

February 27, 2011

STREETSEEN

GLORIA AJENSTAT, 50

INTERVIEW / PICTURE ARSINEH HOUSPIAN

I AM an actress.**I AM WEARING** a singlet from the Glebe Market in Sydney, jeans from Sass & Bide, my blue suede shoes are from Hoss on Chapel Street. My bag is from a men's store in Noosa, my bangles and necklaces on my wrist are from various shops. My hat is from Eb & Ive, which I bought at a Crate Expectations on Glenferrie Road, Malvern.**MY STYLE IS** influenced by different looks. I'm big on dressing within a context. Sometimes I fall in love with a particular colour and I'll gravitate towards that for about a month. I try not to get seduced by trends. I try not to wear outfits that enter the room before you do. Today I feel simple with a bit of interest or twist.**I ADMIRE THE STYLE OF** French and European alternative singers and poets from the 1960s who did the relaxed worn jeans and top thing, but also the amazingly fitted, sophisticated, sexy but not overt style, where the shape says everything. A few were Charlotte Rampling, Jane Birkin and Catherine Deneuve.**MY FAVOURITE LABELS** are Nobody; you can't go past a good pair of jeans and they do them well.**MY FAVOURITE PLACE TO SHOP IS** at Hoss. They have a really great range and the focus isn't on current trends.**MY BIGGEST FASHION MISTAKE WAS** orange overalls. I was on my way to New York and I was trying to be cool. I shoved traveller's cheques into my undies because I thought I was going to be mugged immediately. They made their way down my leg, so I'm standing at New York airport in orange overalls with traveller's cheques around my ankles.**WHEN I WAS A KID I** used to dress up as a back-up singer. My hairbrush was my microphone.**I WOULDN'T BE CAUGHT DEAD IN** a balloon mini skirt.

red carpet as the designers (they do perfumes too), it's surprising how un-blinged some actresses are at the moment.

Julianne Moore has the perfect balance here. A diamond snake around one wrist (never both) and serious dangly earrings, set off by a hairdo of classic Hollywood glamour. The perfect finishing touch? Her matt red lips. Although I think I might have given her a fabulous little evening bag as well, just to add a little more interest to the frock in the mid zone, because even on a relatively petite person like Moore, a floor-length gown is a large expanse of one fabric.

But I'm not going to quibble with her stylist. It was Tom Ford.

Maggie Alderson's blog can be found at maggiealdersonstylenotes.wordpress.com

Julianne Moore gets it right with a glamorous gown and just the right amount of bling.

PICTURE: GETTY IMAGES

- 1 Dandy Bow clutch, black, \$249, from Mimco.
- 2 Resin disc stud earring, \$24.99, from Lovisa.
- 3 Dandy Bow ring, silver, \$149, from Mimco.
- 4 Dia fence cuff bracelet, \$34.99, from Lovisa.

STOCKISTS

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SHOP TALK



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Key player The rather inspirational Carolyn Imlach. She started making soaps and creams at home and selling them at country markets in 1998 after finding herself redundant and raising two small children. In 2004 she opened the store and workshop, where she still helps hand-roll the thousands of soap balls they sell each year.

Window display The sweet wafting scent is enough to lure you in long before you are visually tempted by the gorgeous "slow-crafts" in the window.

The fit-out The shop is small and filled with organic goods, so expect the occasional avalanche of woven baskets and bath mitts. Nonetheless, there is

considerable care and order at work in the arrangements and displays of soaps, creams, woods, linens, ceramics and string.

Products Indulge in some heavenly ablutions with any one of Est's delicious soaps, from \$8. Earrings by local artisan Gretchen Hillhouse cost \$88, while a pair of fabulous cowhide clogs from Sweden are a snip at \$135. For \$28 a tub you can experience the healing power of Botanical Salve, or splat insects in style with a leather fly-swat from Germany (\$22). Spoil our feathered friends with a pretty, hand-crafted birdhouse (\$105) and resist the desire to tie up everything you own with a one-kilogram ball of red-and-white Italian string (\$45).

Service Caring and attentive. It's a shop that supports the slow movement, so if you want swift, "drive-by" service, go elsewhere.

Website estaustralia.com for general info and online shopping.

Verdict Wares worth taking time for.

Gina Morris

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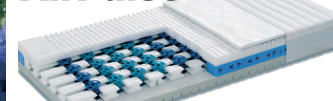
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