

## **POP - fall/winter 2005**

Photography: Mert Alas and Marcus Piggott

Interview and fashion direction: Katie Grand

### **Lucky Drew**

Drew Barrymore is Hollywood's greatest living heroine. She's the only child star to suffer the extremes of pre-teen fame and come through it all unscathed. Having learnt so much so young, at only 30 she's a multifaceted marvel: movie producer, prolific screen icon and - still, schedule permitting - wild child. Here she indulges in some cinematic role-play with Mert and Marcus, and talks honestly about feeling vulnerable, lovebites, and her rock'n'roll boyfriend.

*So, Drew, how are you? What are you doing in LA at the moment?*

This is the first week I've had off in quite a few years, so I'm just doing things I've wanted to do for ages. Like clean out my closet.

*It's nice when you have so little to do that you get bored and have to arrange things.*

Yes - I'm kind of a workaholic, and I made a promise to myself to take time off. This film I just finished, *Lucky You*, left me so tired, my brain just shut down. It was really challenging for me 'cause I had to sing in it, and that's a huge fear of mine - I'm the person who's always being asked to stop singing. On one job I was supposed to sing and they told me I was the worst singer they'd ever heard. But you just have to face your fears sometimes. So I had to sing. I trained for five months on weekends and after work.

*And would Fabrizio [Moretti, her boyfriend and member of The Strokes] play the drums along with you?*

You know, he helped me a lot. He'd help me figure out what notes I could sing for each word, so that I could approach each session with my voice coach with new intelligence.

*Did you sing along to Strokes songs?*

No, I stuck to country music 'cause that's what my character in the film sings. Dolly Parton, Tammy Wynette, Loretta Lynn. I listened to a lot of Marilyn Monroe - I love her singing voice, it's so beautiful, so charismatic and sensual. This whole process made me appreciate what an art singing is. It's like when I went to see Cirque du Soleil when I was training for *Charlie's Angels* - it was the same feeling. Watching those contortionists' strength and stamina - it made me realize their beauty and power... I had always run away from the physical - I'm much more about the emotional.

*You said in your biography that you quite often felt unattractive and out of place. I wondered if that feeling of vulnerability was something you'd taken to the first film you produced, *Never Been Kissed*.*

Absolutely. In whatever world you're in - art, literary, fashion, film, or music - you can feel really vulnerable, especially if you're out of place, awkward, uncomfortable in your skin, exposed in any way. And I know it's exactly the same feeling you get in any small town or any high school. Feeling like you can't fit in with people, noticing they don't invite you in, so you start wondering, 'What's wrong with me?' You're vaguely aware that people have this idea of something that's correct and beautiful and pristine and graceful - but you're something other.

*It must have been especially difficult for you as a kid. It's hard enough being 11 years old, let alone going off and making a huge movie like ET...*

As my therapist says, 'Shit slides down-stream.' When you're a kid, you just feel like shit, facing this weird little battlefield that you have to walk through in order just to earn your space. But that's cool, because we all have to go through it.

*Do you have any regrets about any of that time in your life?*

No. Although it's hard not to have regrets because you expect yourself to be this unscarred, beautiful, pristine, virginal perfect being that has no emotional scars. But it's your baggage that makes you who you are - you have to embrace it, otherwise you end up kicking and screaming about something you can't change.

*You've done all these things - made over 50 movies, been in rehab at the age of 13, set up your own company - and you've only just turned 30. Does that feel amazing?*

It does, although I'm very hard on myself. I always feel it's not enough and that inspires me to do more. For the first time in my life I'm taking some time off so I can look around and see which direction I want to go in. I have this little Post-it on my window that says, 'Stop and smell the roses', because that's something I'm not very good at.

*Are you going on holiday?*

Yes. I actually am. My friend's going to Greece... I'll probably end up on the deck drinking white wine and reading. And I love to explore. I'm not afraid to be by myself, so I'll always go off and do something alone.

*That independence is something you learn as you get older, isn't it? When I was a kid I never wanted to be on my own...*

When I was growing up, kids that had a strong family unit always seemed to be more independent, because they knew they could fly away from the nest and come back and it would still be there. Whereas I always felt a little bit scattered so I was intimidated about going places on my own. I grew up so fast - I had my own apartment when I was 14 and I've been living on my own ever since. But it wasn't until my twenties that I'd travel by myself. It wasn't till then that if I wanted to do something, I'd just go do it instead of waiting for someone else to do it with me. I've always loved eating alone - I'm not that social! And I'll go to movies by myself too.

*Do you remember the first film you went to see on your own?*

Not the movie, but I was in New York and I was like 11. I can remember walking to the theatre and sitting down and having a cigarette while I watched it.

*Oh, you were so wild!*  
I know! And I loved it.

*I think every kid growing up wanted to be you. Or at least I did.*  
That's funny, 'cause I was such a prime example of what not to be!

*But when you're young you feel you only have a few years to be wild, because once you hit 20 you won't be allowed to do it any more.*

Yeah. But I think that led me to have such a solid work ethic. 'Cause there was a time when people thought that I wasn't professional, and that just killed me - 'cause whatever I did in my personal life, it never affected my work. No matter how much fun I'm having, I'm very diligent about work. But I still like to have a good time!

*A lot of people who go through addictions end up in rehab and come out the other end having to totally abstain and become the opposite of who they were.*

Yeah, exactly - all or nothing. I hate that. I'm trying to find the happy medium. I love working out and sweating, and then having a beer. I love learning and laughing; exercising and then doing things you're not supposed to. I love going to rock shows and slamming a shot down and screaming at the top of my lungs - that is so much fun! Halloween is my favourite holiday, because you get to be the freak that you really are and celebrate it - we should have more days like that. But then I also like the diligent business, the work ethic, turning up on time and being professional.

*There's a definite point where the perception of you changed from being this out-of-control girl to an A-list celebrity with everything under control. How did that happen?*

I know exactly how it happened. I realised how much I loved my job and how much I appreciated what I had. I didn't know what I wanted when I was growing up so it was OK to be all over the place. But then I saw it taking the things I really wanted away from me. Nobody was calling. I knew I had to take responsibility and start making films that were more challenging than what I'd been doing.

*What films had you been doing then?*

Oh, you know, Poison Ivy and The Amy Fisher Story... So I realised I was not a little girl any more and had to do things with more maturity. And when I started to work again I realised how much I loved the whole process - casting, writing, directing, everything - and I wanted to be a part of that. So I set up a movie production company [Flower Films] and my partner [Nancy Juvonen] and I, we hit the books and laid low for two years. It was like we were at college, although I kept working as an actor. We started working on films like *Scream*. We met Adam Sandler and his friends - they had their own company and were doing things exactly how we wanted to do them. And after all those years of research we got our deal and made our first film *Never Been Kissed*. Then we had this crazy idea of doing *Charlie's Angels* straight after. That was really intimidating but we were like, we're going to fucking do this and have fun with it.

*Everyone was so cynical about that film...*

When we were making it, yeah. But me and Nan were like, fuck it - all that matters is that we make a good film. We had a fucking blast doing it, despite all that shit. And then we did Donnie Darko.

*Which is just amazing.*

Thank you. My partner found that and showed it to me, like, 'Let's go and make something small' after this big-budget movie which was so much under the public eye.

*You know, I was probably more nervous about meeting you than a lot of people, because you're such a hero of mine. And it was so cool when you turned up with your boyfriend and you had these huge lovebites - it was the most rock'n'roll shoot I'd done for years.*

Rock'n'roll?! I feel like I'm just the biggest dork. I've got these big old boobs, I feel like I'm always about to fall over - I always say the wrong thing at the wrong time, or am way too excited about things when everyone else is playing it cool. So it's so funny to hear that - I so do not see myself that way.

*That was a great shoot - Fabrizio next door gambling and us all drinking pink cham-pagne. Usually shoots are so straightlaced.*

I think Fabrizio is the rock'n'roll one. I'm more like, I have to be professional,' and he'll go, 'Fuck it babe, have some fun!' But he does have the most diligent work ethic. When he was training me to sing he was harder than any coach I'd ever had. He's got the balance right - he has so much fun, he's totally himself...

*Were you a fan of his?*

Yeah, that is sort of embarrassing... I was such a dumbass when I met him. I went up to him and was way too enthusiastic, like, I like your band so much, I love your music, it is so important, you have done such a wonderful thing for this world...' And inside my head I was like, 'You blew it big time.' Typical me, typical Overdo-It Girl. So I just walked away very embarrassed and I watched him play and I was like 'Oh my God - as embarrassing as that first episode was, I have to go find him.' And something went right, 'cause we've been together over three years now. I love him so much. And had I not been brave enough to make a fool out of myself or take a risk, I wouldn't have that in my life, so fuck embarrassment.

*And did he ask you out on a formal date?*

No, fuck that, I asked him out! I called him, you know, and then it went back and forth and you chase them and they chase you and you fall in love with each other. But I can't imagine being afraid to take that first step.

*Finally... what's your favourite colour?*

The rainbow. OK, that's so like extremely lame, but I just love all colours! This is where Fabi would have a field day teasing me, but it's true. In fact, I'm staring at a rainbow that I painted right now.

*On your wall?*

Er, mm, no... I painted it on my tape recorder, actually... so there you go!