

marie claire

THE BIG
BEAUTY
ISSUE!

GWEN STEFANI

STILL RULES
THE WORLD
Rock Star +
Fashion Icon +
Businesswoman
+ Wife + Mom
=Blonde Badass

EASY FALL HAIR
& MAKEUP

LOOK AMAZING
HEAD TO TOE

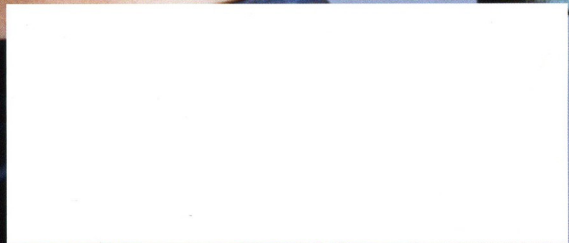
EAT SMARTER
FOR YOUR AGE

SEXY COOL CONFIDENT

SLEEPING
PILLS

The scary
side effects
no one
mentions

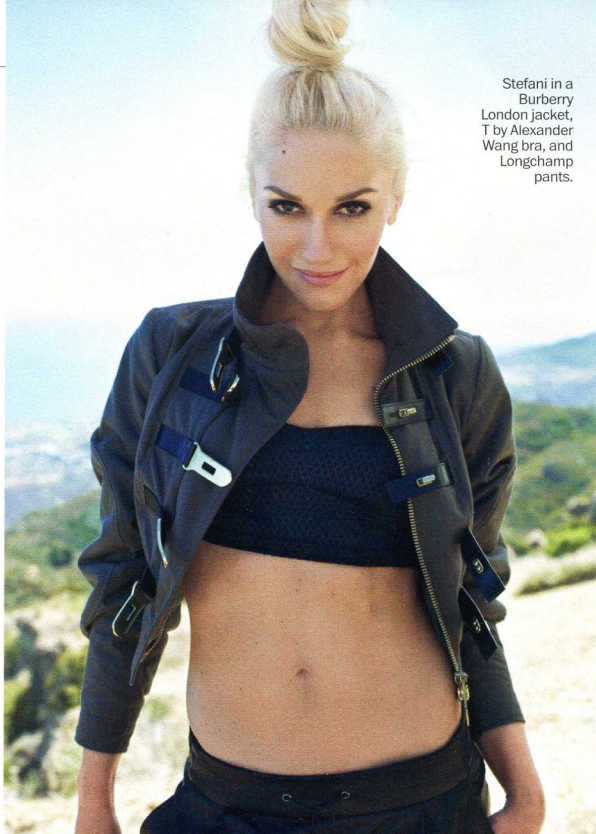
298 LOOKS
TO LIVE IN
GO-TO PIECES,
SHOES & BAGS
+ NEW TRENDS
TO TRY FOR
UNDER \$100



GWEN

With hair tied up and abs of steel bared, cover star **Gwen Stefani** prepares to take the world by storm, again

■ "Get in line and settle down!" If the chorus of No Doubt's debut single in nearly 10 years has a certain grade school ring to it, perhaps it's because the band's front woman, Gwen Stefani, now 42, spends her days wrangling two wild boys (sons Kingston, 6, and Zuma, 4). For the singer famous for her unbridled energy onstage, "settled down" is a new yet fitting description. At our photo shoot in the Malibu hills, she shied away from anything too see-through. Fur was also off-limits. "My entire band is vegan," she explained. "They would kill me!" An army-inspired mix of cargo pants and jackets set her at ease, while a tousled topknot felt quintessentially Gwen—fun with a glam twist. Onward, sister soldier. —Katie L. Connor



Stefani in a Burberry London jacket, T by Alexander Wang bra, and Longchamp pants.

SHOP THE COVER SHOOT *gwen stefani*

1. **Watch** \$55, Timex; nordstrom.com. 2. **Boots** \$99.90, Zara; zara.com. 3. **Hat** \$175, DSquared2 at Luisa Via Roma; luisaviaroma.com.
4. **Necklace** \$595, David Yurman; davidyurman.com. 5. **Bag** price upon request, Valentino Garavani; (212) 772-6969. 6. **Sunglasses** \$145, Ray-Ban at Mr Porter; mrporter.com. 7. **Cuff** price upon request, Akillis; akillis.fr for stores. 8. **Boots** \$2,995, Christian Louboutin; (212) 255-1910.

EMILIO PUCCI

STILL LIFES: COURTESY OF THE DESIGNERS. GWEN STENCILS & BAG: RICHARD MAUCHRZAK/STUDIO D. TOP RIGHT PHOTOGRAPH: PEGGY SIROYA. RUNWAY PHOTOGRAPHS: GORUNWAY.COM. VINTAGE GWEN STENCILS: \$20 FOR SET; ETSY.COM/SHOP/DIZHASNASTUFF

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fashion

>> Gwen Stefani:

A star more golden than ever

>> Brush up on geometry in the season's graphic coordinates

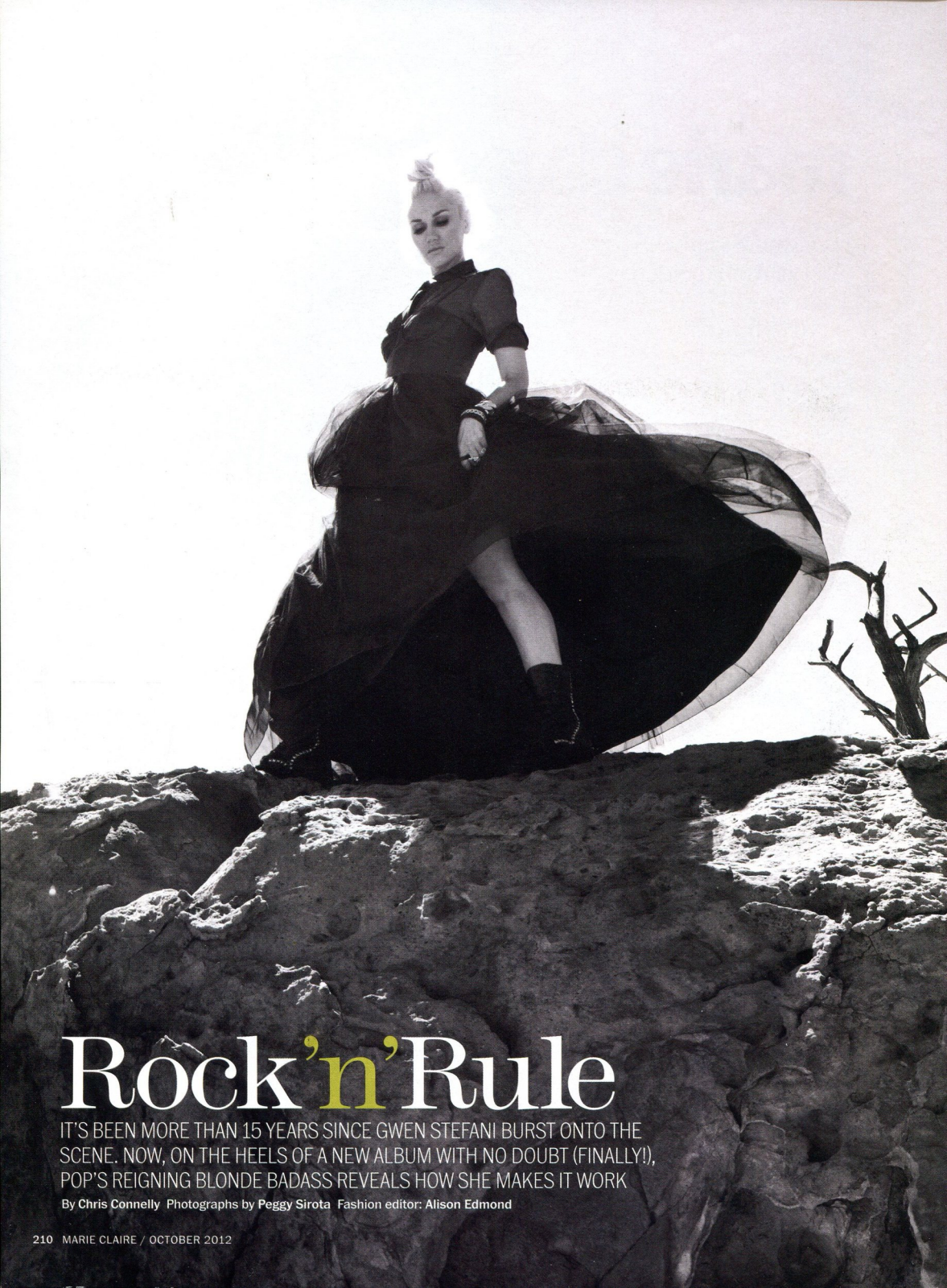
>> Follow the leather patterns to sleek days and sexy nights

>> True colors: Victoria Justice sheds her kiddie image for a bold new look

Top, \$1,295, Jason Wu; dress, \$997, Alice + Olivia by Stacey Bendet; cuff, \$70, Isabel Marant; ring with stone, \$750, Stephen Webster; black peaked ring, price upon request, Kanye West; diamond ring, Stefani's own.

For stores, see Shopping Directory.

Fashion director:
Nina Garcia



Rock'n'Rule

IT'S BEEN MORE THAN 15 YEARS SINCE GWEN STEFANI BURST ONTO THE SCENE. NOW, ON THE HEELS OF A NEW ALBUM WITH NO DOUBT (FINALLY!), POP'S REIGNING BLONDE BADASS REVEALS HOW SHE MAKES IT WORK

By Chris Connelly Photographs by Peggy Sirota Fashion editor: Alison Edmond



Earthenwear

Top, \$1,295, Jason Wu; dress, \$997, Alice + Olivia by Stacey Bendet; boots, \$290, Bess; woven silver bracelet, \$3,200, Hermès; black cuff, \$70, Isabel Marant; stone ring, \$750, Stephen Webster; black ring, price upon request, Kanye West; diamond ring, Stefani's own. On hair: L'Oréal Paris Elnett Satin Hairspray Extra Strong Hold Unscented.





Road Warrior

Jacket, price upon request, Belstaff; top, \$70, True Religion; pants, \$35, KSI NYC; boots, \$1,250, Giuseppe Zanotti Design; belt, \$1,171, Etro; black onyx dog tag necklace, \$595, silver dog tag necklace, \$450, textured dog tag necklace, \$625, chain necklace, price upon request, silver woven ring, \$450, David Yurman; cuff, \$242, Made Her Think; stone ring, \$520, Pamela Love; diamond ring, Stefani's own. On eyes: L'Oréal Paris Infallible Never Fail Lacquer Liner 24H in Blackest Black.

It's a steamy 80 degrees in West Hollywood, but Gwen Stefani rolls into the Soho House rocking a pink leather jacket and looking fresh as a flower as she sails up the baby-grand staircase with a familiar ease. Her family enjoys the occasional bite here—there's a playroom adjacent to the dining room, and Stefani's two boys, Hollywood's most famous junior hipsters Kingston and Zuma, run riot there in between bites. Closer up, she's a bit wobbly in her Jimmy Choos (all these years later and Stefani still struggles with stilettos) as she makes her way over to a sofa by a window overlooking the Sunset Strip, where, even as the 20-something front woman of No Doubt, she was “never allowed to come” by her overprotective parents.

Stefani slips off the jacket to reveal a black tee with its sleeves rolled up to the shoulders. The look is satisfyingly strong. She's still blonde-blond-blond, of course, scarlet-lipped and sleek-hipped, and with the checkerboard Rude Girl stick-on nails (“It's a new technology—there's no smell, no mess, no drying”), the look harkens back to the belly-baring boho Betty Grable that everyone remembers from No Doubt's early days: always appealing, never tawdry, fists up and feisty. The contrasts between how she lives now and her middle-class upbringing in Anaheim, some 30 miles south of Los Angeles, have never been lost on Stefani, now 42. Even after all these years in the spotlight, the platinum records and magazine covers, she still talks with the wide-eyed incredulity of a newly minted pop star. “I'm just an Orange County girl/living in an extraordinary world” is how she put it on her 2006 solo album, *The Sweet Escape*; today she whispers, “That someone let me in this place is crazy.”

And now, after a decade-long hiatus from No Doubt, during which Stefani notched a formidable solo career and parlayed her daring style into a fashion empire, not to mention the marriage to Bush lead singer Gavin Rossdale and the children who followed, Stefani has reunited with the band for *Push And Shove*, what she calls “my favorite record. I mean, your favorite record is always

“I WAS DEFINITELY SWIMMING UPSTREAM, TRYING TO BALANCE EVERYTHING THAT'S BEEN GOING ON WITH HAVING KIDS AND A FAMILY... EVERY DAY I FAIL AT SOMETHING.”

the last one you did, but it really is—it's a really great record.”

Stefani wrote many of the lyrics with longtime pal and ex-boyfriend Tony Kanal, No Doubt's bass player; nearly two decades ago, their breakup would uncork her creativity. Now with their friendship on solid ground, they again find themselves on the same page, especially with Kanal a new father. “There are a lot of feelings of being overworked, overwhelmed: ‘Can't we just slow this down? I can't enjoy everything because I'm doing too many things.’”

The guys in the band, Stefani says, “they all have kids and they all get it”—the demanding tour schedules that keep them from home, the constant push-pull of never wanting to disappoint. The last few years have been particularly grueling. “I was definitely swimming upstream,” she says, “trying to balance everything that's been going on with having kids and a family. There's no way to do all these things.”

All working moms have battle scars from their barely survived days. Stefani earned hers during the making of *Push And Shove*. “I would be up all night because my second baby [Zuma, now 4] didn't sleep, and he had a lot of ear infections. Then I'd wake up in the morning and do my workout, which I always felt I had to do, and then meetings for my three clothing lines, and then hang out with my kids, take them to preschool, da-da-da. And then at 4 o'clock, I'd be like, ‘All right, I'm out of here, I'm going to go to the studio’ and try to write a record. Sit on the couch [with my bandmates] and be like, ‘Let's do this now because I'm missing time with the kids; I could be having dinner with them and putting them to bed.’ It was really hard.”

There's no hint of complaining here. For Stefani, it's a simple litany of what she sees as obligations she wouldn't even consider dispatching to assistants. If anything, her words echo the chorus of so many working parents of young children: There aren't enough hours in the day.

“Every day I fail at something,” she laments. “Every day someone is suffering because I'm doing all these things.” >>



Hot Flash

Dress, \$997, Alice + Olivia
by Stacey Bendet; hood
(with jacket, not shown),
\$695, Rag & Bone.



Trunk Show

Vest, \$2,800, Donna Karan New York; dress, \$4,390, Naeem Khan; pants, \$268, Current/Elliott; boots, \$1,250, Jimmy Choo; belt, \$240, Bess; short chain necklace & tassel necklace, prices upon request, Hoorsenbuhs; pendant necklace, \$550, Lynn Ban. On Stefani's right arm and hand: Cuff, \$1,550, Hoorsenbuhs; spike cuff with ring, price upon request, Kanye West; arrow ring, \$225, Vita Fede; gold cat ring, price upon request, Sydney Evan. On Stefani's left arm and hand: Link bracelet, \$5,700, Hoorsenbuhs; bangle, \$750, Reed Krakoff; ring, price upon request, Kanye West.

For more from Gwen's interview and her most memorable looks, go to marieclaire.com/gwenstyle.

So she's downsized a little. Had to. "I've got myself in a lot of trouble by not saying no." The solo career? Buh-bye. Her weight? She's got a new approach: "This last year I kind of stopped working out. I think my body just needed a break. And so I did that, and focused more on feeling good as opposed to beating myself up." She's even eased up her efforts on her L.A.M.B. (Love, Angel, Music, Baby) fashion line. "I have learned to delegate. It still looks awesome, but did I pick out the buttons? No, I didn't. I missed the last two Fashion Weeks because they were when school started; I can't miss the first week of kindergarten."

For years, Stefani says she yearned to be a mother. Now she's got the challenge of rearing two high-energy boys just a few years apart in age. "From the moment they wake up," she says dryly, "they start beating on each other. I never knew they would be so physical. They're just starting to play real well together, but with a lot of fighting. They do look out for each other—especially the little one, he really loves his older brother."

September marked a decade since Stefani and Rossdale wed. Their union is ancient by Hollywood standards, though they've weathered their share of tabloid squalls: a blood test confirming that in the late '80s—well before Stefani entered the picture—Rossdale fathered Daisy Lowe, now a model/actress; the persistent rumors of infidelity and fighting. When asked what their landmark anniversary represents to her, Stefani's answer is immediate: "A miracle." After all she's done, "my biggest accomplishment is my marriage so far. Because it's hard, everyone knows it's hard." Marriage, she continues, "is something that I always wanted to do successfully. It was a dream of mine. I like the official-ness and the family-ness of it all, having the same name and making decisions together."

Their relationship "is better than it's ever been. Like, we're learning about each other all the time," she says. "He's an amazing dad, he works so hard—I can

"MY BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENT IS MY MARRIAGE SO FAR. BECAUSE IT'S HARD, EVERYONE KNOWS IT'S HARD... IT MAKES ME FEEL HAPPY THAT SOMEONE LIKES ME AS MUCH AS GAVIN DOES."

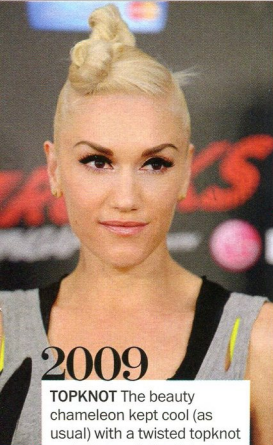
hear him writing songs through the wall, and it is at a much quicker pace than me!" Above all, she adds, "he balances me out. And he"—laughter now—"he never stops liking me, which is awesome! It makes me feel happy, that someone likes me as much as he does."

I mention that I spent part of the last night of 1999 with Rossdale, on a platform high above delirious revelers in Times Square for MTV's end-of-the-century show. "Oh, don't, dude," she says. "We picked the hardest song in the world to sing."

It's true: As the clock struck midnight, No Doubt launched into a version of R.E.M.'s wordy "It's the End of the World As We Know It." Making matters worse, Stefani was wearing braces on her teeth at the time. "My lips were getting caught," she says. "And I couldn't do it, and then I was, like, so embarrassed." So she locked herself in a closet crying until her then-boyfriend came to her aid. "He was like, 'Don't worry, nobody was watching you—they're all making out.'"

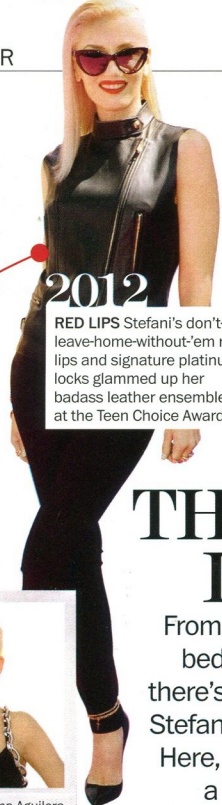
The sunny Stefani is not one to dwell on keen disappointments, but her tone changes when discussing the possibility of a third child. "I really, really, really wanted one about two years ago," she says quietly. "And it didn't really work out. So... I feel good with what we've got. Everything works out how it should. You can't plan anything, right? You can try." Even before she started a family, before the opportunities that success has brought and the spirit of gratitude that wreathes her still, Stefani had already learned a key lesson: the life-transforming power of telling your own story. "I can remember my dad listening to [my songs] on the way to work. One day he called me: 'OK, this is really good. Don't change anything you're doing, and just keep doing what you're doing.'"

"And it felt really good because before that I was..." She chuckles. "Just a girl. I was just a girl who was just in love with her boyfriend. I was so passive. Then I wrote these songs, and it was like, 'Oh, my gosh, this is passion, this is power. This is defining me.'" **mc**



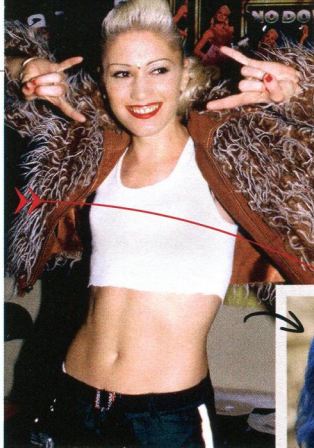
2009

TOPKNOT The beauty chameleon kept cool (as usual) with a twisted topknot and ultra-nude lipstick at a concert in Singapore.



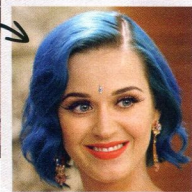
2012

RED LIPS Stefani's don't-leave-home-without-'em red lips and signature platinum locks glammed up her badass leather ensemble at the Teen Choice Awards.



1995

BINDI Stefani brought the traditional Hindu adornment to the masses when she sported one in No Doubt's music video for "Just a Girl."



Katy Perry in 2012

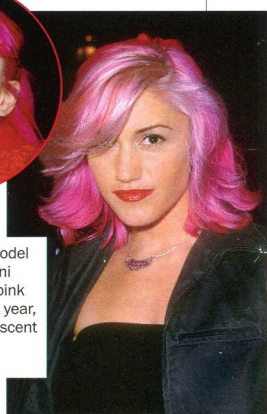
THE HIT LIST

From hot-pink hair to bedazzled bindis, there's no doubt: Gwen Stefani leads the pack. Here, the evolution of a beauty icon



1999

PINK HAIR Before model Charlotte Free, Stefani popularized the hot-pink hair trend. Later that year, she paired the fluorescent hue with a set of "statement" braces.



2007

RETRO GLAM Defined brows, a sultry cat eye, and a pompadour hair roll added '50s-rockabilly flair to a pair of high-waisted pants and crisp white button-down.

Christina Aguilera in 2010



2006

BLUNT BANGS The songstress rocked a full-fringed '70s-inspired wig on the red carpet at the American Music Awards.

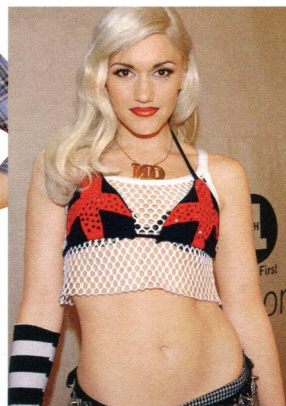


Nicki Minaj in 2011



2004

HARAJUKU For the debut of her solo album *Love. Angel. Music. Baby.*, Stefani topped off her Harajuku duds with a magenta lip and little-girl curls.



2001

VERONICA LAKE WAVES After years of experimenting with her cut and color, No Doubt's front woman opted for classic, super-glam finger waves at the VH1 Fashion Awards.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: JUN SATO/WIREIMAGE, ION KOBAL/GETTY IMAGES, TIM MOSENFELDER/GETTY IMAGES, AP PHOTO/AJAZ FAH, MARION CURTIS/ONYX/TIME LIFE PICTURES/GETTY IMAGES, S. GERTY/WIREIMAGE, KEVIN MAZUR/WIREIMAGE, STEPHEN LOVEKIN/FILMMAGIC, JOHN PARRA/WIREIMAGE, GEORGE PIMENTEL/WIREIMAGE, KEVIN MAZUR/WIREIMAGE, JEFF KRANTZ/FILMMAGIC