



# THE DIVINE MISS

MODEL, ACTRESS, DESIGNER, PRESENTER,  
DAVID JONES AMBASSADOR — **MEGAN GALE**  
IS FASHION'S ULTIMATE ALL-ROUNDER. HERE,  
SHE TURNS UP THE HEAT IN THIS SEASON'S  
MOST SIZZLING, EMBELLISHED DRESSES.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY DAVID GUBERT STYLED BY VALERYI YONG

*"This dress is a great  
example of sparkle  
and embellishment —  
it's very luxe and slinky."  
Thurley silk-georgette  
and sequin dress, \$1,200,  
at David Jones, 13 33 57*



*"There's something really ethereal and dreamy about this, it's quite Grecian."*  
Thurley silk-tulle dress, \$700; at David Jones, 13 33 57. Gold and pearl-set earrings, \$2,800; at Anne Schoheld Antiques, 02-9363 1326



*"It was a hot day, so we unzipped the dress and I held it across my bust. [Photographer] David did a test shot and loved it, so he had me leave it half undone for the photo."*  
Alex Perry lurex-lace dress, \$1,499; at David Jones, 13 33 57. Gold and diamond ring, \$2,000; at Anne Schoheld Antiques, 02-9363 1326







*"This is an interesting mix of feminine and sexy, with beautiful detail on the plunging neckline. It's hard to give it back!"*  
Chanel silk-voile dress, \$33,920; 1300 242 635  
Gold and pearl necklace, \$10,000; at Anne Schofield Antiques, 02-9363 1326



*"Quite a sexy little number! Just perfect for a night on the town with your girlfriends or date night."*  
Rachel Gilbert sequin dress, \$850; 02-9332 3455  
Gold and pearl-set necklace, \$4,600; and yellow- and white-gold diamond ring, \$3,750; both at Anne Schofield Antiques, 02-9363 1326



“EXUDING  
CONFIDENCE  
IS EASIER SAID  
THAN DONE,  
BUT IF YOU  
MANAGE IT, YOU  
CAN ACHIEVE  
A LOT.”

*“This is a great dress that isn't just classic, it has detail, too.”*  
Willow silk-crepe and bead dress, \$1,400; at David Jones, 13 33 57  
RIGHT: *“I usually go for pieces that are more edgy but this is beautiful. Ferretti is a fantastic designer.”*  
Alberta Ferretti polyester dress, \$4,999; at David Jones, 13 33 57  
Hair: Daren Borthwick  
Make-up: Sarah Tammer

Megan Gale is no stranger to vamping it up for the cameras, so it may come as a surprise to hear that her confidence can sometimes be lacking: “I still have shyness and uncertainty that you don't see a lot of,” she admits. “But I've mastered techniques to be confident—which to me doesn't mean arrogance, just self-belief.”

Her list of accomplishments proves there's much in which she can believe. At 36, the Sydney-based Perth-native admits: “I do wear a lot of hats.” Certainly her chameleon-turns as a model, fashion designer (her swimwear label Isola launched in 2010), brand ambassador for David Jones (since 2001) and L'Oréal; actress; and executive producer, host and judge on *Project Runway Australia* (on Arena), demonstrates what she believes to be her greatest strength: “to be flexible and constantly changing.” Right now, Gale is focusing that energy on her third swimwear collection (in boutiques and David Jones nationally from late July), and the second season of *Project Runway*, due to air later this year. “Having some [design] experience behind the scenes, makes me sympathetic,” says Gale of the show's contestants. “I know what it's like to have a deadline, and theirs is like, times a thousand!”

While *Project Runway* encourages fledgling fashion talent, Gale has already mastered her personal style. “It's always evolving,” she admits. “I try to shop for classics as much as possible, and I look after the pieces I buy.” Her advice for this season? “Suing is a sharp, powerful and stylish way for a woman to dress. Go for black or navy with a great white shirt.” Also, “there are great textures out there like lace, leather and tweed. Fashion is cyclical, so these things are great now, and will be in future.”

As Gale, who is happily in a relationship with 24-year-old AFL player Shaun Hampson, looks to her own bright future, she admits she's had the occasional regret: “I really wish I had more time to dedicate to acting, and that I'd started it earlier,” she says. “The small amount of experience I've had with it has given me so much satisfaction.” But there's still one more hat Gale would like to try on—author. “Ultimately, I'd love to write a book to encapsulate all the things I've learned with health, nutrition and beauty in an informative way.” And she practices what she preaches, living a Zen-like existence: “I'm in a really good place right now. It's going back to the things I value in life. If I'm healthy, happy and have my loved ones around me, I feel on top of the world—this is when I feel fulfilled.”—CHRIS URANKAR