that same advice of starting your own web series, because it’s not as easy to do. We don’t live in the same time, but I’m really grateful for that experience because I was so young. I have carried that through in my career and my life. It really showed me that I’m capable I’m creating what I want, and I want to continue to do more of that. I’m hoping this year and the years that follow that I’ll be able to still create more content and work with other great collaborators because it really did change my life. Even to this day, so many people come up to me like “Ashley, I’m an OG. I’ve been with you since Hello Cupid.” Hello Cupid was before Dear White People, so I have wonderful supporters who were rocking with me then, and I’m so grateful for that, and I will never diminish that or minimize it. It really did in a lot of ways put me on the map, and it came from something we created ourselves. We weren’t waiting for a job; we weren’t waiting for anybody to call us. We said, “you know what, we can’t bank on that, but we can bank on ourselves,” and that’s what we did.

DO YOU HAVE ANY UPCOMING PROJECTS OR ROLES YOU CAN TELL US ABOUT?

—I just got back from Sundance, I'm in a movie called *Bad Hair*, which we just premiered and it's Justin Simien's second feature after *Dear White People*. We are working together again. It's a horror satire film about a killer weave, set in 1989 Los Angeles, and it's really amazing. It was fun to do a period piece. It's haunting, and it touches on social commentary that a lot of people are afraid to touch on, but Justin's not. I'm so proud to be a part of the project. It's cool because I play a character that no one's ever seen me play before, so it's very different from what people are used to.

As an advocate for mental health awareness and empowering women, can you share with us how you stay positive and in-control? Especially given how the digital age and social media have developed and how "trolling" can become dangerous on these platforms—so many will hide behind a keyboard and screen and feel it's ok to put others down.

To be completely honest, I've been really blessed and lucky because I don't really get trolled on social media. I'm knocking on wood, but I've been really blessed that I don't have to wake up every day to read comments and hate mail. I know people who do. For me, it's not so much the trolling that's an issue, but it is how we're all connected to these phones and to these social media platforms that can make us feel like we're not enough. Instagram is an instant way for you to have the spirit of comparison because you're constantly looking at other people's profiles.

The way I stay grounded is one, I have an amazing therapist. I go to therapy once a week. I really encourage everybody to do so, especially people from the African diaspora, because we have traumas, and we're still healing from things that nobody has helped us get the tools to heal from, and we have to take that into our own hands.

I am also surrounded in real life by amazing people who edify me, encourage me, support me, and love me and believe in me. It's easy when you have that in-person real-life reinforcement and wonderful people around you to not be phased by things behind a screen because it's not real. My advice would be surround yourself in-person physically with wonderful people. Be more concerned with that than who you are connected with on social channels because it's a medium that's not real. You're right. People are hiding behind screens and behind keyboards. There's no real substance behind that. Now, that's not to say I don't find inspiration on Instagram or Twitter or beauty or wonderful people and stories, but it pales in comparison to the way in which I am able to do that in real life.



J.ING x Michelle Randolph

FASHION STORY





FASHION STORY



EMERGING ACTRESS AND INFLUENCER MICHELLE Randolph has created a limited-edition capsule collection with the fashion label, J.ING. Dubbed “Made for a Muse,” Randolph looked towards the ‘90s films *Cruel Intentions*, *My Best Friend’s Wedding* and *Mulholland Drive* for her style inspiration. A nod to the leading actresses of each, the balance between clean lines and glamour will make any piece a reliable wardrobe staple. Think easy, wearable designs that can fit casual moods or make power statements.

J.ING already has been building themselves as a promising direct-to-consumer company, so introducing a prominent collaboration adds to their growing popularity. Randolph noted the quality attracted her immediately. She continued to explain, “J.ING’s style is timeless and trendy at once. Every time I wear their clothing, I feel so effortlessly put together. I wanted to design a collection with J.ING that was versatile because my favorite clothing pieces are always the ones that can be dressed up or down. They are the ones that I can always count on, and that’s what we wanted to offer with this collection.”

The partnership came about after a pop-up party meeting. Jing Zeng, founder and CEO of the label, felt the actress and influencer was the epitome of a first collaboration. “We knew we wanted to work with her,” Zeng shared. “Her style is bold, classy, feminine and timeless—just like J.ING. Working with Michelle these past months, we knew we made the right choice, she brought her own unique style to this beautiful collection, and we appreciate her ongoing support of the brand.”

Zeng called Randolph “family” as their budding friendship and partnership continues to strengthen over the successful capsule, which is currently available to shop on JINGus.com.

A peek into the behind-the-scenes of Composure's cover shoot with Partners In Crafting

LAURA
Dress: Alexis

Brittany
Earrings: Zaxie
Dress: Alexis

We are excited to bring you an interview with the power team behind the captivating scenery of Meg Donnelly's cover shoot. Brittany Giello and Laura Hine are the creative pair that make up the Los Angeles based business Partners In Crafting. Their installations transform any area into a wondrous place producing unforgettable memories for all those involved. Their ability to connect significantly with clients not only shows passion for the creative side but also for the people themselves.

With the energy from the cover shoot and how beautiful the surrounding was, we immediately knew these two women have something extraordinary going on and wanted to share with others a glimpse of what we experienced. Taking a moment, Composure asks Giello and Hine on how Partners In Crafting began, staying inspired and their most memorable work together so far.

LAURA
Ring: Zaxie
Blazer: Lini
Pants: Elie Tahari

Brittany
Top: Aqua
Pants: BLANKNYC

PHOTOGRAPHER MATT DOHNEY @DOHNEYPHOTO
FASHION STYLIST/CREATIVE DIRECTOR ROBIAT BALOGUN
HAIR AND MAKE UP NICOLE SANCHEZ @NICOLE_SAN

Our goal is to create a unique event for our clients to feel celebrated and be completely immersed in. We start by meeting with the client about their desires for the event, but more importantly, understanding them on a deeper level and getting little “nuggets” of information to really customize the experience and throw in a few surprises of sentiment that they weren’t expecting.

Just scrolling through the installations and events done by Partners In Crafting, there’s a lot of time and passion that goes into each project—they’re all quite stunning! How did Partners In Crafting come about?

—Brittany: Laura and I had been acquaintances for a few years. I was working as a freelancer doing events, and Laura was working as an event director for a restaurant group. Laura reached out to me after seeing an event I posted on my Instagram and asked me to help with a few projects. I agreed to help her for a couple of days, even though it was unpaid. As we began working together, the money didn’t matter, and I ended up calling out of my paying jobs for the rest of the week. I loved her energy, and our styles meshed really well. The last install (a flower wall) we worked on that week turned into an all-nighter. When we finished, Laura

turned to me and said: “you’re my PIC!” At the time, I thought she meant crime, but after a beat, we both looked at each other and exclaimed in unison, “you’re my partner in CRAFTING!” The name stuck, and so did we as partners from that night forward.

What was your very first event or installation together?

—Our first project officially as Partners In Crafting was for a lemonade brand called Honeydrop. They were looking for an installation for a Valentine’s Day event, which was only two days away. The temporal strains were mildly terrifying but didn’t deter us from accepting the job and digging in. We designed a honeycomb structure with foliage and a custom acrylic sign. We were cutting wood, sanding, painting and learning very quickly how to use a nail gun. We also managed to create 200

bespoke, branded swag bags for them. Who knew drinking round the clock coffees and having no sleep would be so exhilarating? Needless to say, we rode through those nights on pure adrenaline and arrived Valentine’s Day morning for the event with more coffee and massive smiles. The client was elated, the event went perfectly, and we were finally able to get some sleep. So it was a raging success!

How do you both stay inspired, especially with how quick media and tech can flow these days?

—Laura: I’d say media and tech have been nothing but an asset and an imaginative boost for us. To be able to see installations and events all over the world at the push of a button is incredibly stimulating and inspiring. Broadening our view and seeing ideas we never even thought of truly challenges us to think unconventionally and dream up ideas that, to some, may seem impossible to execute. It’s fun to look through a different lens and seek new ways to “wow” our clients and grow our skillset simultaneously. Ultimately, we are creating moments and memories specifically tailored for our clients. I want them to remember an intimate conversation they had with their mother, the beautiful food that reminds them of a trip they took, the flowers that are reminiscent of their wedding day, all of this in the “world” we created for them. There’s no greater inspiration than that. Our clients push us to create a new, beautiful “world”; even better than our last.

Being entrepreneurs comes with a fair share of challenges, and at times it’s a balancing act. When did you have that moment of “we did it!” and you each realized the business was going to flourish?

—Brittany: To be honest, being a young business, and an under 30 duo at that, in an industry of veterans with decades of incredible events under their belt, it feels a bit premature to say “we did it!” However, we are incredibly proud of our work, and the repeat celebrity and brand relationships we have curated along the way. We want to continue to grow, and each event is a new challenge that we are excited to take on. We will continue to work hard and expand the business and feel confident that in a few years, we will feel more comfortable saying, “we did it!”

For those interested in having Partners In Crafting handle their event, what’s the process like from start to finish?

—Our goal is to create a unique event for our clients to feel celebrated and be completely immersed in. We start by meeting with the client about their desires for the event, but more importantly, understanding them on a deeper level and getting little “nuggets” of information to really customize the experience and throw in a few surprises of sentiment that they weren’t expecting. From there, we have a clear sense of their vision, so we create a brief. This brief contains mock-ups, mood boards, location options, vendor lists and even samples. Once we get the green light from the client, we handle everything; we’re a one-stop-shop for planning, installations, florals, signage, staffing, music and talent bookings, etc. During the event, we are there early for set up, on-site for the entirety and there to strike when it is over. We love following up with our clients after to thank them for allowing us to be a part of their special day and see if they need anything else from us at the conclusion. Providing our clients with hands-on and attentive interaction throughout the entirety is paramount to us. So be prepared to hear from us...a lot!

Looking through all you’ve both accomplished so far, what is your most memorable job?

—Laura: Well, for me it was Jeffree Star’s birthday at Lowell Cafe. We created a pink paradise for Jeffree and only had 2 hours to do it! As you can imagine, we were running around like crazy to make sure all the details were in order. I came to a full stop when I received a surprise tap on the shoulder from the floral God that is Jeff Leatham asking, “are you Laura?”, and me trying not to freak out, while he proceeded to ask me where he should set up his five floral stars. He ended up deciding on his own to set up the stars right in the center of our balloon installation — pure serendipity.

COMPOSURE TO WATCH

ISSUE #24

EMILY TOSTA

Suit: The Significant Other



Jewelry: Maison Louella
Dress: ThreeFloor

PHOTOGRAPHER MARIO BARBERIO
FASHION STYLIST/CREATIVE DIRECTOR ROBIAT BALOGUN
MAKE UP ARCHANGELA CHELSEA @ CELESTINE AGENCY
HAIR LUCY GEDJEYAN @CLOUTIER REMIX

ISSUE #24



Earrings: Studio Baloge
Necklaces: French Kande
Bracelet: (L) Lulu Dharma (R) Natalie Mills Jewelry
Top: House of CB
Pants: UnitedWood



Earrings: Elizabeth Stoner Jewelry
Top/Pants: J.ING
Shoes: Aldo

Emily Tosta

STORY BY MIN A. LEE

Party of Five, Mayans M.C.



I WANT TO CONTINUE TO TELL STORIES THAT MATTER AND THAT CREATE AWARENESS. I ALSO WANT TO USE MY PLATFORM TO SHINE A LIGHT ON TOPICS THAT MATTER: CHARITY, GLOBAL WARMING, HELPING OTHERS, VOLUNTEERING AND OTHER THINGS I AM PASSIONATE ABOUT.

ON YOUR PATH TO ACTING, YOU'VE HAD TO OVERCOME THE CHALLENGES OF IMMIGRATION, LANGUAGE BARRIERS AND THEN ENTERING THE UNPREDICTABLE CHAOS OF HOLLYWOOD. HOW DID YOU PERSEVERE AND ALSO FIND SOLACE AS YOU WORK TOWARDS YOUR DREAMS?

—It was definitely very difficult at first, as a 15-year-old, coming to Los Angeles and being put down for my language, where I was from, my body and my roots. Obviously, as a teenage girl who is completely new to this environment, it does get to

you. At first, it was very difficult for me to find that solace. Eventually, I learned the importance of self-love, perseverance and self-acceptance. I learned to quiet all of those outside opinions, because at the end of the day, they didn't matter. What mattered was the amount of work and dedication I was willing to put into making my dreams come true.

WHO OR WHAT FIRST INSPIRED YOU TO WANT TO ACT?

—Since I was a little girl, I have always had such a passion for portraying different characters and telling stories. As entertainers, we have the blessing of making people smile, cry and reflect. We get to tell meaningful stories that make people think and feel.

YOU LANDED A CENTRAL ROLE ON THE NEW PARTY OF FIVE, WHICH CARRIES A MUCH MORE POLITICAL STATEMENT THAN ITS PREDECESSOR, WITH THE PARENTS OF THE ACOSTA FAMILY BEING DEPORTED TO MEXICO. HOW WAS IT FOR YOU TAKING ON THE ROLE OF LUCIA, THE ELDEST DAUGHTER?

—It has been such a wonderful experience. I've been able to work on Lucia for quite some time; she has become almost like a part of me. It has been a blessing to be able to step into her shoes and tell such a meaningful and timely story.

THERE ARE INTENSE, EMOTIONAL RESPONSES FROM THE VIEWERS FOR PARTY OF FIVE. HOW DOES THIS MAKE YOU FEEL — TO KNOW YOUR PORTRAYAL OF LUCIA EVOKES SUCH A HEARTFELT RESPONSE?

—It means everything to us! This is exactly what we want to do. We want to start conversations. We want people to understand what these

families go through. When we get messages from people saying they feel represented, they feel like their stories are being told, they can relate to our family, that means the world to us.

YOU ALSO HAVE A ROLE ON MAYANS M.C., WHICH HAS BEEN RENEWED FOR A THIRD SEASON. LETICIA CRUZ IS A VERY DIFFERENT CHARACTER FROM LUCIA ACOSTA. DO YOU ENJOY BEING ABLE TO CHANGE DYNAMICS? DO YOU FIND IT CHALLENGING?

—I absolutely love it! I get the best of both worlds haha. I get to experiment with two completely different girls. Leticia grew up on the streets, was brought into a world that made her grow up very fast, she has killed, she has been around gangs, drugs, prostitution, and other things that no teenage girl (or truthfully anyone) should be around. It allows me to build so much with her. She has seen it all. Then we have Lucia, who is struggling with her parents' deportation, with her sexuality, with growing up without parental figures, feeling like a misfit. They're both very complex and multi-layered in their own ways.

IN CLOSING, AS YOUR CAREER EXPANDS, SO DOES YOUR FANS AND FOLLOWING. HOW DO YOU HOPE TO USE THIS GROWING PLATFORM?

—I hope to use my platform to spread love and kindness. I am very blessed to be a part of meaningful projects that showcase very raw realities. I want to continue to tell stories that matter and that create awareness. I also want to use my platform to shine a light on topics that matter: charity, global warming, helping others, volunteering and other things I am passionate about.



Earrings: AETEE DESIGNS
Dress: KSLAM

COMPOSURE

