

A HALF-HOUR WITH...

ROSARIO DAWSON

The fashion lover and star of the new Sin City sequel talks wardrobe mishaps, mother-daughter bonding and why she'll always be a New Yorker at heart



STYLE SINS

At the beginning of my career, I would be doing these films where I was super glamorous and then I would show up at the premiere wearing my glasses and a skirt I got at a thrift shop! [Laughs] I just slicked my hair back and kind of put on lipstick and smiled. I never really computed being smarter about it and really enjoying what that red-carpet experience was, which I do a lot more now. I understand now it's playing dress-up and it's really fun!



WONDER WOMEN

My mother was 17 when she had me, so we're really close in age and we have a communication that I think is really amazing. She's going through menopause right now and I'm like, "What's that like?" You never know how much time you have with people and I am just really grateful I've got to spend so much time with her.



STAY-CATION

I took my mom to Africa for her 50th birthday and she was supposed to be there for a week but she stayed for three months, travelling and volunteering. When I went back to the same villages on my own, the locals asked, "Where's big mama?" [Laughs]

WORLD-CLASS WARDROBE

My closet is very eclectic but it's not too messy. I grew up watching Punky Brewster, so there are a lot of colours and patterns. Because I spent more time in Europe over the past couple of years, I have a lot of black clothes now, which I never had before. That's one of my favourite things about being in Paris actually. You'll see entire shop windows in all black. I've never seen anything like it before. H



REPORT: JULIA SEIDL

NEW YORK MINUTE

When we caught up with Rosario at the Tide Pods after-party for designer Tracy Reese, the native New Yorker, 34, revealed the role the city has played in her life.



THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

"As a kid, one of my favourite pastimes was just to get out of the neighbourhood and walk. I would walk with my friend up to Fifth Avenue and look in windows and just fantasize. It was a lifestyle that seemed totally untouchable. Now it's just kind of incredible to be wearing these beautiful clothes and being able to pass them on to my friends and family."

MELTING POT

The star, who is of Puerto Rican, Afro-Cuban, native American and Irish descent, has a keen ear for languages. "Growing up on the Lower East Side, within a five-block radius you could hear every accent."

MADE IN MANHATTAN

Discovered at age 15 on her 13th Street stoop, Rosario has credited her New York address with her first big break. "The neighbourhood helped me have a career and see the world." She pays it forward by involving herself with a charity, the Lower East Side Girls Club.

N.Y.C. VS. L.A.

"I'm moving back to New York in the fall. I like the weather. I've been in L.A. for the past nine years and it's beautiful having sunshine all the time. I'm not complaining, but the past nine years have felt like one long year!

BEAUTY BEAT

NATURAL WOMAN

"I started acting at 15, so I've always had people doing my hair and makeup. One of the reasons I'm low-maintenance is



because I'm pretty terrible at doing my own hair and makeup."

LEARNING CURVE

"I travel a lot so my main goal is making sure I wash my face before I go to bed. It's not something I did very well in my 20s!"

BACK TO BASICS

"My grandma and my mom are so beautiful, and if I want to have that kind of skin, I have to take care of it. Moisturize, drink lots of water and get a good sleep. It's the basics, but it's really true."



CLOCKWISE (FROM BOTTOM RIGHT): KAJO MERKERT/GETTY IMAGES; KAJO MERKERT/GETTY IMAGES; DUAMILLA ROSA COCHRAN/WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES; EVERETT/CP; MICHAEL SIMON/STARTRAKS; MICHAEL BUCKNER/GETTY IMAGES; ISTOCK