

COMPOSURE

ISSUE N° 25

delightful surprise
Parveen Kaur

BEAUTY ISSUE



Dress: Vassallo Atelier

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TEAMS

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Parveen Kaur on Manifest and what sparked her decision to pursue acting.

By delightful surprise, Parveen Kaur, who plays a strong and resilient medical student and researcher named Saanvi in the NBC television hit series *Manifest*, owns her role as she gives a solid performance in playing a vital character. Kaur does not fail to surprise the audience as she takes us on a rollercoaster of emotions that has everyone rooting for Saanvi.

STORY BY YUKI BOMB

Like her character, Kaur is genuinely admirable as she displays a determined and grounded personality while telling us more about past experiences and passions that led to her current role. For our 25th issue, we are thrilled to bring you this latest interview with Parveen Kaur.

Earrings: J.ING
Necklace: 8 Other Reasons
Dress: PatBo

PHOTOGRAPHER EMILY SANDIFER
STYLING/CREATIVE DIRECTOR ROBIAT BALOGUN
MAKEUP LUIS CASCO @CLOUTIER REMIX
HAIR LUCY GEDJEYAN @CLOUTIER REMIX

I was in my early 20s working with friends, and the store really was a hub for the downtown, cool Toronto kids’ scene. I loved it there. My sense of fashion had been developing from much earlier but working in a vintage store opened me up to certain styles. I learned a lot about denim there actually, as well as ‘90s hip-hop streetwear.

AT A VERY YOUNG AGE, YOU MADE THE BOLD DECISION TO QUIT SCHOOL AND LEAVE HOME TO PURSUE ACTING. WHAT SPARKED THE DECISION TO BECOME AN ACTRESS? WERE THERE ANY SPECIFIC MOMENTS THAT INSPIRED YOU TO PURSUE THE INDUSTRY?

—I fell into acting. Growing up, all the things I wanted to be were the things I saw on TV. I wanted to be a spice girl, a WWE Diva, a stunt driver. I had an active imagination but didn’t realize until my 20s that acting was a natural fit for me and that I enjoyed doing it. I had someone tell me that because I had a fun energy, I should take an acting class, and that was the beginning.

PLAYING A DETERMINED AND RESILIENT CHARACTER IN MANIFEST, DID YOU LEARN ANYTHING NEW ABOUT YOURSELF IN THE PROCESS OF BECOMING SAANVI, OR WERE YOU ABLE TO ALREADY RELATE DEEPLY WITH THE CHARACTER?

—I think I related to her determination and also admired that about her as well. And in the process, I think I realized that she and I aren’t so different. She’s just a lot smarter.

IN ANOTHER INTERVIEW, YOU MENTIONED THAT SAANVI WAS INITIALLY WRITTEN FOR A PILOT, BUT JEFF RAKE DECIDED TO ADD SAANVI TO THE ENSEMBLE. WHAT DID THAT CHANGE MEAN TO YOU?

—Well, I guess at the moment, finding out (he told me after we wrapped season one) was just a surprise! But a pleasant one. Information like that definitely keeps you on your toes. Especially in this industry where things are so unpredictable, and no one really knows how things are going to pan out. You have to just go with the flow.

ON YOUR INSTAGRAM, YOU HAVE MENTIONED WORKING AT A VINTAGE SHOP ON QUEEN WEST. TELL US MORE ABOUT THAT CHAPTER IN YOUR LIFE AND WHAT

WERE THE BEST/WORST MOMENTS YOU HAD. DID YOU DEVELOP YOUR FASHION SENSE DURING YOUR EXPERIENCE THERE?

—Picture the film *High Fidelity* – it was that but set in a vintage store. I was in my early 20s working with friends, and the store really was a hub for the downtown, cool Toronto kids’ scene. I loved it there. My sense of fashion had been developing from much earlier but working in a vintage store opened me up to certain styles. I learned a lot about denim there actually, as well as ‘90s hip-hop streetwear.

HOW DO YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE PREFERENCES? ANY FAVORITE PIECES IN YOUR CLOSET?

—My favorite would be my mint green Saks Potts jacket. I have a Woodland camo extra-large tee that I wear pretty much every day, and also my Christian Dior pumps. Style preference, I’m kind of all over the place. The main thing for me is the fit and good tailoring.



Earrings: Gismondi 1754
Bodysuit: ATOÏR



Skirt as Top: Raquel Diniz

THROUGHOUT THE YEARS OF YOUR ACTING CAREER, DID YOU EVER FACE MOMENTS OF SELF-DOUBT? WHAT DID YOU DO AND HOW DID YOU OVERCOME THIS OBSTACLE?

—Yeah, most days. It's a strange business we work in, and if you don't have a healthy mind and body, it'll take advantage of that. I've learned to be kinder to myself and realized that the most important thing is the craft itself and to focus on just that. Things around you will fall into place how they're supposed to.

HOW DO YOU SPEND YOUR FREE TIME? ANY HOBBIES?

—I live at the movies. I go when I'm happy or sad, by myself, with friends. I'll see the same movies just so I can go to the theatre. I love escaping through film.

NOT MANY PEOPLE CAN SAY THEIR FACE WAS ON A BILLBOARD ON SUNSET. HOW DID YOU FEEL WHEN YOU FIRST SAW IT, AND WHAT DID YOU DO?

—It's funny, that first moment is so fleeting. It's the reflection afterward that is the most meaningful. I just really took the time to understand what my journey has been and how I got here and how I'd like to keep going. I probably went to the movies to celebrate.

LASTLY, DO YOU HAVE ANY FUTURE OR CURRENT PROJECTS YOU CAN TELL US ABOUT? WHAT IS NEXT FOR PARVEEN KAUR?

—Nothing I can share at the moment, but stay tuned to find out.



The Drinkable Beauty Trend

HOW ONE COMPANY IS EMBRACING COLLAGEN AS A DRINKABLE SUPPLEMENT



COLLAGEN IS ALWAYS A HOT TOPIC WHEN IT COMES to skincare. It's already well-researched capabilities and the visual changes it gives to the skin have made it increasingly popular among skincare companies. From serums to creams, collagen itself when we get down to technicality is the main protein in your connective tissue that gives it structure. There are several types of collagen based on the structures they form from bone and cartilage to hair. Breaking out of the science mineralizations and dense terminology, in short, the protein is seen as a fountain of youth by beauty followers. A way to bring back the skin's buoyancy and healthy appearance, and for those that can fork over the cash, collagen injections are a popular route.

Some creams and serums feel as if they only sit on the skin as a temporary filler for a few hours rather than being absorbed. This makes sense considering the natural cell size of this triple helix molecule. We wanted to figure out options outside of injections. Something more affordable and less invasive with no needles and this is when we

came upon La Sirène. Founded by Anixia Rodriguez, La Sirène is the culmination of her experiences of dancing and modeling since a child and then over time seeing how women became more fixated on "invasive cosmetic treatments such as botox to alter their looks." Thinking back to her grandmother driving the importance of doing proper skincare early as a preventative measure, Rodriguez took this philosophy to create her label.

"As I grew older, my love for skincare and preserving my youth naturally became even greater, and I was tired of seeing society pressuring women as young as the age of nineteen to start getting injections as a preventative measure for aging," Rodriguez explained. "I then began researching marine ingredients to create a skincare line that would be highly effective and encourage women to embrace their natural beauty and assist them in aging gracefully. During that time I was introduced to marine collagen from Japan and was instantly curious as to why this type of product had never really been heard of in the US. Once I did my research and saw my own personal



results, I knew then that I needed to share this magical powder with the world! Shortly after my discovery, I created La Sirène with hopes that I can encourage others to love the skin they're in so they can not only look but feel their best!"

This combination of marine collagen and antioxidants dissolve quickly into your drink of choice but avoid carbonation, they say. With three different options, consumers have picked up on La Sirène's natural abilities and found noticeable changes for their skin, hair and nails. Neiman Marcus has tapped into La Sirène and offers it to their shoppers seeking anti-aging care. With new labels popping up constantly and luxury houses boasting their own collagen filled products, we have to ask what sets Rodriguez's powder apart from others. "I chose marine collagen for all La Sirène products because it has the most superior bioavailability over all other types of collagen due to its smaller particle sizes — it absorbed up to one and a half times more efficiently in the body making it more effective than bovine, porcine

or chicken collagen," she shared. "Additionally, marine collagen is a Type 1 collagen, which is the most abundant collagen in the human body, making up 70 to 90 percent of the collagen in our skin, bones, muscles and joints. La Sirène works from within to slow down the aging process by replenishing the collagen that has been depleted from our bodies."

We appreciate that as a founder of a skincare label, and one that is consumed and digested, Rodriguez has done her due diligence with research and has experienced this specific collagen from where it originates. The beauty industry is always being taken over by fads and trends, but there are some we hope will maintain permanence. The fact that La Sirène isn't an invasive procedure or surgery opens up the ability for it to become more mainstream. As the power of positive reviews takes hold, we expect Rodriguez will continue to build her skincare empire.

A New Wave of Beauty

A LOOK AT HOW CANNABINOIDS HAVE MADE THEIR WAY INTO ONE OF THE LARGEST INDUSTRIES AND WHAT YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND.

CBD has been at the forefront of several industries as of late. From medicine to politics, cannabinoids have worked their way from negative connotations to a more positive light in terms of what the plant can truly offer in the right settings. While the on-going legal battle continues, one industry has taken under its wing one cannabinoid — CBD otherwise known as cannabidiol, a phytocannabinoid. Driven by consumers, the ever-changing beauty industry continuously researches the use of CBD in products. Several companies are working towards creating CBD skincare lines, and no, we aren't talking about the cannabinoid THC that produces that "high." This specific compound has anti-inflammatory effects, which is ideal, considering inflammation is the root of significant skin problems from acne to eczema.

In terms of legality, cannabidiol is taken from hemp, and when noted correctly, then legality isn't a problem. Still the FDA is always working to make sure these compounds are regulated, and the mechanism of action shared with consumers by companies is correct. As this new field of exploration continues to expand quickly, be mindful, and look into the products carefully and the people behind them.

Composure's former cover star, Amanda Steele, has just been named Chief Creative Officer of new label Glowdust Beauty, a company that is



tapping CBD as an anti-inflammatory and brightening aid in their facial masks. Their first release is a set of two called Pre-Party and After-Party. They are sure to note each mask contains 28mg of infused CBD and is entirely free of THC. Each is made with a combination of herbal extracts and vitamins to

work alongside the compound. Their approach to launching has been a well thought out process, and by releasing just their introductory masks, it will give consumers a fair chance to evaluate the effects and benefits. With this novel wave taking over the beauty industry, slow is better to allow everyone an opportunity to learn.

Another company we've had our eye on is Two Cranes Botanicals by twin sisters Susun Chung and Hanna Yi. Facing their own struggles battling anxiety, the sisters looked into CBD and its potential. They have taken into careful consideration the market in its entirety, from start-ups to full-fledged commercial operations and why quality control is crucial. Their oils and products are heavily focused on ISO regulations. From the raw ingredients used to how they are managed and extracted

are all a tight-knit process between laboratories for testing and US-based farmers. In combination with Korean and Asian beauty heritage, the sisters understand that CBD has its place in health and wellness as well as skincare, but it needs to come from one-hundred percent trusted sources, and those sources need to remain highly regulated.

As with any new trend that's coming up, the key is to research the products. Understanding that there are over 100 variations of cannabinoids that can be isolated from the plant, and different classes, is just the start. Learning how your body's cell receptors react to each and what this means in terms of benefits will enlighten why this half a trillion-dollar industry has latched on to CBD. Even some cannabinoids aren't from cannabis, but other plants like Echinacea. There's a vast sea of information, but in short, first knowing that the effects of THC are entirely different than that of CBD helps for those just starting to hear about these different oils and skincare products. Actually, with any new product you want to try, read into it, find actual authentic reviews, in terms of CBD, it never hurts to look at peer-reviewed science journals because cannabidiol is one of the most researched active ingredients from the hemp plant so far. Until the FDA can fully regulate CBD, be smart, use caution because not everything with a fancy label means the active ingredients it claims to contain is what it really does. It never hurts to ask brands questions about their products, find out where they get their ingredients, and learn what companies are genuinely trying to unlock the positive potential of this compound.



COVER CREDITS
Earrings: 8 Other Reasons
Jumpsuit: Nadya Dzyak



PHOTOGRAPHER STORM SHOOT
CREATIVE DIRECTOR/STYLIST ROBIAT BALOGUN
MAKEUP ARCHANGELA CHELSEA @CELESTINE AGENCY
HAIR JENNA GARAGIOLA @CLOUTIER REMIX

Ring: Gemma Azzurro
Dress: ROTATE Birger Christensen



Hannah Zeile

STORY BY MIN A. LEE

Sometimes, our intuition serves us right, and for Hannah Zeile, never giving up on her hopeful dream of acting is why we want to highlight her story as our It Girl cover. It's truly a feel-good moment. The kind you think only exists on television or in books, but when the door closed behind Zeile as she left the Chipotle she worked at to take on her breakout role in NBC's mega-hit series *This Is Us*, we as fans couldn't be more grateful. Watching someone so young and talented be able to draw out these visceral emotions that make one forget she's acting out a character—it's phenomenal. She intensely throws herself into portraying young Kate Pearson, and you will cry, you will cheer and you will wish more than anything to hug her. This is the definition of pure acting, where the line between reality and falsity is blurred. Read on as Hannah Zeile speaks to us on working to overcome self-doubt and her rise to fame.

WHAT AN INCREDIBLE RUN IT HAS BEEN FOR THIS IS US, BUT THE PATH ISN'T ALWAYS EASY. YOU'VE PENNED AN ESSAY ON THE CHALLENGES OF HAVING SELF-CONFIDENCE. WHAT HAS HELPED YOU WORK TO OVERCOME THE SELF-DOUBT AND PURSUE YOUR ACTING DREAMS ALL THE WAY TO STARRING IN ONE OF PRIME TIME TELEVISION'S BIGGEST HITS?

—I think self-confidence is a lifelong journey, and I don't think any person ever escapes their insecurities, so rather than run from them, you have to embrace them. I haven't necessarily overcome the self-doubt, but I've taught myself to push through it. I don't want to be my own obstacle by passing up opportunities because I don't feel self-assured. I am able to acknowledge the doubt creeping in, so I choose to accept it but push forward anyway.

PLAYING THE YOUNGER TEENAGE KATE, HOW HAS THIS PINNACLE ROLE CHANGED YOU AS AN ACTRESS AND ALSO AS A PERSON?

—Playing this role has been one of the biggest blessings of my life and has been so incredibly rewarding. Working with such talented people who set the bar so high has really helped me grow as an actress because I am constantly working toward that bar and learning a lot in the process. I know that so many people relate to Kate's story, and have been able to work through their own pain and trauma through Kate, which has made this role so important to me. I've hugged and cried with people who are so thankful for the show and how it has bettered their lives, and those are experiences I will always carry with me.

WE WONDER, WHAT WAS ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT SCENES YOU'VE HAD TO FILM FOR THIS IS US SO FAR?

—A lot of the work we do is challenging, but that is what makes it so rewarding. I don't have a specific scene, but I think the fire episode and the funeral episode (episodes 214 and 215) were very challenging as a whole. It was very heavy on the set and very painful, playing out the loss of the beloved Jack Pearson.

LOOKING MORE INTO YOUR CHARACTER, WE WATCHED AS YOUNG KATE SUFFERED EMOTIONAL ABUSE AT THE HANDS OF MARC, PLAYED BY AUSTIN ABRAMS. IT STRIKES A CHORD WITH MANY SEEING THE HARSH OUTBURSTS. HAVE FANS OF THE SHOW REACHED OUT TO YOU AFTER IT AIRED? HOW DOES IT FEEL TO KNOW PEOPLE ARE SO DEEPLY TOUCHED BY YOUR ACTING?

—Yes, I've definitely had a lot of people reach out after the episode, and open up about their own experiences with a toxic relationship. That is what makes this show so special and why this role is so important to me. It is unbelievably fulfilling to know that the work I'm doing is valued because it is starting conversations that need to be had, shining light on issues often kept in the dark, and aiding people in their healing process. I'm so grateful and blessed to be a part of this show.

BEING PROPELLED INTO FAME CAN BE DAUNTING, ESPECIALLY IF IT HAPPENS QUICKLY. HOW DO YOU KEEP YOURSELF GROUNDED?

—I am extremely close with my family. The people I love will always be what is most important to me.

THINKING ABOUT YOUR FUTURE AS AN ACTRESS, WHAT WOULD BE A DREAM ROLE FOR YOU?

—It's hard for me to pin down a certain role because part of the fun as an actress is transforming into all different characters. I would love to work on a film because it would be a whole new experience for me.

AS WE END, WHAT'S A PROMINENT PIECE OF ADVICE YOU'VE RECEIVED THAT ALWAYS RESONATES WITH YOU?

—Very simple but powerful advice, which is to really take the time to appreciate each moment—sometimes we get so caught up in the hustle and bustle, and planning for what comes next, that we go on auto-pilot and forget to really live. I don't want to look back and feel like I rushed through things. I want to create memories and milestones and embrace each moment as it happens because the present becomes the past very quickly.



**PHOTOGRAPHER ROWAN DALY
MAKEUP AMY STROZZI @TMG-LA
HAIR MICHAEL DUENAS @TMG-LA**

OFF THE GRID

ART STORY



Ben Cope & Rowan Daly

Composure takes a look into the local Los Angeles art scene for our 25th issue working to highlight talents that constructively build upon a budding revolution. While the city is known for its contemporary street art movements, there's a line of fine artistry that exists amidst it. For the spring, we tap into the geniuses of Ben Cope and Rowan Daly. Both continually flourish in their photography from print to A-list celebrities, but art remains at the core as they venture more into exhibitions. We're quite impartial to artists who strive for a balance between rigorous industries, and museum art can be daunting. However, the combined expertise of both and predetermination to steer their careers in a definite direction will always bring success.

March proved to be an exciting moment for Cope and Daly as they put together their first series of exhibitions — a body of work comprised of six years of traveling into Mexico. As they began to showcase those moments and the people along the path, there's a sense for global reach with their imagery. Aptly named *Off The Grid*, the stories being told on prints spread across the gallery walls beckon to times of sheer freedom,

playfulness and are quite humble in their beauty alone. These are places that are often overlooked, but Cope says, "It's one of those things we've definitely grown with as we go down and find new places to explore and bring in different people, and have different adventures. It's really grown on its own and developed itself. It's always fun going back and looking at those trips, especially going back through polaroids and finding these moments we've forgotten about."

Glancing over the work, we ask Daly about those years spent traveling and how the project initially began to what *Off The Grid* represents now and as he reminisces back. "There's a lot of moments for sure," he says. "I think when we first started this project, we were concentrated on the fashion and editorial side of it all. Then the more we got into it, the more fun and playful lifestyle it became."

Each has an editorial eye that is unmistakable. Whether the projects remain high end or commercial, there's a highly artistic direction. When speaking with Cope regarding his career and his previous exhibition experience, he explains to us, "On the art side, I have a BFA in ceramics, sculpture and photography so

I've always kind of ventured in the art world for as long as I can remember." There's a common theme between both Daly and Cope as they regard their affection for both photography and fine arts as something that is influenced by the other. "I think fine art photography is what got me into photography in the first place," shares Daly. "It's always had a real big place in my heart, so anytime I can ever entertain that more creative side, I do."

What we respect most is their ability to appreciate the fine arts, despite Los Angeles being more focused on street art and, namely, the city's renowned graffiti history. However, it's always beneficial realizing that talented individuals are working collaboratively to heighten these other powerful aspects. Within just the first series shown for Cope and Daly, there are many engaging facets to their vision and approach that make them a fascinating pair to follow as they advance. What *Off The Grid* did is open the door to helping find and expose more influential fine artists over these coming years here locally — a magnificent feat to all involved.



COMPOSURE

FASHION

ISSUE #25

SIERRA CAPRI



PHOTOGRAPHER ROWAN DALY
FASHION STYLIST/CREATIVE DIRECTOR ROBIAT BALOGUN
MAKEUP ARCHANGELA CHELSEA @CELESTINE AGENCY
HAIR LUCY GEDJEYAN @CLOUTIER REMIX

Sierra Capri

STORY BY MIN A. LEE

Netflix has been pushing out some phenomenal original content these recent few years, and one show we found ourselves binging takes on coming-of-age in a South Central Los Angeles high school. *On My Block* just started its third season following the ups and downs of friendship between its four main characters Ruby, Monse, Jamal and Cesar. Facing adolescence and connecting to viewers who themselves are in the midst of high school and those of us who reminisce back to all the good and bad moments, we were highly interested in the breakout role of Monse Finnie for young actress Sierra Capri.

Taking a leap of faith into the industry while studying biology at university, Capri's courage to chase her passion is encouraging. Her ability to step into a new career and in a strong role has shown she has the talent and ability to do more as an actress as she grows. Her portrayal of Monse right now has gained vast amounts of respect and love from critics and fans, so it's wonderful to be able to sit with her and learn more about her transition and her time spent on the set of the highly successful *On My Block*.



Dress: Escada
Shoes: Public Desire

YOU WENT FROM STUDYING BIOLOGY IN GEORGIA TO STARRING AS MONSE FINNIE IN NETFLIX'S POPULAR SERIES ON MY BLOCK, A BREAKOUT ROLE FOR YOU, AND RIGHT AWAY TOO. GOING INTO YOUR AUDITION, HOW NERVOUS WERE YOU WITH STEPPING AWAY FROM A COLLEGE AND SCIENCE MAJOR TO TAKE A CHANCE AT ACTING?

—I was extremely nervous. It was one of the toughest decisions I have had to make in life thus far. It was a risk, but luckily I had my family's support. I still think about it because I love science. I'm still passionate about science, as well as acting.

DID YOU FIND IT CHALLENGING JUMPING INTO ACTING SUDDENLY?

—It was challenging because I went from 0 to 100 overnight. I am not only referring to the show's success but even the production terminology. I had to get a crash course in everything from tools, resources and set etiquette.

ON MY BLOCK HAS BEEN RENEWED FOR A THIRD SEASON, AND HOPEFULLY, ESPECIALLY FOR THE DIE-HARD FANS, WILL RELEASE SOON. CAN YOU SHARE ANY HINTS INTO HOW THE STORYLINE WILL CONTINUE FOR MONSE AT ALL?

—Everyone is growing up, so relationships will continue to evolve between Monse and others. I cannot reveal too much, but just know the family is growing with the twists and turns while managing the rigors of adolescence.

IS IT DIFFICULT TO PUT YOURSELF BACK INTO THE MINDSET OF A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, OR DO YOU FIND IT HAPPENS NATURALLY ONCE THE CAMERAS START ROLLING?

—It honestly depends on the day. I think because we were all new to the show but had to get to know each other quickly, it felt like I was back in high school naturally. Luckily, we all have great chemistry. It wasn't too long ago that I walked through the hallway or sat in the cafeteria.

WHEN YOU STEPPED ONTO THE SET FOR *ON MY BLOCK* AS A NEW ACTRESS, WAS THERE ANYONE WHO HELPED GUIDE AND MENTOR YOU?

—Believe it or not, my mother. She has never been in this business, but she has so many life experiences that she was able to pull from to assist me with navigating all

facets of entertainment. Being kind to everyone, saying thank you and always advocating for myself. My mother is amazing.

WE LOVE THE STORY OF MONSE UNFOLDING AS SHE BEGINS TAKING THOSE FIRST STEPS TOWARD INDEPENDENT WOMANHOOD. WHAT DO YOU HOPE YOUNG GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN TAKE AWAY FROM THE SHOW WHEN THEY WATCH IT?

—It brings me great joy that people connect with Monse and a real and meaningful way. She keeps it real throughout her journey. I hope young girls and young women know that it is okay to make mistakes as long as you learn from them. That is what growing up is all about. No one walking this earth is perfect, and it's all about the journey.

AS OUR FASHION COVER THIS ISSUE, HOW DO YOU USE STYLE TO REFLECT YOUR PERSONALITY?

—I definitely use fashion as a way to express my individuality. I love how my style changes from day to day. Most days, I'm typically in jeans and a top, but when I step out for a moment with friends, I'm pretty laid back versus when I step out for a red carpet. My style is always evolving, and I love it!

WHERE DO YOU DRAW YOUR FASHION INSPIRATION FROM? WHO ARE YOUR FASHION ICONS?

—I have so many fashion icons, but Grace Jones is one of course. The way she unapologetically was herself at every stage of her career is inspiring. She brought fashion to the masses, I mean, how could you NOT love Grace Jones!

TO END, THERE'S A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF FANS OF THE SHOW, AND YOUR FAN BASE CONTINUES TO GROW. WHAT'S THE MOST EMPOWERING FAN MOMENT YOU'VE EXPERIENCED SO FAR?

—We were filming an episode from season three, and there were so many people that came to watch since we were outside. Girls and boys brought signs and stayed there until night to get a chance to converse with us. It was so overwhelming. I cried when no one was looking. It was beautiful. They just wanted the opportunity to connect with us and share how much our show means to them. It meant the world to me.



Earrings: The Sis Kiss
Look: Honayda



Dress: Rasario



Earrings: 8 Other Reasons
Top & Pants: Honayda
Shoes: Raye

Dress: Dejzi



Earrings: 8 Other Reasons
Ring: Gemma Azzurro
Suit/Belt: Collini
Shoes: Zara



Baume & Mercier Extends Their Clifton Baumatic Collection

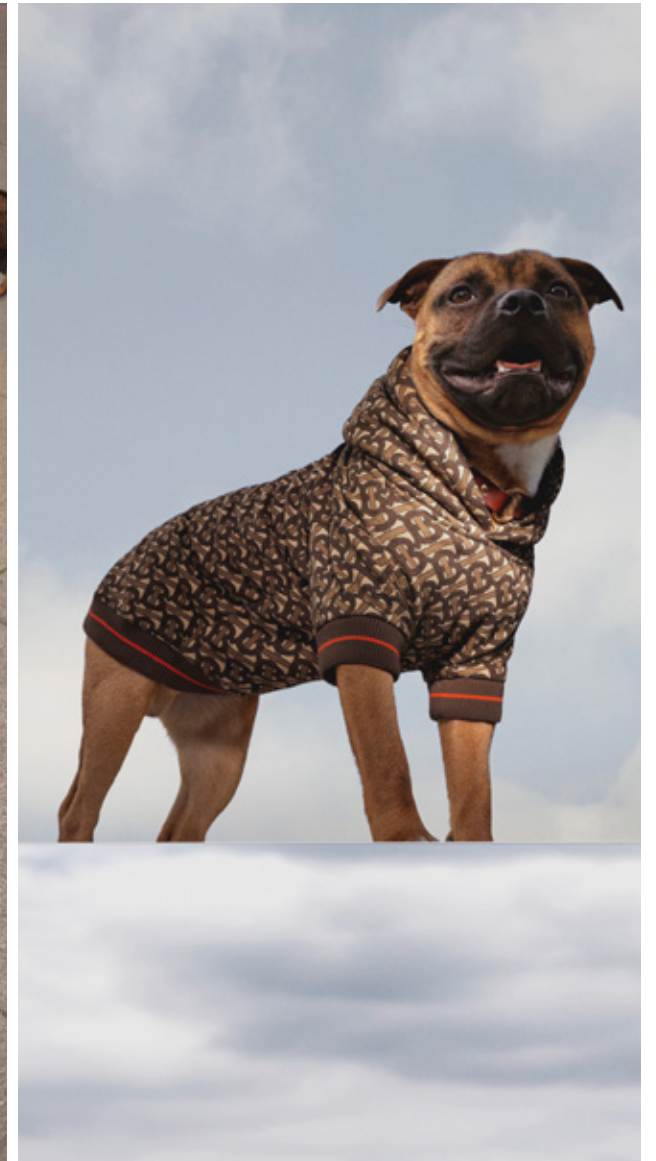
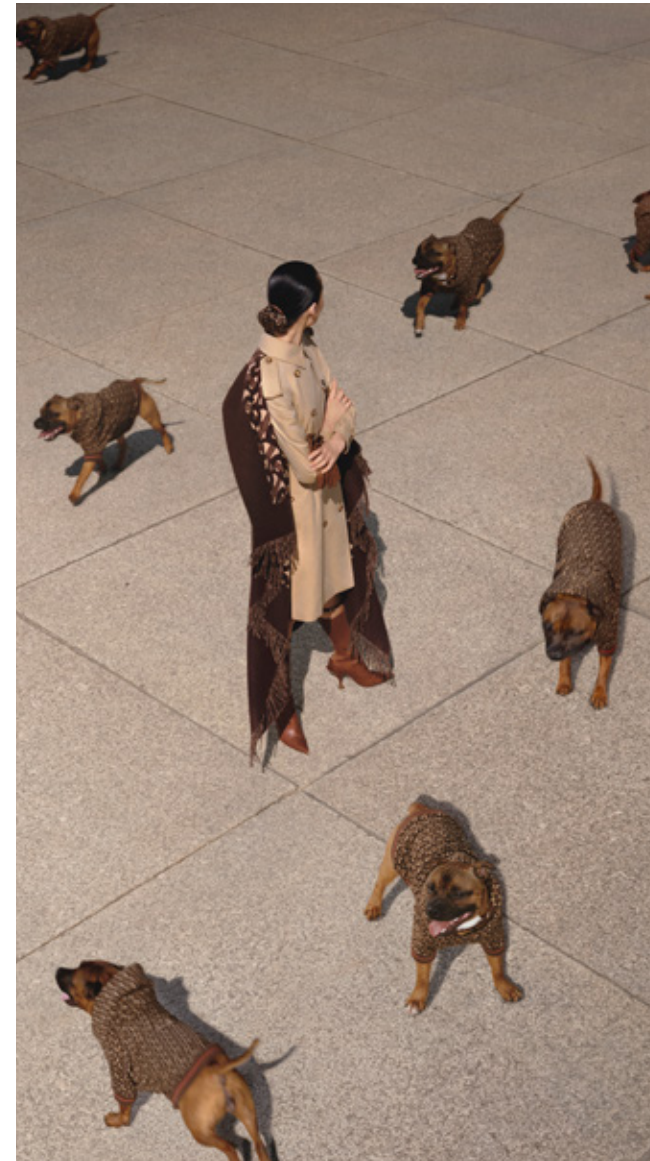
BAUME & MERCIER HAS RELEASED FIVE NEW Clifton Baumatic watches to their collection. Each powered by the BM13 Baumatic calibre version, the latest styles now come with an 18-carat red gold case and blue dial—Clifton Baumatic Cosc or Rogue and Clifton Baumatic Cadran Bleu.

The Rouge model carries the anthracite crosshair indicative for the Official Swiss Chronometer Testing Institute certification. With gold minute hands and hour markers to match the case, the new look is elegant, an ideal fit for everyday wear.

With the Cadran Bleu model, Baume & Mercier unveils a new black-to-blue color gradation that makes the time easy to read. You have the choice between interchangeable straps, a black alligator band or a five-row steel bracelet with a clasp. Both provide two very different looks.



As expected, the Clifton Baumatic designs have an oversized date aperture, domed sapphire crystal and the case back that opens to reveal Baume & Mercier's incredible movement and framework. The reliability of their self-winding Baumatic movement, resistance to magnetic fields you encounter daily and only requiring maintenance every seven years keep the Maison on top. Baume & Mercier also revealed "a new in-House Baumatic calibre, the MB13-1975A, which expresses a commitment to client expectations without ever compromising quality."



Burberry and Their Monthly B Series

AS Burberry continues to change under new leadership, the House is releasing its latest B Series, a series of monthly product drops designed by Riccardo Tisci.

To start the first release was this past fall/winter with the Thomas Burberry Monogram dog hoodie. Shoppers were able to personalize the hoodies with their beloved pet names. So far, the new monogram style has been quite a hit, and each success proves

that the House's new direction is aligning to what consumers want and expect.

Each drop that goes live is only available for 24 hours through Burberry's Instagram, LINE, Kakao and WeChat. With such a limited time and run, it makes the products exclusive and quite fun to try to get ahold of. Be sure to watch these coming months to see what Tisci will present next, and just for that one day only!

Designer Cinzia Simone speaks on her newest line!

FOUND, HAVING BEEN DISCOVERED BY CHANCE OR UNEXPECTEDLY

When we first visited designer Cinzia Simone a few years back with Composure, she was in the midst of extraordinary change. Spending decades in fashion and helping to spearhead some of the most iconic Guess Jeans campaigns as their senior design director, we've watched her continue to expand her expertise into several brands leaving a distinct European emphasis that is key to constructing and defining her work.

From 2016, our first encounter with Simone inside a newly developing studio to now, imagine our excitement to see her launch her line as a founder! We've been waiting for this moment for quite a while, knowing fully well she has the capability and sheer talent to step out on her own and create fantastic wardrobe staples sure to last for years in the exact aesthetic we continue to appreciate immensely. Found Los Angeles is Simone's chance to share her vision without any constraints. Along with her partner, Irene Kim, the two share a commonality in wanting to push forward more purposeful clothing driven by a

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combination of substantial experience in the apparel industry and sheer passion.

Transparency is crucial to understanding how Found Los Angeles operates from the women who've helped build up the new label to how Simone produces each product. Acknowledging that waste and poor climate impact can drag a brand down during these concerned times, she is continually researching ways to make her approach more sustainable at each step. Challenging against the rigors of fast fashion, any action, as minute as they can be at times, will have a lasting effect. Simone knows these changes will take time and effort, but she is more than willing to persevere as Found Los Angeles continues to expand. Picked up by Nordstrom and currently available on their retail site, we are just starting to see what is turning out to be quite a success and hopefully another fashion empire for Simone to conquer. We are eager to sit with her and get more into the details of her latest venture and step back into the past a little as well!



FOUND, having been discovered by chance or unexpectedly — shop at Nordstrom Stores, nordstrom.com and foundlosangeles.com!

YOU HAVE A SPECTACULAR RUN OF EXPERTISE FROM COMMERCIAL BRANDS TO INDIE LABELS. HOW DOES IT FEEL TO RELEASE YOUR NEW LINE FOUND LOS ANGELES?

The first time is always fresh. Now the only difference is that I know what needs to be done, what to design and how to manufacture. I understand how difficult and what hard work it is to launch a new brand, despite your knowledge, expertise and seniority in the business. Apparel is constantly changing and moving forward, business models are evolving. I still love to collaborate with other brands, but every day, I see how hard it is to change direction when they have been doing business so comfortably the same way for decades. I understand how difficult it is to freely design something that you are passionate about and how difficult it is to keep the production local. I'm constantly preaching about sustainability across the board, so I decided why not launch my own label, produce it in an ethical and sustainable way, and why not make the knits locally. We have no investors and are corporate-free. It's just me, my girl boss partner, and my team; we do it all.



WHAT WAS THE CATALYST FOR YOU TO CREATE THE LABEL? After years of working corporate, I decided it was time for me to move forward. I had a previous label and partners that focused on numbers versus the brand itself. I left and started focusing on collaborations with other brands. I met a great girl while working with her and discovered soon that she was going to be a great partner but also a huge help with logistics and production. Her name is Irene. Gradually, we started working on our own label and decided to create a company made by women for women, a nest for myself, my partner and my team. Different than any corporate, but a company where we felt at home and welcomed every day—one where we feel free to express ourselves, create and run a company that doesn't focus on just revenue but focuses on giving business work to struggling local factories that choose the best fabric, have a sustainable approach to manufacturing, and especially making each garment special. But also, I wanted to create a label that has an easy and effortless aesthetic. Women should feel comfortable. They aren't coming to us for trendy pieces. Here I want to create a wardrobe that is easy loungewear that you can wear to work. We are women who are fashion-forward and want to wear easy pieces for their lifestyle.

TALKING MORE ON FOUND LOS ANGELES TAKING A VERY SUSTAINABLE APPROACH BY KEEPING FABRICS ORGANIC AND PRODUCTION LOCAL TO THE CITY, WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES YOU'VE HAD TO OVERCOME TO KEEP THE BRAND IN-LINE WITH YOUR ETHICAL VISION? Well, there are a lot of obstacles. We are still competing with Chinese prices due to the increase in local costs every day, and the sustainability aspect. We are teaching ourselves and the customers that we are in a place where, unfortunately, we can't be 100% sustainable, but we are trying to be better at it. By constantly studying how we can make effective changes, use less chemicals, wash and dye sustainably, and use recycled yarn or organic cotton, we are still exploring options but want to offer them at a great price which presents a challenge sometimes. Sustainable garments should be for everyone, so the difficulty is to squeeze our margin in order to offer better product and better prices. We are corporate-free, but still doing business with some big players that require more logistics, so sometimes it's hard to keep the cost down while using organic cotton with no compromises. We are still new and growing and working towards what we believe the most.

THE LABEL PROMOTES WOMEN IN BUSINESS TO THOSE IN THE FACILITIES USED AS PART OF THE MANUFACTURING PROCESS. HOW IMPORTANT IS IT FOR CONSUMERS TO UNDERSTAND WHERE THEIR CLOTHING IS BEING MADE AND BY WHO? WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU AS A WOMAN TO BE ABLE TO PROMOTE WOMEN IN THE COMMUNITY? I have been in the business for a long time, and it's still a man's world in this industry. I started wondering why don't we have a place in the workplace to breastfeed or simply have flexible work hours to perform the best you can be. Without reporting to anyone or spending long hours in meetings that you don't need

to be in, you are able to create a schedule that works for you and your hours. Women are strong, resilient and create better if they feel equal and happy. We are creative and competitive; we create fashion and we create life. In L.A., there is a lot of business run by women that are in need of business, equality, and support. We are a tight community.

I want to know where my sweatshirt is made, as well as who washed and packed it. I want the same kind of transparency with clients. I'm trying to create a difference in the community and the apparel business. I don't want to fly the t-shirts we made from the other side of the planet; I want it to be made, packed, and hand-shipped to our warehouse just minutes away from the workshops, decreasing carbon footprint. It is important to promote and strengthen other women and help each other have a better future together.

ONE THING WE DEEPLY APPRECIATE ABOUT FOUND LOS ANGELES IS THE FACT THAT WE CAN HAVE HIGH-QUALITY DENIM AND SEPARATES THAT ARE ETHICALLY SOURCED, BUT EXTREMELY AFFORDABLE! HOW CRUCIAL WAS IT TO CREATE THIS PRICE POINT FOR CONSUMERS, AND HOW HAS THE REACTION BEEN SO FAR? Price has been a big driver for sure. It is more challenging to execute and deliver while keeping the same quality we want. We are one of the few brands that offer these kinds of products that are made locally at these prices. A few years ago, I would have said "no." I have always developed collections that were expensive, but now the world has changed, and we can't afford fashion like we used to. Affordable and ethically made fashion should be for everyone. We are looking into partnering with some sustainable manufacturers for denim to achieve the price we want, and on top of the denim, our knitwear being made locally is also a big push.

Between my design, business knowledge, my partner, and production and manufacturing background—all have joined forces on tightening the cost. Together, we challenge each other every day. However, we are looking into expanding the price points. We started with a collaboration with Nordstrom at the very opening price, but are still launching a collection that has a slightly higher price point for pre-fall. We are using organic cotton and better, desired dyes. We want to offer both, so both customers have the option to have Found in their closet!

BEFORE WE END, WE'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK — HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE FASHION INDUSTRY? WHEN DID YOUR LOVE FOR IT, AND ESPECIALLY FOR DENIM, BEGIN? That's a big question; I will try to be brief. Denim is the one reason I started the brand. I love denim but also love working with knits. It has been a long journey from me. I grew up in Italy, in a small town by the sea. My father always wore this old pair of rolled-up jeans and cool t-shirts on the weekend. My mother had the best jackets and silk slip dresses that she collected from the '70s. They are both a big inspiration for me. I borrowed their clothes all the time. I started wandering flea markets, looking for vintage at an early age, and then at age 18, I moved to London with a big dream "be a creative." Even though I was quite unsure about what to create, I just explored and discovered. I decided to move to LA by chance with a friend musician. Music has also been a big influence for me and still is. Most of my designs are inspired by early '70s icons but also some '90s. LA is the best place for that kind of inspiration. While in London, I shopped the flea markets every day. In LA, I discovered the magic of music. Denim has always been my passion. While working as a designer for a denim company, I discovered that not so many women were working as a denim designer. It was a challenge. Denim is technical and hard work. Every time you work on a pair of jeans, you learn something new. I love denim and love the challenge.

I feel blessed because I have had many great teachers along the way. I learned from the ground up, gained my experience by being in the field every day, and actually saw it with my own eyes, how the fashion world is, and at night sketch in my bed tired. It was crazy and too fast, but I took every day as a lesson and learned from it, failed so many times, but I always succeeded after and made me stronger. Fashion is not what they teach in a school or what you see on the runway; it is such a hard job, behind the scenes is not so attractive. You need to be creative but also go and visit the factories and work with them, as a team, it takes many people and many steps to create a garment, not just the designer.

I love discovering, that's the very reason why I called the label FOUND. I have an extensive library of vintage, so when I start creating the collection, I had everything I needed at the warehouse and have a great partner that has huge experience in the apparel world, so it was pretty easy.



CHAO Art Center Beijing

WAYS OF SEEING — THE ANNUAL EXHIBITION AT CHAO ART CENTER IN BEIJING



The CHAO Hotel Beijing's Annual Exhibition *The Way of Seeing* gathered seventeen renowned individuals and collectives of contemporary artists from around the globe questioning the norms placed in Contemporary Art.

The title is borrowed from British Author John Berger's 1972 television series broadcast on the BBC as a "reminder that the relation between what we see and what we know is never settled."

The artists showing are Marina Abramović, Banksy, Joseph Beuys, Chen Chieh-Jen, Guerrilla Girls, He Yunchang, Jenny Holzer, Huang Rui, Alfredo Jaar, K Foundation, Allan Kaprow, Ana Mendieta, Yoko Ono, Ulay, Wang Guangyi, Wang Qingsong and Xu Bing.

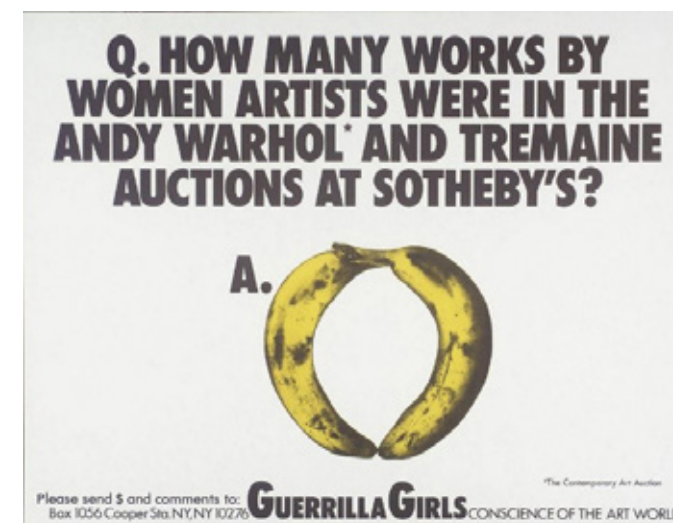
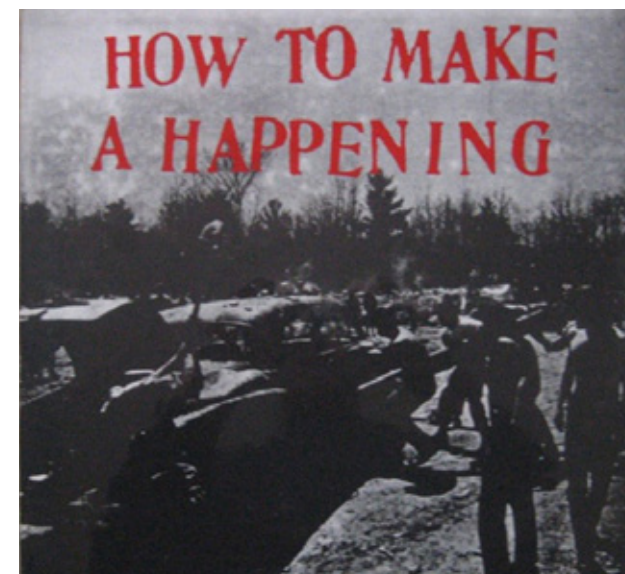
The installations and pieces are meant to have an individual concept, but ultimately work together to make us think and understand how contemporary art can be. Each with their own story, but one that is original and artistic that aids in putting "into question some normative values in contemporary art like monumentality, recency and uniqueness, as well as, notions of copyright and distribution."



The works span 65 years with the first being from Yoko Ono dated at 1952. The idea is implying that contemporary art doesn't necessarily require a production year that places into current times. *The Way of Seeing* is built on the idea that art can influence and the significance it brings is what gives it the validity to be considered current.

CHAO describes the presentation as "not a walk-through exhibition but intended to honor the critical, the intuitive, the unexpected and the mind-blowing. It is an exhibition which you need to give time, as well as in the thoughtful afterglow of your visit. For the theoretically inclined Ways of Seeing gives a lot to think about. For the public at large, it tells some astounding stories."

From the books and leaflets to the mass media ad campaigns displayed, the idea that a small image can hold a global power is what *The Way of Seeing* Exhibition aims to explain.



SPRING SERENITY

PHOTOGRAPHER LERIAM (@LERIAMPHOTO)
MAKEUP TIFANYTARAZI (@TIFANYTARAZI)
HAIR SELDACORTESFOREUFORA (@SELDACORTES)
MODEL MELISSA (@MELISUUUR)
MAKE UP BUXOM COSMETICS, NYX PROFESSIONAL MAKE UP, MAKE UP FOR EVER
& PAT MCGRATH LABS





COMPOSURE

ONES TO WATCH

ISSUE #25

SOFIA BRYANT



Jewelry: Her own
Top & Pants: Maxrieny
Shoes: Dr. Martens

PHOTOGRAPHER ROWAN DALY
FASHION STYLIST/CREATIVE DIRECTOR ROBIAT BALOGUN
MAKE UP COURTNEY HART @CLOUTIER REMIX
HAIR TIFFANY DAUGHTERY @CELESTINE AGENCY

ISSUE #25





Earrings: Lulus
Top: Maxrieny
Blazer, Bra and Pants: I Love Pretty



Jewelry: Her own & Lulus "S" Necklace
Top & Pants: Maxrieny
Shoes: Dr. Martens

Sofia Bryant

STORY BY MIN A. LEE

From Finland to Hollywood, Sofia Bryant is making a name for herself with a pinnacle role on the popular hit show *I Am Not Okay With This*. The captivating mix of superpowers and navigating relationships is being met with positive feedback from critics. As we watch Bryant on television, her young talent is part of an exciting movement that pushes for diverse, praiseworthy, originally released content within the industry. The transition from traditional film to web show prominence has opened doors to finding new actors that may have stayed hidden otherwise. It's easy to get carried away into Bryant's acting as you follow her character, Dina, through each episode. We eagerly keep our fingers crossed for a season two renewal for avid fans everywhere.

Based on a comic book of the same name, it's interesting to see how the stories of tense friendship are played out on-screen by Bryant and her fellow castmates. Knowing that the substantial growth she is gaining on the show makes us anticipate her future projects as an actress. We expect she will take on many highly commendable parts in these coming years, and it's with elation we bring you our latest Ones To Watch interview with Sofia Bryant.



Jewelry: Her own
Coat: Maxrieny

COMING FROM FINLAND TO THE UNITED STATES, BEING ON THE SET OF NETFLIX'S *I AM NOT OKAY WITH THIS*, AS WELL AS OTHER SHOWS, A LOT HAS CHANGED. HOW HAS THIS TRANSITION BEEN FOR YOU?

—New York and Finland are definitely very different. I will say I miss Finland occasionally, but I've lived in New York for quite some time now, and I really belong here. Moving back was definitely a big change for me, but it wasn't a hard one. I think the bigger transition for me has really been stepping into TV and Film, and more specifically the great big family that is Netflix. I haven't been acting for very long, and I've already had it change my life pretty drastically. I think the most rewarding part of this industry is when people see themselves in you and are inspired to go out and accomplish their own goals because of it. I think that as a person of color in this industry, it's especially important to be someone other young people can be inspired by. Growing up in Finland, I realized quite early on how important and impactful it is to have someone you can look up to who looks like you and has the same ideas or interests as you. Being that for someone is so special.

THE SHOW HAS RELEASED TO SUCH POSITIVE REVIEWS AND FEEDBACK! FANS ARE GROWING BY THE NUMBER, AND MANY ARE EXCITED TO SEE HOW THE STORY WILL CONTINUE TO UNFOLD. HOW HAS THIS CENTRAL BREAKOUT ROLE MADE YOU THINK ABOUT YOUR CAREER AS AN ACTRESS, AND HOW DO YOU HOPE TO PROGRESS?

—With all of the great feedback from IANOWT already, it's helped me to realize and really take into consideration the power we have

with the platforms we are given. Through everything I do and every character I portray, my biggest hope is that I accurately represent and am empowering them.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR CHARACTER DINA?

—What I think is quite admirable about Dina is her loyalty. She can recognize when she's wrong and apologizes. She's also always ready to help Sydney with anything she needs at any time. Throughout the first season you can really tell that she puts the people she really cares about first, though sometimes she mixes up the people who actually care about her and the people to whom she brings comfort. What I love most about Dina is that she's very exciting and refreshing to be around. Like anyone, Dina definitely cares about how people perceive her, but there's so much of her that just doesn't care. She's someone who will quite literally dance in the rain or dance to her favorite song in public.

HOW WERE THE DYNAMICS BETWEEN YOU AND FELLOW ACTRESS SOPHIA LILLIS, WHO PLAYS SYDNEY NOVAK, ESPECIALLY WITH SUCH AN INTRIGUING STORYLINE FULL OF TENSION, SUPERPOWERS AND JUST TRYING TO BE FRIENDS AT THE CORE OF IT ALL?

—Like all of our cast members, Sophia and I were having fun on and off the set. We all clicked with each other pretty quickly. I felt really comfortable around her. She's so kind and honest and funny. It wasn't hard at all playing her best friend on screen.

YOU ALSO HAVE A FILM IN POST-PRODUCTION. CAN YOU SNEAK US

ANY DETAILS ABOUT *MARK, MARY & SOME OTHER PEOPLE* AND YOUR ROLE IN IT?

—Yes! Earlier this year, I wrapped Hannah Marks' Film *Mark, Mary & Some Other People*, which I'm super excited about. My character Tori is completely different from Dina. She's Mary's younger sister and the drummer in their crappy, all-girl punk rock band. Tori is the epitome of an all-around "messy cute" cool who knows exactly what she wants and gets it. What's really funny is that I'd been teaching myself to play the drums for about a month before I had ever known anything about the project, and then *Mark, Mary & Some Other People* just sort of fell into my lap. It was perfect timing. I continued learning a lot through the hours of band practice we had. It also allowed our cast to get really close within no time. I'm excited to see the final project because a lot of our scenes ended up being straight improv. It'll be cool to see what made it in. I can't wait for everyone to see it.

AS A YOUNG ACTRESS IN THE CHANGING DIVERSITY OF HOLLYWOOD, HOW DOES IT MAKE YOU FEEL TO BE PART OF THE MOVEMENT AS IT CONTINUES TO TAKE SHAPE?

—I feel excited knowing that we are steadily diversifying Hollywood more and more. Though there is still so much work to be done and so many mountains to climb, I've never felt more ready to just have at it. Time is definitely up. I think dramatic changes in the industry are long overdue, especially for people of color regarding the roles they play and the recognition they get from their hard work.

Earrings: Lulus
Jewelry: Her Own
Top: I Love Pretty





COMPOSURE