

MEGAN'S NEXT ADVENTURE



Australia's sexiest export chats about her new swimsuit label, acting and how she found her confidence

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thousands and thousands of words have been written about Megan Gale – on her beauty, her relationship with Andy Lee, her career, and yes, her ability to make men wilt. What more can we say about Perth's leading lady? Well, we can report that Megan is really funny, and not afraid to be the butt of her own jokes. Plus, she's really, really hot (well, you can see that for yourself)...

DRESS: \$480, KIRRILY JOHNSTON (02 9380 7775).
SWIMSUIT: \$179.95, ISOLA BY MEGAN GALE (02 8339 8222).
LONG NECKLACE: \$280, SYLVIE MARKOVINA FOR KIRRILY JOHNSTON (02 9380 7775).
SHORT NECKLACE: \$64.95, AND **BRACELETS:** \$54.95 EACH, ALL BY LEETHAL FASHION ACCESSORIES (03 9416 2269).
FULL RING: \$118, AND **HALF RING:** \$94, ALL BY DEJOIE (WWW.DEJOIE.COM.AU).

OPPOSITE PAGE
BODYSUIT: \$159.95, USCARI (02 9698 6683). **PANTS:** \$299, NATASHA (02 8204 1500).
WEDGES: \$750, MIU MIU AT DAVID JONES (13 33 57).
EARRINGS: \$159, PETER LANG (02 9319 7033). **CUFFS:** \$170 EACH, KIRRILY JOHNSTON (02 9380 7775). **RING:** \$99, DEJOIE (WWW.DEJOIE.COM.AU).





DRESS: \$169.95, MAURIE & EVE (02 9368 7711). **HEELS:** \$159.95, RMK AT DAVID JONES (13 33 57). **EARRINGS:** \$98, PETER LANG (02 9319 7033). **CUFF:** \$22.99, DIVA (DIVA.NET.AU).

OPPOSITE PAGE
DRESS: \$299, HARRY WHO (02 9326 2088). **HEELS:** \$199, COUNTRY ROAD (1800 801 911). **NECK CUFF:** \$400, MANIAMANIA (THE MANIAMANIA.COM). **BANGLES:** FROM \$70 EACH, ALL BY IT WAS ME (ITWASMECREATIONS.COM). **RINGS:** \$14.95 EACH, BOTH BY SPORTSGIRL (1300 250 100).

TELL US ABOUT YOUR NEW SWIMSUIT LABEL, ISOLA BY MEGAN GALE...

Seafolly approached me in 2008, and it's taken this long to get things off the ground. I began designing in September last year. It's really important to me to be very hands-on – I wanted to be across all the decisions and obviously involved in the creative process.

WHY WAS THAT SO IMPORTANT? It's one thing being the face of something, but it's completely different to call yourself a designer. I'm aware of how many people are out there studying to be a designer. I haven't studied design, but I've had almost two decades' experience in the fashion industry – and I think I've learnt a lot. I know where there

are gaps in the market, and I had a great team around me to help create my vision.

DESCRIBE THE LINE. It's for women who want sophisticated swimwear that fits perfectly. There are so many swimsuits that look great on models in magazines, but they don't look the same on regular women. That's so frustrating!

YOU'VE BEEN SO BUSY THIS YEAR – WHAT WAS IT LIKE ON THE SET OF I LOVE YOU TOO? It was great! I adore acting. It was an interesting process, to be given the responsibility of bringing a character to life.

IS IT SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE TO PURSUE FURTHER? Definitely. Without sounding corny, it's my

passion. It's something I really want to keep working on. I don't necessarily have to be a big Hollywood actress – it's not about that. It's about working on great projects with great people, and learning.

WITH ACTING, DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE STARTING ALL OVER AGAIN? I definitely feel like I'm starting all over again! And it's been so humbling. I did all that I could do with modelling, and I achieved everything I wanted to achieve. With acting, I am way down at the bottom of the ladder. I think it's good to step outside your comfort zone and challenge yourself. If you just keep doing the same thing, I think you lose a bit of life's excitement. ▸

“Step outside your comfort zone. If you keep doing the same thing, you lose life's excitement...”





DID YOU ALWAYS PLAN ON BEING A MODEL? DID YOU HAVE A BACKUP PLAN?

I started modelling in my last year of high school, so I knew as soon as I finished school I'd pursue it full-time. So, there was no backup plan. But now, I think I would have loved to be a chef – I've always loved cooking and experimenting with food.

YOU SEEM TO BE VERY COMFORTABLE WITH YOURSELF – IS THAT HOW YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN, OR HAVE YOU LEARNT TO BE MORE CONFIDENT AS YOU'VE GOT OLDER?

I think, like every girl, I have my moments! I'm definitely not confident 100 per cent of the time, but my job requires me to be quite outgoing, so I can't afford to let nerves get to me. When I was younger, though, I was so shy. The idea of getting up and speaking in front of my class made me feel absolutely petrified! And it's quite odd because I'm completely different now. I work on live TV, speak to hundreds of people at a time, and work as an ambassador for my clients. If you had have told the 10-year-old Megan all of that, I would have been terrified!

A FEW YEARS AGO, YOU HAD A STY IN YOUR EYE BUT TURNED UP TO A CHARITY EVENT WITH A PATCH OVER IT. THAT'S CONFIDENCE!

I can tell you, it was not pretty under the patch. I saw the sty in the morning – it was the size of a pea. I thought, "I can't go to this thing tonight, what am I going to do?" But I'd promised the charity that I would go, and I didn't want to let them down. Andy suggested the patch, and we had it embellished to match my dress. It ended up being quite fun. I can't say I would have continued if it had have been a photo shoot. Sometimes things like that knock the wind out of your sails, but you've just got to dust yourself off, and try to get on with things! **Lauren Smelcher** □

TANK: \$34.95, MINKPINK (02 9212 4788). **JEANS:** \$420, CAMILLA AND MARC (02 9331 1133). **NECKLACE:** \$245, PETER LANG (02 9319 7033). **CREAM BANGLE:** \$65, SAMANTHA WILL (SAMANTHAWILLS.COM.AU). **BRACELET:** \$54.95, LEETHAL FASHION ACCESSORIES (03 9416 2269).

SWIMSUIT: \$169.95, ISOLA BY MEGAN GALE (02 8339 8222). **NECKLACE:** \$89.95, LEETHAL FASHION ACCESSORIES (03 9416 2269). **CUFF:** \$19.99, DIVA (DIVA.NET.AU).

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