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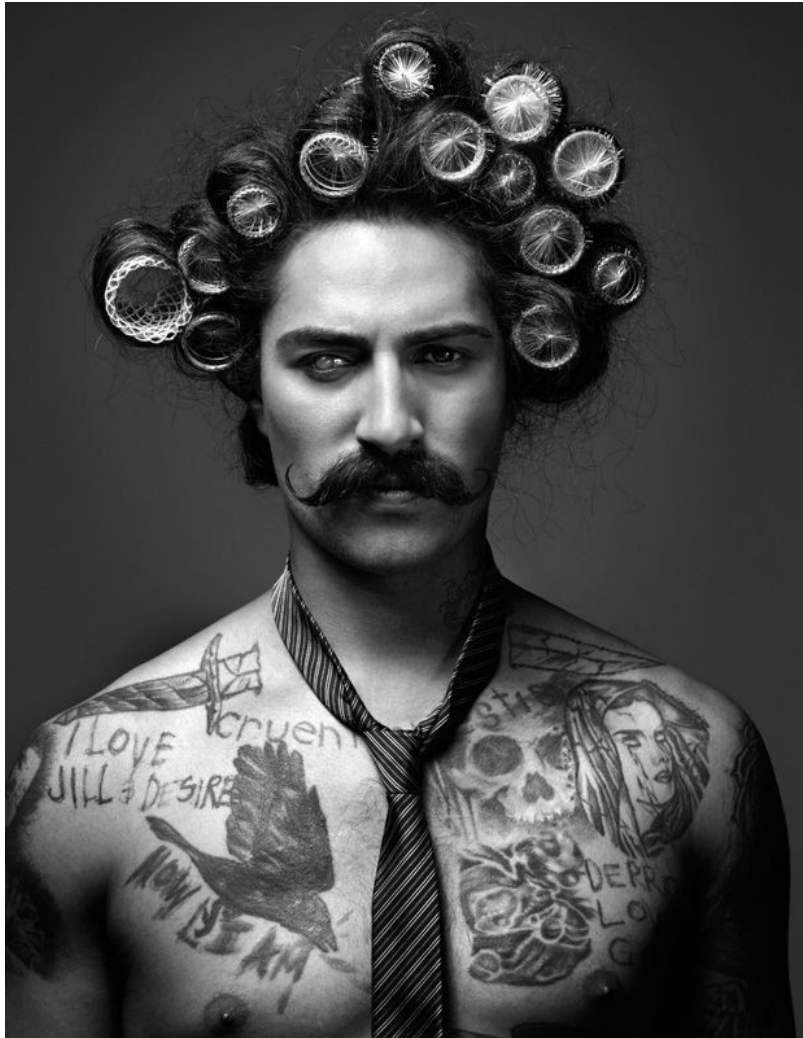
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DANCING WITH THE STARS

There's something in the way these dresses - and the eight gifted actresses wearing them - move that's intrinsically sexy and wonderfully freeing. It's all part of fashion's new body language - inspired by everything from flamenco to ballet.
PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT TRACHTENBERG



< MAESTRO'S FIRST FILM HOLL WAS AN exquisite young dancer in Tango - Carlos Saura's 1998 tango-drama romance; she also had a dancing scene in the acclaimed Motorcycle Diaries. She's even studied hip-hop and trapeze. "I love to be in movement." (There's a action of a different sort in The Box and The Speed of Thought, two films she's just completed.)
SUMMER DRESS CODE: Slinky. Glimpses of bare skin just under the boned bandeau top and a skirt formed by long triangles of fabric make this silk organza gown (Angel Sanchez) a masterpiece of subtle sex appeal. "It is so sensual and elegant," Maestro says. "Earth tones - red, orange - are my colors." Earrings, Roxanne Assoulin for Lee Angel. Shoes, BCBGirls. On him: Suit, Calvin Klein. Shirt and shoes, Gucci.

> DANCING MAKES MIA JUMP FOR JOY. Literally, but crowded clubs are not her milieu. "I like dancing at a friend's house, where there is room to move and relax." Amny music "with a groove" - from Pierce to punk - gets the Argentine actress going.

SUMMER DRESS CODE: Fresh. The multiple black straps on this seashell draped jersey knockout (Celine) remind us of a ballet wrap top, but there is also a Grecian tunic feeling. "The most important thing is comfort," Maestro says, and we think she has her priorities right. That's why the flexible, inexpensive ballet shoes she's wearing (Gispario) are such a great high-heel alternative for evening - we like the way they bring a party dress down to earth and allow you to dance painlessly for hours. Earring, Irene Neuwirth.>



MIA MAESTRO

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ANIKA NONI ROSE

< "WHEN I TOOK BALLET AT THE AGE OF 8, I hated it. There was a lot of "Tuck your butt in! Well, my butt doesn't go in," says the singer-actress who was Lorrell in *Dreamgirls* and a Tony winner for *Caroline, or Change* in 2004; new projects include *One Fast, One Super* with Danny DeVito and the miniseries *The Starter Wife*. Rose is a self-proclaimed salsa fiend but says, "That doesn't mean I'm great at it; it just means I really like it."

SUMMER DRESS CODE: Tropical. The exotic silk print halter neck (Roberto Cavalli) plays up her lath figure; the long wrap skirt leaves legs free to move. For going out, Rose likes things that are feminine "without going overboard," and cute heels like these bronze Manolo Blahniks - "not too high, because I'm trying to make it through the night." Earrings, Irene Neuwirth.

> NOW THAT SHE HAS A 1-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER, the *L Word* Actress dresses mostly in what she calls bohemian washable - "whatever can be spilled or spit up on" - and does most of her social dancing with her family in the kitchen. "We put on Latin music and laugh. It's fun. It's liberating. Dance at its best really lets people experience who they are deeply."

SUMMER DRESS CODE: Playful. "I prefer things that are long and provide coverage but that also move and have color," Beals says. Not was her word for the red silk satin gown with a slit skirt and flamenco-ish ruffle (Dina Bar-El, \$460). A chiffon scarf tie on the shoulder adds even more fluidity. And if you're wondering what lies beneath, a strapless-to-the-thigh bodysuit pretty much guarantees sleekness. Earrings, Annette Ferdinandsen. Necklace, Beal's own. Ring, Ippolita. Shoes, Gucci.

JENNIFER BEALS

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> WHEREVER THERE'S GOOD salsa - New York, Los Angeles, Miami, even Japan - "I'll show up," says the singer-actress, now in *Ugly Betty*. "It makes me feel happy and alive." Williams, whose next film is the independent *My Brother*, says that early training in ballet, modern, and tap gave her tremendous discipline, great posture ("You can tell a dancer by her carriage the minute she walks into a room"), and lasting inspiration from teachers "who have known me since I was 9. They've helped shape me."

SUMMER DRESS CODE: Curvy. This polka-dot silk chiffon halter (Dina Bar-EI, \$510) has great bust support, a wide, shapely waistband, and a flared skirt with plenty of room for hips and thighs to shake, rattle, and roll. "Flirty, kind of retro, fun," says Williams. "And perfect for salsa." Earring: David Yurman. Shoes: Christian Lacroix. Makeup: Sam Fine for samfine.com

> WHETHER IT'S WALTZING OR salsa-ing or "jumping up and down" at rock concerts, "dancing brings me a lot of release and a lot of joy," says the woman who plays Dr. Callie O'Malley (see *Torres*) on *Grey's Anatomy*. Her idea of heaven is being swept into a partner's arms while a salsa band plays. "You feel the beat in your legs, you feel it all over."

SUMMER DRESS CODE: Bold. Her strappy chiffon slipdress is romanced with a playful layer that flatteringly covers up and twirls (Tadashi, \$268). "I like styles that glide over the body and aren't tight in the wrong places," Ramirez says. "The fabric should stretch and flow when I move." And the intense color? "If you put on this dress, you'd better be ready to get noticed." Earrings: Romanne Assoulin for Lee Angel. Shoes: Rodd. On him: Suit, Calvin Klein. Shirt: Etro. Shoes: Calvin Klein Collection.>

VANESSA WILLIAMS

SARA RAMIREZ

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On him: John Varvatos white long-sleeve cotton shirt, \$225; Theory "Kramer" black pants, \$235; W. Kleinberg black belt with gold buckle, \$145; Barneys Co. Op black thin tie, \$45; Tod's "City Chic" black loafers, \$395; Oliver Peoples "Tycoon" black eyewear by Larry Light, \$250.

On Sonja (opposite): Yigal Azrouel gold and cream jacket with belt, \$1,635; Christian Louboutin white round-toe leather pump, \$495; Jackques Moue blue topaz ring, \$6,500.



Moschino black lace and chiffon slip dress with nude satin slip, \$1,865. Opposite: BCBG Max Azria sleeveless black silk dress, \$444; De Beers "Josephine Spring" diamond earrings, \$100,000, and ring, \$100,000.

Special thanks to Sonja Kinski, actress and photographer for Elite Special Projects.

Model: Alex P. at Boss Models.
Hair: Bertrand W. at Avant Groupe using Frederic Fekkai.
Makeup: Heather Currie for Designer Agency using M.A.C.
Manicurist: Lisa Jancho for Clutter Agency using L'Oréal.

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Spruced up

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Prada suit, \$1,520, shirt, \$260, and knit cardigan, \$515, all at Prada boutique, Beverly Hills. Paul Smith glasses. Prada tie. Estate by Robert Talbot pocket square. Prada shoes. Opposite: Yves Saint Laurent red caviar jacket, \$1,355, pants, \$435, shirt, \$265, all at Yves Saint Laurent Rive Gauche, Beverly Hills. Yves Saint Laurent tie and shoes.

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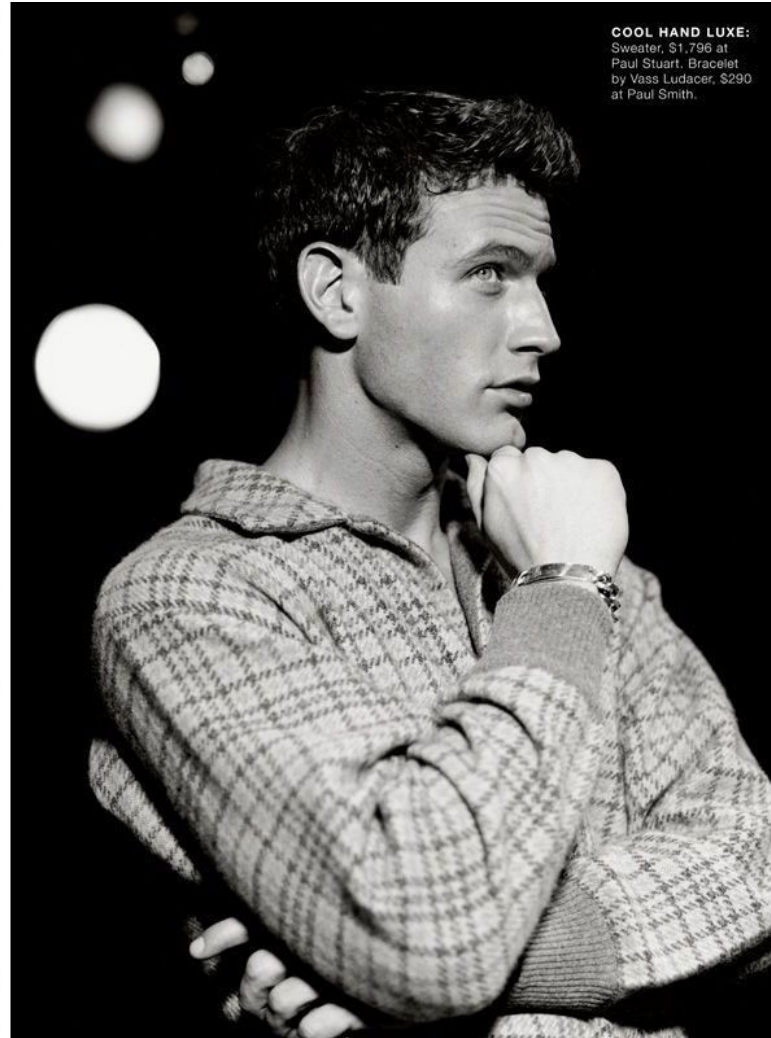
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COOL HAND LUXE:
Sweater, \$1,796 at
Paul Stuart. Bracelet
by Vass Ludacer, \$290
at Paul Smith.

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CASTING COUCH: Leather jacket, \$1,020, turtleneck, \$565 and pants, \$485, at Dolce & Gabbana. Belt by To-Boot by Adam Derrick, \$95 at Bergdorf Goodman and select Nordstroms. Shoes by Hilliger Collection exclusively at Tommy Hilliger Beverly Hills.

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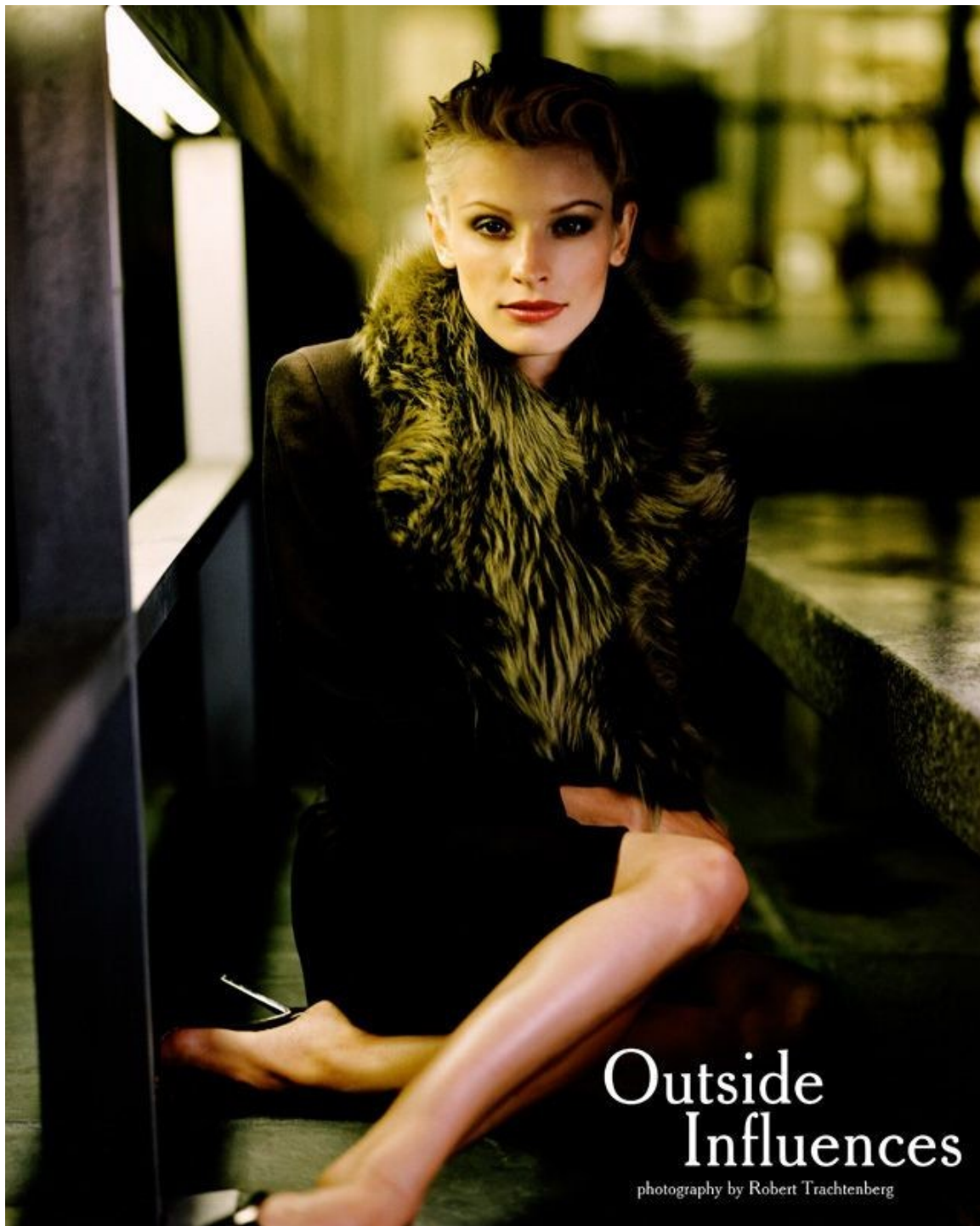
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