

# InStyle

## Fall's Best Looks

CLOTHES YOU'LL LOVE TO WEAR

## SEXY 2007

Most Revealing Star Photos *Ever*

Look Thinner In Your Clothes

# Hottest Trends

YOUR GUIDE TO MAKING THEM WORK

Great HAIR At Every Age

**Gwen!**  
A Hot Husband, Amazing Style & That Super-Cute Kid

September 2007 InStyle.com

\$3.99US



0 92567 10645 5

**InStyle**



“  
I’m a geeky  
Orange  
County girl,  
a chola girl,  
a rasta  
girl and an  
English girl—  
all mixed  
together.”

—GWEN STEFANI

 **Video!** Go behind the scenes of Gwen Stefani's cover shoot at [instyle.com/gwen](http://instyle.com/gwen)

LAMB jacket, shirt and pants. Paul Smith tie. Balenciaga shoes.

# the sweet life



*She has got it all—hit records, a hot clothing line, and a rocker husband who cooks for her. No doubt about it: **GWEN STEFANI** is living it up, especially when she's just hanging out backstage with baby Kingston*

written by JANCEE DUNN • photographed by ROBERT ERDMANN  
styled by FREDDIE LEIBA



**NO REST FOR  
THE WICKED COOL**

"I go from the tour bus to the hotel room to the concert venue—all while carrying my baby," Stefani says. LAMB wool turtleneck. Gucci stretch-leather pants and leather booties. Jewelry, her own. All furniture from Kartell in Los Angeles.

#### AT A RECENT STOP ON GWEN STEFANI'S

Sweet Escape tour, the center of attention is making quite a scene backstage. Shrieks pierce the air. Objects are flying. It's not Gwen, of course. It's 1-year-old Kingston, who is happily flinging his toys around the room. Stefani has brought her son along on the tour, and he has adapted admirably to road life. "Although this morning he woke up at 6," she says. "And I was like, 'OK, I'm going to die right now.' I definitely don't get enough sleep, but I'd rather spend time with him. I've got this extra-fun, amazing little guy who just wants to hang out with me."

Usually, backstage rooms are fetid, depressing affairs, but not this one. You'd never know it was in an Omaha, Neb., arena. It's done up in crisp black-and-white: The walls are papered with a graphic pattern, the chic sofa is black, and a huge vase of white lilies sits on the coffee table. Kingston's adjoining room is decorated with light-blue checkered fabric, and his crib is piled with a rainbow of stuffed animals.

"I really do have it luxurious out here," Stefani says happily. As she reclines in a chair, the 37-year-old looks effortlessly glamorous, a Horst photo come to life. She wears a fitted red-and-blue striped blazer from her LAMB clothing line, dark skinny jeans with

a high waist, and vertiginous caramel-colored stiletto heels. Everything about her glows and gleams: her platinum hair gathered in a ponytail, her ruby manicure, her creamy skin, the jeweled ring on her finger. Today, only two thirds of the family is here: While her husband, Brit rocker Gavin Rossdale, often comes to Stefani's shows, he's at home in Los Angeles working on a solo album. (The couple recently traded in their Los Feliz digs for a Beverly Hills mansion that was formerly owned by Jennifer Lopez.)

Stefani grins as Kingston spots her visitor and lurches over with a sunny smile. He's wearing blue pants and a pink-and-white checkered shirt ("His father bought him that," she observes drily). A happy child with ginger curls and his mother's dark eyes, he attempts a wobbly walk. Stefani picks him up and summons the nanny. "We won't get anything done otherwise," she says as he begins to wail. "He has always been easygoing and chill, but now he's going through a real clingy phase."

The singer turns her attention to a pile of new hand-bag samples from LAMB. "I'm so excited about these," she says. Stefani is the girliest girl imaginable. It looks for a moment as though she's going to toss them giddily into the air. She pulls out a green bag with gold



**GWENNY FROM THE BLOCK**

"I just bought a new house," Stefani says of her Beverly Hills crib, once owned by another multitasking music star: Jennifer Lopez. "I can't wait to work on it." Vera Wang silk-cotton top and wool skirt. Hue tights. Balenciaga leather platforms.

## JUST A TOMBOY

"When I started out, I was girly from the neck up, but I dressed more tomboyish," Stefani recalls. "No Doubt played with a lot of guy bands. I had to compete." Burberry Prorsum leather trench. Hue tights. Balenciaga leather platforms.

studs. "This looks disgusting," she says (translation: It's gorgeous). As Stefani rummages through the pile, Akon, the controversial rapper who is her opening act, wanders into the room and seizes the green one. "Yo, this is crazy. These bags are just so classy, man," he says. "This is so dope."

"It's sick!" Stefani cries. LAMB, launched in 2004, was a monster from the get-go, grossing \$100 million over the last four years. The latest addition to the empire is Stefani's first fragrance, out this month, called L (short for "LAMB" and "love"). A beguiling mixture of rose, lily of the valley, and sweet pea (like the ones her mother grew in her backyard), the scent was designed to be fresh, clean and feminine. "I wanted to be strict about making sure that I'd really wear it," she says. "I don't want to lie and say, 'It's great.' Same with the clothes—I'm doing it for me."

And the juggernaut rolls on: Soon LAMB will launch denim, watches and shoes. "I never thought I'd get in this deep," Stefani says. "Like, I'm panicked." Still, it's all part of a larger plan. Although she continues to crank out hits like "4 in the Morning," she has started designing for the next phase of her life. "I wanted to do something creative that wasn't music because I don't think I can do that forever. I'm already



It's awesome to look out at my audience and see all these little girls with their parents—and they're all really into it."

in shock that they let me do music this long," says the singer, who had her first hit with No Doubt in 1995 (their album *Tragic Kingdom* sold 16 million copies worldwide).

For Stefani, music and fashion have always been intertwined. She grew up in Anaheim, Calif., the second of four children. Her father, Dennis, was a Yamaha marketing executive, her mother, Patti, a homemaker who nurtured Stefani's interest in making clothes. A good Catholic girl, she held tightly to her femininity even as she stomped around the stage in Doc Martens. "I'm the girl who would wear baggy jeans but didn't forget to put on tons of makeup," she says, recalling her distinctive look from the band's breakout video for "Just a Girl."

Stefani served as frontwoman for 17 years, seven of which were spent dating bandmate Tony Kanal (their breakup inspired several hit songs, including "Don't Speak"). In 1995 she met Rossdale when No Doubt opened on tour for Bush, the British rock act he fronted. She was instantly smitten, and they married seven years later. In 2004 she went solo for the exuberant dance disc *Love Angel Music Baby* and during the tour, the performer discovered she was pregnant. She kept her secret from the audience, but as she grew larger and her breath grew shorter, she struggled to change into nine costumes a night. Often she would burst into tears before going onstage. "It was terrible," she says. "I was bloated, and I just felt so gross."

But in comparison this tour has been "shockingly fun," says the new mother, in no small part because it's a family affair. Before her shows, she sings lullabies like "Twinkle, Twinkle" to her son as she puts him to bed. "But he sings a lot to himself," she says. "He's just getting into music. He does the whole head-bouncing thing." She sighs. "I love him so much. He's the best thing that has ever happened to me."

And because Kingston's along for the ride, she and Rossdale haven't missed any milestones, though they




don't party like most rock stars. For Mother's Day, they attended a brunch—complete with ice swans on the buffet table—at the golf resort where they were staying. For Kingston's first birthday, they celebrated at Otto, Mario Batali's haute pizzeria in New York City. "My parents flew out, and Kingston had pizza; it was really cute," she says. "My parents live for kids. That's all they really care about."

"When you meet Gwen's family and you see where she comes from, she's exactly the product of that," says Stefani's longtime friend Vicki Iovine, author of

#### DESIGNING WOMAN

"I used to make my own costumes," recalls Stefani. "I was never good with zippers, so I'd use Velcro." Chanel jersey dress.



A full-page photograph of Stefani Germano. She is sitting on a clear, faceted acrylic block. She has long, straight blonde hair and is looking off to the side with a thoughtful expression, her hand resting under her chin. She is wearing a dark, double-breasted jacket with large buttons, a dark skirt with a subtle pattern, black tights, and black high-heeled boots. The background is a simple, light-colored wall with a vertical shadow line.

I could never  
get a tattoo!  
I don't want to  
commit to anything  
if I don't know  
how it's going to  
look in 10 years."

**CLOTHES ATTACHMENT**

"I just cleaned my closet and gave away tons of clothes to my friends," says Stefani. "It looks underfed now. It's so sad."  
LAMB wool jacket and polyester skirt. Hue tights. Gucci booties.

*The Girlfriends' Guide to Pregnancy* series. "Her parents are traditional people of faith whose adult children are still very close to them."

Stefani fully plans on giving her folks more grandchildren. "Obviously I'm in a race to have another, but I don't want to do it while on tour," she says. "And I want to do another No Doubt record. But I can't wait to get pregnant again. It's so fun and consuming and romantic." Rossdale, she says, has fully embraced fatherhood. "He's super into being a dad," she says. He has also mastered another domestic art: "He's a creative cook," she attests. "He makes whatever I crave, even when nothing seems to be left in the fridge."

Cooking is one of the few things she *can't* do. "When I was backstage at her L.A. show," recalls Iovine, "out stepped Gwen looking magnificent—and she'd just nursed the baby! Hello! She's bigger than life. How about: 'I can bring home the bacon, fry it up in a pan, and do it in 7-inch platforms and nurse a baby in one hand.'" She laughs. "Gwen's no ordinary human being, but she's a *real* human being."

It's true: Even with her incandescent star quality, there's still something of the nice O.C. mall girl, who will slip you an extra Froyo at the food court, in Stefani. Her onstage persona is flirty, but it never strays into raunch. "Everyone's in such a rush to show they're sexy," she says. "Anyone can be sexy. We all have the same body parts. It's pretty boring." She shrugs. "Life's not so short that you need to give it all away in five seconds. That was never my thing."

Instead, she went for more innocent pleasures. As a kid, she would race home from school with her friends, eager to play dress-up. "I've always loved beauty. I was the girl who was like, 'Ask your mom if we can play with clothes or makeup,'" she says. "I could do that for hours. And you know what? I'm doing the same thing now that I was doing when I was 10." ■

# Gwen Stefani's On-the-Road Essentials

**Germ patrol, part 1** "I need flip-flops for when I take a shower in an arena. The showers are horribly gross."

**Baby on board** "There's a crib for Kingston with his little sleepy-time things on my tour bus. It's pretty adorable. And there's also a big playpen with a gate so that he can sleep in there if he wants. It's perfect for me too—sometimes he plays in there with me if I want to lie down."

**No sweat** "I've had the same trainer, Mike Heatlie, for 12 years. He is the Superman of my tour—he also serves as my head of security and occasional nanny. Mike is Kingston's favorite! I've tried yoga and Pilates before, but I just prefer old-school fitness workouts. And I really get into it. We work out probably five times a week at least."

**Germ patrol, part 2** "Lots of Purell hand sanitizer. Oh, yes. I have to be careful. I have a sore throat now."

**Clearing the air** "It can get really smelly backstage, so I light Diptyque candles. They are the best."

**Instant replay** "I *have* to have my video camera. Kingston just took his first steps, and I've got it on video! We were in my dressing room, and one of the wardrobe girls asked me, 'When did this walking thing start?' And I was like, 'What are you talking about?' So we said, 'Come on, King—you've got to do it again!' And he took, like, four or five steps. My Pookie has also learned how to make a scrunchy face."

**You asked GWEN STEFANI on instyle.com:** What was your first fragrance? "Love's Baby Soft. Probably because it was the one that I saw over and over again in commercials. I've always been into beauty products. As a kid one of my favorite stores was Sav-On Drugs. I just loved the smell of L'Oréal lipstick."

