

my stylish life
DEVON AOKI

The 26-year-old LA-based supermodel, actress and CHANEL muse talks fashion, RED carpets and KARL



WHO ARE YOUR STYLE ICONS?

Katharine Hepburn (1), Isabella Blow (7) and (fellow Chanel muse) Lady Amanda Harlech.

YOU'RE A MUSE TO KARL LAGERFELD. TELL US ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP

Karl (3) is like a gofather to me. I just did a Chanel couture show and we realised we'd been working together for a decade! He's the coolest guy and I never tire of his intellect and opinions.

WHICH LABELS DO YOU LIKE?

Chanel, of course. I also love Christopher Kane (2), and I'm wearing a lot of new Japanese labels right now, such as Mastermind Japan. But I never wear one designer from head to toe.

YOU GREW UP IN LONDON. WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE AS BRITISH?

Absolutely. I was a punk as a teenager and became a model in the mid-1990s – an exciting time in British fashion. I worked for McQueen, Hussein Chalayan and Bella Freud, and their work shaped fashion all over the world.

WE HEAR YOU COLLECT SHOES. HOW MANY PAIRS DO YOU HAVE?

A lot! My most precious are those I wore in catwalk shows. They're unique and full of memories. But my best bargains are jazz shoes. They're soft lace-ups with a little heel. You can get them at any dance store.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE ITEM?

Karl gave me a beautiful Chanel shearling jacket that I've had for years and it still looks amazing. I couldn't be without it.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FASHION RANGE

I have a line in collaboration with Levi's in Asia that has everything from jeans to swimwear. I just design things that I want myself – like skinny jeans with zips at the ankles so they don't bunch up.

HOW DO YOU CHOOSE YOUR RED-CARPET OUTFITS?

I generally collaborate with a fashion house for my gown and another for the jewellery,



as I did with Alberta Ferretti and Chopard at Cannes this year (8). The rest – shoes and bag – is easy. My mum (artist and jewellery designer Pamela Hillburger) helps me choose.

WHAT'S ON YOUR SHOPPING LIST?

High-waisted trousers (4) to wear with braces.

WHAT ARE YOUR DESERT-ISLAND BEAUTY PRODUCTS?

SPF30 by SkinCeuticals (9), as I fry in the sun, and Shu Uemura eyelash curlers (5). They are absolutely the best. Also vitamin E capsules, which I squeeze over my face before bed.

YOUR ACTION FILM ROLES (6, IN SIN CITY) ARE VERY PHYSICAL – HOW DO YOU STAY IN SHAPE?

I work out three to four times a week. I do an hour of cardio and like to swim, dance, bike-ride and take my dogs, Kitty and Lexy, on hikes. It means I can be completely free to eat what I want.

CAN YOU DESCRIBE YOUR HOME?

It's like a little jewellery box. I buy old rugs, lamps and furniture at antiques fairs. On the walls I have one of Mum's watercolours and signed photographs from Karl. I have lots of land as I'm a real outdoors person. I'm even growing fruit and veg!

WHAT RESTAURANTS DO YOU LIKE?

Giorgio Baldi, a Tuscan restaurant in Santa Monica, is my favourite. And I love LA's Sushi Nozawa. There's no menu, and you never know what you're going to get.

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