

LOS ANGELES CINEMA



MIA GOTH

TEXT ROBERTO CROCI
PHOTO MATHIS WIENAND/GETTY IMAGES

19 years old, quick thinker, a Rastafarian photographer as her granddad and a biography that's a world map. The perfect identikit of the young starlet of *Nymphomaniac*, the highly anticipated film by Lars Von Trier



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SCROLL VERTICALLY TO READ THE TEXT

MIA GOTH

WE MEET AT MILK, THE BEST JOINT-SNACK BAR OF WEST HOLLYWOOD, ESPECIALLY IF YOU FANCY AN ICE-CREAM OR SOMETHING SWEET - HIGHLY RECOMMENDED: ICE CREAM SANDWICHES, NY CINNAMON CHEESECAKE AND THE HARD TO DEFINE OOY-GOOEY DOUBLE-CHOCOLATE COOKIES.

I don't know her at all (I always want to be surprised by those who I interview), I don't know who she is, nor what she looks like (blonde, brunette, tall, short), nor the caliber of her work. Which is why my gaze is falling onto any girl that walks in or out, or that comes close to me.

"Is that you Roberto?", I hear from a softly spoken voice.

"Yes, how did you guess?"

"There are 3 girls, and two teenagers, you are the only one...."

"One what?". What did she mean? No, peeps, she didn't mean old, octogenarian, or middle aged, it's just that... Mia Goth (19 years old), young urban girl, energetic, enthusiastic and dead cute, is perceptive, quick thinker, much more mature than her years.

"The only one who looks Italian".

Smart, this young girl, all said with a London accent and a Portuguese inflection, her mother tongue. Mia Goth, brown hair, two freckles on her nose and on her cheeks, full lips à-la Bardot, is one of the new faces of Hollywood, emerging actress in the latest Lars Von Trier's movie, the controversial and highly anticipated *Nymphomaniac* next to her boyfriend Shia LaBeouf, with Charlotte Gainsbourg, Willem Dafoe, Uma Thurman and Stellan Skarsgard. Cosmopolitan, born in London, raised between Rio De Janeiro and Canada, Mia is spotted as a model at 15 by the photographer Gemma Booth, who makes her sign a contract with the agency Storm.

WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

Now in Los Angeles, in the San Fernando Valley.

HOW DOES YOUR DAY START IN L.A.?

I wake up, coffee, then a nice swim in the open, under the sun and the palms. As a Londoner, I find the Californian climate a divine blessing. Since I've lived in L.A. I've been physically more active, after swimming, I go running. When I'm in London, all I want to do is stay in bed and eat mushroom pie.

HOW DID YOU END UP IN RIO?

My mother met my father in Ipanema and she fell pregnant very young, she was barely twenty years old. When I was five, we moved to London,



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but she hated that climate, and after a few months we moved to Canada, to live with my dad. It is was a dreadful idea, their relationship would always be a disaster. Rio is a wonderful place where the human relations are more important than your social status, people want to be together, live creatively. At weekends, people meet in the street and discuss opinions, life experiences. A very different environment from London or Paris, where everyone lives a bit for themselves. I have never had the opportunity of having a set group of friends, my accent kept changing as a result, it has always been a mix of different cultures. Even the local terms have been a bit of an issue for me: I remember once I was at school in Canada, I asked my classmate to pass me the rubber... I meant it as an actual rubber, he thought I meant a condom! Despite everything, I am happy that I was raised like a vagabond, I wouldn't change my experiences for anything in the world: my full name is Mia Gipsy, I inherited it from my grandfather.

AND WHAT DOES YOUR GRANDFATHER DO?

He is an artist, a New York photographer, born in the Bronx from a Jewish family. He has always played the harmonica really well and in the early Seventies he decided to move to Brazil. He was a good friend of the film director Neville d'Almeida and the artist Hélio Oiticica. When he went back to New York in 1971 he collaborated with Vito Acconci and Gordon Matta-Clark. The following year, he met Bob Marley, who wasn't famous in those days, and has followed him in Jamaica. Over there, he became a Rastafarian and has played with the Wailers, taking pictures of the band



for years. He has also produced *Legalize it* by Peter Tosh and taken the famous picture on the album cover. The lyrics of *Natural Mystic* talk about my granddad, who now lives in Venice.

WHY DID YOU WANT TO BECOME AN ACTRESS?

As an actress, I use my body as an instrument. It is an interesting relationship between mind and body, expression and creativity. After my first jobs as a model, I was asked if I wanted to do some auditions to act. I always received positive feedback, but no one was interested in giving me work, they didn't know me. After several rejections, I stopped feeling in a rush, I decided to finish my studies. The same day of my graduation I had my first appointment with Lars.

WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO WORK WITH HIM?

I have never had issues with nudity or sex scenes, I was more concerned about being unable to act. On a project like that, you need to give 110% of yourself, believe in your abilities. The film is very poetic. Lars has invented a new cinematic language, that's called digressionism, inspired by Marcel Proust, where the emphasis of the character is not on yourself but on what people see of you. An interesting concept, as if someone read your story in real time. The most beautiful experience of my life, with my first gig!

OTHER FILM DIRECTORS YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONFRONT YOURSELF WITH?

All of those who look for strong women in their films. Almodovar, Paul Thomas Anderson, Alejandro González Iñárritu: *Amores perros* is one of my favourite films.

DO YOU HAVE ANY FLAWS?

I am totally uncoordinated. I am learning to drive and I struggle to distinguish left from right. I need to put some post-its on my dashboard, hoping to pass the exam.

WHAT SCARES YOU?

If I am home alone, any sound, especially if they wake me up at night. I am scared of becoming old on my own, I would like a man by my side when I'm 80, to hold and to hug. When I see old couples that hold hands, I am totally moved, it is a very sweet image that follows me around often. Everyone wants that from life. ●

