



Instyle

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WOMEN OF STYLE

AND THE NOMINEES ARE...

Passionate, graceful, driven, inspiring—meet the 24 nominees in the sixth annual *InStyle* and Audi Women of Style Awards. We'll announce the winners in our June issue—plus, you can vote for your favourite.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY HUGH STEWART
STYLED BY KATHERINE GREEN,
GEMMA KEIL AND
PETER SIMON PHILLIPS

KIRSTEN CARRIOL WEARS:
Christian Dior dress. Paspaley earrings. Ring, Carriol's own.
Christian Louboutin heels.

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ARTS & CULTURE

MARION POTTS

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND CEO, 48

At 15, while on a school excursion to a production of *Twelfth Night*, Marion Potts was “bitten by the theatre bug”. When the bus came to take her home before the show’s end, “I was devastated,” she recalls. That passion has served her well as she’s risen through the ranks to become artistic director and CEO of Melbourne’s Malthouse Theatre, a position she’s held since 2011. During her 22-year career, Potts has directed more than 50 plays, including *The Crucible* and *Othello*, and she received a Helpmann Award in 2006 for *The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia?* Potts, a mother of two, also mentors new talent through Malthouse’s Female Director in Residence program.

On being a role model “I take great pride in pioneering opportunities for women, particularly for women with families. I wouldn’t be practising had it not been for the role models before me; I take my role in the continuum seriously.”

Career high “Directing *The Shadow King* [in 2013]. It’s a version of *King Lear* translated into Kriol and other Indigenous Australian languages [also told in English], performed by a cast from across Australia.”

Words to live by “‘We know what we are but know not what we may be.’ It’s from *Hamlet*.”

TARA MOSS

AUTHOR AND JOURNALIST, 40

Tara Moss says her vocation allows her to engage in the things she loves most: “storytelling, learning and debate”. It wasn’t always so—Moss was a model before realising her dream of becoming a novelist in 1999. In the 15 years since she released her debut work, *Fetish*, she’s written eight best-selling crime novels and this year, she’ll launch her 10th crime novel and her first non-fiction work, *The Fictional Woman*. Moss is also a firm believer in giving back; her commitments include roles as a UNICEF Australia Patron for Breastfeeding and National Ambassador for Child Survival. A mother of one, Moss says, “I feel I have a duty to help stimulate discussion and...to advocate for better support for women and children.”

Young gun “I was raised in a household full of books...When I was 10, I wanted to be Stephen King. Other girls wanted to be ballerinas and I wanted to be a horror novelist. What can I say?”

Inspired by... “My late mother. I think of how much she gave me and how hard she fought to live. Any little problem I encounter seems surmountable by comparison.”

Style is... “The mark we leave on the world; the impression we leave with our words and actions.”

KATE CEBERANO

SINGER AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, 48

It’s not surprising that the advice that most resonates with Kate Ceberano is “don’t be a spectator”. Since coming to the fore in the ’80s, she’s released 19 albums—including 2013’s *Kensal Road*—won two ARIAs and played notable musical-theatre roles in *Jesus Christ Superstar* (1992) and *South Pacific* (2012). In 2012, she began her three-year tenure as artistic director of the Adelaide Cabaret Festival and under her leadership, it’s seen a 35 per cent increase in ticket sales. This month, Ceberano, an ambassador for the National Breast Cancer Foundation, published her autobiography, *I’m Talking: My Life, My Words, My Music*.

Career high “There have been many moments, from performing for Prince Charles and Lady Diana to winning *Dancing With The Stars*, but recently, I’ve taken most pride in the success of the Adelaide Cabaret Festival.”

Driving force “I believe the arts are vital to the health of a culture—they provoke emotion on levels that are personal and transforming. Without them, we would all just become followers or, even worse, ‘normal’.”

Secrets of success “Behave like a professional, deliver what you promise, look after the people who help you and work really bloody hard!”



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FROM LEFT, POTTS WEARS: Sambag jacket. By Malene Birger dress; at Christensen Copenhagen. Paspaley ring (right hand). Bracelet and bangle (right hand) and ring (left hand). Potts' own. Nine West heels. MOSS WEARS: Corset and jewellery. Moss' own. Rachel Gilbert dress. CEBERANO WEARS: Bianca Spender top and skirt. Jewellery. Ceberano's own.

HAIR: DEBORAH BRIDER.
MAKE-UP: BRADWYN JONES.



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FROM LEFT, FOX WEARS:
Acne dress. Prada earrings.
Longines watch. Shoes of
Prey heels. ISAACS WEARS:
Little Joe jacket. Lanvin dress;
at David Jones. Paspaley
earrings and ring (right hand).
Ring (left hand). Isaacs' own.
Gucci heels. KELLY WEARS:
Ginger & Smart dress. Lanvin
necklace; at Harlequin Market.
Bracelet and ring. Kelly's own.
Christian Louboutin heels.

HAIR: KEIREN STREET.
MAKE-UP: SARAH TAMMER.

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WOMEN OF STYLE

BUSINESS

JODIE FOX

ONLINE ENTREPRENEUR, 31

Despite all the shoes available online, the perfect pair can prove elusive, as Jodie Fox knows. "It can be a challenge; for example, sizes are often not small or big enough." That's what inspired Fox, a former lawyer, to create Shoes of Prey, an e-tail business that allows customers to create the footwear they want. The company was launched in 2009 by Fox and two friends she met at law school (Michael Knapp and Michael Fox). With Fox as chief creative officer, Shoes of Prey has become a multi-million-dollar business, experiencing a 250 per cent financial growth in the past year. In 2013, Shoes of Prey opened a concept store at David Jones in Sydney's CBD and the site has paved the way for follow-up venture Sneaking Duck, an online eyewear business. Fox is also community-minded, mentoring men and women who are driving businesses largely based on untested ideas.

Young gun "I remember telling my mother at eight that I was ready to move out—into the cubby house. Of course, she didn't let that eventuate but that independence and drive was always there."

Style is... "Tenacity, intelligence, grace, courage, compassion—and a great pair of shoes."

The a-ha moment "Learning to assess failure with less emotion, without dismissing my emotions."

EMMA ISAACS

BUSINESS ENTREPRENEUR, 34

From an early age, Emma Isaacs "knew there was a big world out there. I was keen to explore it." Despite a lack of formal business experience, at 18 she bought recruitment company Staff it with a friend and over the next seven years, the small business flourished. At 25, she acquired the fledgling networking group Business Chicks. With Isaacs as CEO, the company has grown from 250 members to 30,000-plus and hosts up to 90 networking events each year. Isaacs also devotes her time to philanthropic causes—she sits on the NSW Development Board of The Hunger Project Australia and is an ambassador for 1 Million Women. To date, she has raised more than \$3 million for charity.

Inspired by... "People who take risks and don't care too much what others think, so strong is their determination to reach their goals."

Young gun "I had my first business at seven! I'd gather the kids in my street and ask them to get money from their parents. I'd then buy lollies, put them into smaller packages and sell them to the parents at an inflated price. It was bringing people together and making a profit at the same time."

Driving force "I've got this huge platform to agitate for change. When women work towards the same goal, great things happen."

CASSANDRA KELLY

FINANCIAL SERVICES CEO, 39

In her work steering a market-leading financial-services company, Cassandra Kelly says "upholding respect has been the single most important" rule. This mindset has seen Kelly, joint CEO of Pottinger, grow the business into an award-winning employer with a culture renowned for being inclusive. Launched in 2003 with husband Nigel, Pottinger is commercially successful and fiercely independent, advising corporate and government bodies. Personally and professionally, Kelly has supported such organisations as Sydney Children's Hospital and Habitat for Humanity; she also co-founded Glass Elevator, which helps to lift the number of women in senior executive positions.

Words to live by "You're the only person on earth who can use your ability."

Secrets of success "Don't confuse doing it all with having it all. I encourage women to think about the parts of their lives that matter and, over time, try to find better harmony."

Driving force "I strive to make things better... One thing I've found really rewarding is mentoring, not only women but people who are homeless. [One previously homeless mentee] always says to me that the biggest gift I gave him was knowing someone cared."

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BEAUTY

KIRSTEN CARRIOL

BEAUTY ENTREPRENEUR, 41

In 2003, as she prepared for a flight and lamented the drying effect air travel has on skin, Kirsten Carriol remembered "how nourishing lanolin had been on my skin as a girl. It hit me: I had to bring lanolin back!" It wasn't easy: lanolin had previously (and wrongly) been criticised as an allergen. Determined, she drew on her experience running a beauty PR firm to redeem its reputation and in 2009 launched the Lanolips range, which includes an award-winning lip balm (see p163). Outside of her work, Carriol makes time for charity and has helped to raise more than \$2 million for Look Good...Feel Better and over \$500,000 for Sydney Children's Hospital.

Career high "I'll never forget the first email I received from [a satisfied customer], a woman who owned a trucking company in Geelong. That was a huge thrill."

Driving force "I don't work to be 'successful'; I do work to have a successful product."

Words to live by "If you feel something isn't right, don't do it."

PIPPA HALLAS

CEO, 39

Though it may have seemed an obvious move, Pippa Hallas was hesitant to join the family business—skincare brand Ella Baché, created in 1936 by her great aunt (the company's namesake) and great grandmother. "There's an enormous expectation. Essentially you have to work a lot harder." And she's done just that since becoming marketing manager in 2005 and CEO since 2010. Hallas, a supporter of Greenpeace, has overseen the development of more than 25 products and driven game-changing marketing strategies, as well as the gutsy sponsorship of then 16-year-old Jessica Watson's round-the-world sailing trip in 2010.

Career high "Meeting Jessica, seeing her sail into Sydney Harbour and being the only sponsor who took the risk of supporting an extraordinary girl who deserved to be given a chance."

Inspired by... "Women who juggle a career, children and a husband."

Secrets of success "In business, it's not about being liked; it's about being respected."

GILLIAN FRANKLIN

BEAUTY ENTREPRENEUR, 57

"Don't say no. Say how." It's this conviction that led Gillian Franklin—founder and managing director of personal-care company The Heat Group—to become a general manager at Revlon in Australia, aged just 25. And 13 years after she launched The Heat Group, it boasts a turnover of \$130 million in retail sales, while distributing brands such as Max Factor, CoverGirl and Franklin's own nail brand, Ultag. A mother of three, Franklin is a vocal champion for flexible workplace schemes.

Driving force "I'm passionate about supporting women, specifically working mothers. Women are the secret to expanding our economic success in Australia."

The a-ha moment "I created the Australis Self Made Girl program in 1998 [while working for Australis] to motivate young women to seek financial independence. After three years of this, I realised I should leave the comfort of corporate life and venture into the entrepreneurial space."

Words to live by "If you don't believe in yourself, why should anyone else?"





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WOMEN OF STYLE

FROM LEFT, CARRIOL WEARS:
Martin Grant dress; at David
Jones. Paspaley earrings and
necklace. Ring, Carriol's own.
Country Road heels. HALLAS
WEARS: Stella McCartney dress; at
David Jones. Paspaley earrings.
Bangle and ring, Hallas' own.
Christian Louboutin heels.
FRANKLIN WEARS: Victoria
Beckham blouse and Lanvin
skirt; both at David Jones.
Paspaley earrings. Rings
and heels, Franklin's own.

HAIR: KEIREN STREET.
MAKE-UP: PETER BEARD.



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FROM LEFT, MAUBOY WEARS:
Larvin dress; at David Jones.
Christian Louboutin heels.
GIBNEY WEARS: Louis Vuitton
shirt, Saint Laurent pants; at
David Jones. Paspaley rings.
Christian Dior heels.

HAIR: JENNY KIM.
MAKE-UP: ANDREA BLACK.

press clip



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ENTERTAINMENT

JESSICA MAUBOY

SINGER AND ACTRESS, 24

As a child, Jessica Mauboy dreamed of a career in music—"I knew I loved it and it made me happy"—but, she says, "I had no idea what it involved or about the industry." The past eight years have proved she's a fast learner. Since becoming runner-up on *Australian Idol* in 2006, Mauboy has released three hit albums (*Been Waiting*, *Get 'Em Girls* and last year's *Beautiful*), completed her first national headline tour and kicked off her acting career with the musical film *Bran Nue Dae* (2010) and the critically acclaimed *The Sapphires* (2012). A recipient of two ARIA Awards and an AACTA, she's also the ambassador for Yipirinya, an independent Indigenous school in the Northern Territory.

Career highs "Releasing my albums, travelling the world for *The Sapphires* and performing for Oprah, Obama and Ellen and most recently at the Emmys Governors Ball—all surreal moments."

Driving force "This industry can be tough on relationships so you have to really love what you do. I'm driven by the love I have for performing and giving that back to my fans."

On being a role model "I try to be the best I can but I'm human and far from perfect."

REBECCA GIBNEY

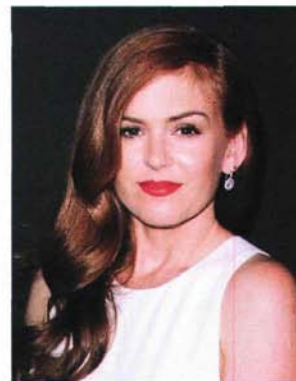
ACTRESS, 49

She's chalked up more than 30 years in TV and film and Rebecca Gibney is as enthused today as she was when it all began. "I've always been passionate about my work. I love the fact that I'm able to entertain people with what I do." Entertain she has, earning six AFI/AACTA nominations and an even more impressive 20-plus Logie nominations. The New Zealand-born actress' CV boasts some of Australia's most popular productions, including television's *All Together Now*, *Halifax f.p.* and *Packed to the Rafters*, as well as roles in films including *Clubland* (2007) and *Mental* (2012). This year, she'll star in and co-produce the Seven Network telemovie *The Killing Field*.

Inspired by... "The incredible kindness of people. Having travelled the globe for World Vision [Gibney has supported the organisation for over 25 years], I've seen the dedication of people who give up so much to help those in need."

The a-ha moment "Winning an AFI for *Come in Spinner* (1990). It was the first time I believed I could do the job. For so long, I had no faith in my ability."

Secrets of success "Treat people with respect, be on time, know your lines. It's worked so far!"



ISLA FISHER

ACTRESS, 38

When asked whether she ever expected to have a successful acting career, Isla Fisher once said, "If anything, I imagined I'd be a maid!" Instead, she's one of our most famous exports. While she has been known to Australian audiences since her days on *Home and Away* (1994-97), her first major Hollywood role was in 2005's *Wedding Crashers*. Now a much sought after comedienne and dramatic actress, Fisher last year appeared in Baz Luhrmann's *The Great Gatsby*, thriller flick *Now You See Me* and TV comedy *Arrested Development*. The star, who is married to actor Sacha Baron Cohen, has two young daughters and is also an ambassador for charity group Save the Children.

Words to live by "You get out what you put in. And kindness is good for the heart."

Inspired by... "My grandmother. Even when she was in a wheelchair, she was a positive, graceful and imperturbable human being."

Driving force "Expressing myself creatively through different characters and learning from people better than me."

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CHARITY & COMMUNITY



OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN

SINGER AND FUNDRAISER, 65

"Until you go through something challenging, you don't reach your full potential," Olivia Newton-John has said. The singer has achieved many things in her years in the spotlight, including selling 100 million albums, but it's her non-profit work since her 1992 breast cancer diagnosis that will arguably be her greatest legacy, largely in the form of the Olivia Newton-John Cancer & Wellness Centre, which became fully operational last year. Newton-John has helped raise millions for the Melbourne facility, which treats patients, funds research and offers therapies like meditation and art.

Inspired by... "My mother's words: 'If you can help someone, you should.'"

On being a role model "I've followed in the footsteps of many brave women [but] I've always been conscious of not imitating anyone else and of not giving up on a commitment once made."

Driving force "I believe that through cancer research at ONJCWC, I can look forward to an end to cancer in my lifetime."



SAMAH HADID

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGNER, 26

The instances of racism and disadvantage Samah Hadid experienced as a young Muslim woman did nothing to diminish her will. Rather, they delivered her to a guiding principle: "One must raise their voice in the face of injustice." Through her work with migrants, refugees and minority groups, she has built an impressive résumé: a Human Rights Commendation Award from the Human Rights Commission; roles as director of the local arm of the Global Poverty Project (for which she secured \$80 million towards ending polio) and Australian Youth Representative to the United Nations; and undertaking a Master of Human Rights Law and Policy. "I don't shy away from ambition," she says.

Words to live by "Don't let age, gender or any other perceived disadvantage hold you back."

Inspired by... "The amazing young women around the world lifting themselves out of poverty and standing up for their rights."

Style is... "An attitude. It's about being authentic, confident and creative."



DANNIELLE MILLER

EDUCATOR AND CEO, 44

A mother of two, Dannielle Miller has dedicated her life to affecting change in teen minds. Having created the Lighthouse Project, a government program that pairs at-risk teens with mentors, she co-founded Enlighten Education in 2003. Today, the former high school teacher is CEO of the organisation, which runs school workshops for some 20,000 teenagers in Australia and New Zealand—girls who Miller believes are targeted by "toxic" gender-related messages, with equally toxic results, such as body-image anxiety and binge drinking. Named NSW Entrepreneur of the Year in 2007, Miller has also authored three books aimed at helping women and girls.

The a-ha moment "When my eldest was born. I feared she may grow up not realising her true power. I knew then my mission: to empower girls."

Style is... "A woman who owns her power and reinvents the rules to suit herself."

Words to live by "Don't try to be less just so others will think they're more."

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FROM LEFT, IRWIN WEARS: Carla Zampatti jacket. Emporio Armani dress. Wittner heels. MADEW WEARS: Malene Birger shirt; at Christensen Copenhagen. Ring. Madew's own. Samvara pants. Billini boots. SKARBEB WEARS: Emporio Armani dress. Alex Monroe earrings and bracelet (left wrist). Fo.Be bracelet (right wrist); at Bijoux Box. Ring. Skarbek's own. Enzo Angiolini heels; at Nine West.

HAIR: JENNY KIM.
MAKE-UP: SARAH TAMMER.

WOMEN OF STYLE

ENVIRONMENT

TERRI IRWIN

WILDLIFE WARRIOR, 49

"I don't want to put off until tomorrow what I can do today," says Terri Irwin. It's a trait she shared with her husband, the late Steve Irwin, and together they travelled the globe filming wildlife programs seen by more than 500 million viewers. In 1992—the year they were married—the pair took over the property that would become Australia Zoo. Since Steve's passing in 2006, Irwin has remained committed to the zoo and other conservation projects, including the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve, a vast tract of land in Cape York.

Career high "Saving the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve from being strip-mined. New legislation means the reserve will be protected in perpetuity."
Inspired by... "My dad. He was the first person to teach me that every life is important."

Words to live by "I believe that the only place successful comes before work is in the dictionary."

ROMILLY MADEW

URBAN SUSTAINABILITY ADVOCATE, 47

It's a simple pleasure that drives Romilly Madew, chief executive of the Green Building Council of Australia: "Every day I see the Green Star buildings that now dominate the Sydney skyline." In her role at the council, she has helped develop the Green Star system, a voluntary environmental-rating system for design and construction industries. The mother of three is also a lobbyist, government advisor and co-founder of the networking forum Women Making a Difference.

On being a role model "I'm prepared to roll up my sleeves and do the hard work—and this helps me demand more of my employees."

Aim high "Sustainability can be confusing. I hope to break down the barriers by making the language of sustainability something everyone understands."

Secrets of success "Superwomen don't exist so relax and stop trying to be perfect."

ANNA SKARBEB

CLIMATE CHANGE LOBBYIST, 38

As the leader of non-profit group ClimateWorks Australia, Anna Skarbek liaises with government and businesses on projects to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and has earned plaudits including the Eureka Prize for Innovative Solutions to Climate Change. "I'm excited by the potential of solving important problems and seeing positive change in our world," she says. A former solicitor, she has also served on the Australian board of Amnesty International and supports the Australian Conservation Foundation.

Driving force "The environment doesn't have a voice unless we give it one. It gives so much and when it's damaged that can be irreversible."

Aim high "I'm working towards a truly sustainable world and it will probably take all my life."

Words to live by "Don't say or write anything you don't want printed on the front of a newspaper."



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FROM LEFT, MARTINI WEARS:
Willow jacket, Carla Zampatti
jumpsuit, Peter Lang earrings.
Rings, Martini's own. River
Island heels. FEAGINS WEARS:
House of Cards jacket, Marni
dress and earrings. Rings,
bracelet and heels, Feagins'
own. MARTINI WEARS:
Prada dress, cuff and heels.
Necklace and ring, Martin's own.

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LIFESTYLE

KAREN MARTINI

RESTAURATEUR, WRITER AND TV CHEF, 42

Karen Martini has authored four cookbooks, appeared on television as part of the *Better Homes and Gardens* team since 2006, was a founding chef at both Melbourne Wine Room and Sydney's Icebergs Dining Room & Bar, has held two chef's hats, co-owns Melbourne pizzeria Mr. Wolf and is the food editor of *The Sydney Morning Herald's Good Food*, *The Age's Epicure* and *The Canberra Times' Food and Wine*. "I've always been someone who bites off more than they can chew," she laughs. Having ascended through the ranks at male-dominated restaurants, Martini has been a strong advocate for better conditions for women in the industry and has also used her profile to raise awareness for charitable organisations such as The Starlight Foundation.

Young gun "I have lots of memories of sitting in the pram at the markets and holding on to a bag of carrots or the fish looking at me with big, beady eyes through the glass display. Fresh food was always a big part of our household."

Driving force "My mother tells me that from 14 onwards, I became very independent and driven. Some would say stubborn; I'd say focused."

On being a role model "I hope I do show people that it's easy to cook from scratch. We're spoiled for choice when it comes to produce in Australia."

LUCY FEAGINS

ONLINE ENTREPRENEUR, 33

A champion of Australian art and design, Lucy Feagins is the creator and editor of the wildly popular blog The Design Files, launched in 2008. Just one year later it was named in the world's top 50 design blogs by *The Times*, UK. Covering architecture, art, craft and graphic design, the site receives more than 180,000 unique visitors each month. "I couldn't have imagined that it would be as big as it is," says Feagins, who previously worked dressing television and film sets. In 2011, she launched The Design Files Open House, a unique pop-up retail event in Melbourne and Sydney. Feagins has also used her blog to support youth homelessness charity the Lighthouse Foundation.

The a-ha moment "I read a motto in a cheesy motivational book that really stuck with me: 'Lean into it.' The premise of the idea is simple—when the big picture seems too daunting, just lean in the direction you want to go."

Aim high "I'm ambitious and a perfectionist. I want to keep pushing the boundaries of what a design blog can do. I'm always looking for the next thing—more, more, more!"

Secrets of success "The most important thing if you run your own business is your health. My business cannot run without me so I see my health as a significant asset."

CATHERINE MARTIN

FILM, STAGE AND INTERIOR DESIGNER, 49

"My overarching goal is to make really beautiful things," says Catherine Martin, one of the country's pre-eminent aesthetes with a portfolio that includes designing fabrics, homewares, rugs, wallpaper and bedding. Martin met her now-husband Baz Luhrmann while doing a design course at NIDA and the pair has been professionally intertwined since. She's created costumes and sets for operas, plays and films, including *Lake Lost* (1988), *Romeo + Juliet* (1996), *La bohème* (2002) and *The Great Gatsby* (2013), and her work on 2001's *Moulin Rouge!* won her two Oscars in one night. Most recently, Martin, a supporter of the Australian Theatre for Young People, won another two Oscars and two BAFTAs for her work on *The Great Gatsby*.

Young gun "I remember seeing *The Wizard of Oz* when I was eight and being absolutely terrified of the witch but thinking blue gingham and red diamanté shoes was the perfect combination."

Words to live by "Say yes—yes to life, to taking responsibility for yourself, to embracing opportunity. My parents have an incredible work ethic and gave me that advice."

Inspired by... "My husband; he says yes to possibility. I struggle with it. I say to myself, 'I can't do it! Do I have the budget? Am I up to it?'"

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FASHION



PHOTOGRAPHED BY:
JUSTIN RIDLER
HAIR: KIMBERLEY FORBES
MAKE-UP: MANAMI SHIKAWA

LEONA EDMISTON

DESIGNER

A major industry player for more than three decades, Leona Edmiston burst onto the scene in the mid-'80s as half of Morrissey Edmiston, the brand she founded with Peter Morrissey. In 2001, she launched her namesake label with business partner and husband Jeremy Ducker. Her new focus was what she identified as a gap in the market: "the dress, particularly the day dress, which had largely vanished from the working woman's wardrobe". Today, Edmiston's empire includes 30 outlets, diffusion label Leona Edmiston Ruby, accessories, a children's line, hosiery and homewares. She is also an ambassador for Barnados.

Aim high "This industry is fast, stimulating and challenging. And you're only as good as your latest collection."

Driving force "I [want] to be wise and happy, making the right choices while doing what I love."

Words to live by "Manners are the most glamorous accessory of all."

SOPHIE HOLT

MANAGING DIRECTOR, 48

"I was born into fashion," says Sophie Holt, recalling Magg, the Melbourne boutique her grandmother owned. Holt certainly has the golden touch, having risen from Sportsgirl sales assistant to the helm of Country Road. After launching Sportsgirl spin-off Elle B at 25, she revived Witchery when she joined as head designer in 1998. In 2000, she launched Seed Heritage and three years later headed to Country Road, which she has transformed into a fashion must-have, while also driving the 2009 launch of Trenery. Holt is equally committed to the business' partnerships with charities including Red Kite and the Red Cross.

Driving force "The desire to maintain a balance between work and family makes me work harder and stay focused."

On being a role model "I need to show the team that I'm leading with strength and confidence, while also inspiring and questioning."

Career high "To look back on a decade with the brand and see what we've achieved is exciting."

KYM ELLERY

DESIGNER, 30

In the seven years since launching her eponymous label, Kym Ellery has built a cult following thanks to her sculptural tailoring and directional aesthetic. "I'm passionate about making clothes for women," she says, "a costume for their modern lives." A finalist in the Woolmark Designer of the Year Award (2010), Ellery—whose clothes are stocked around the world—last year became the third Australian designer to be invited to show during Paris Fashion Week. Closer to home, she's supported charities including Beyond Blue and the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

Young gun "I begged my mother to teach me to sew but she always said I was too young. When I was seven, we were both caught in a rip and almost drowned; after that experience she decided she would teach me whatever I chose."

Style is... "A means to project you closer to where you want to be in life."

Aim high "Balancing business and creativity is a fine art; I'm still trying to master it."

press clip



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slice

CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

THANK YOU TO OUR JUDGES



KIRSTEN GALLIOTT

EDITOR, INSTYLE

A journalist for 20 years, Galliot joined *InStyle* in 2012. This is her second year as judge of the Awards, an initiative she passionately champions to bring the country's most successful and philanthropic women into the spotlight.



GILLIAN ARMSTRONG

FILM DIRECTOR

The multi-award-winner has received an AM for services to the Australian film industry and a Women in Hollywood Icon Award. Armstrong, whose next film is currently in production, has been a Women of Style judge since 2009.



NICOLE KIDMAN

ACTRESS

Kidman was the first Australian actress to win a Best Actress Oscar. She's also a two-time Women of Style winner—in the Entertainment category (2010) and Hall Of Fame (2013). This is her first turn as a judge.



LAYNE BEACHLEY

ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGNER

A world-famous surfer, Beachley is the founder of the Layne Beachley Aim for the Stars Foundation. In 2009, she was the Women of Style Charity & Community Award winner; she joined the judging panel the following year.



ELIZABETH ANN MACGREGOR

DIRECTOR, MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART AUSTRALIA

This year, Macgregor celebrates 15 years in her role at the MCA. A recipient of an OBE and the Australia Council Visual Arts Medal (both 2011), she's judged the Awards since 2009.



ANNA BURGDORF

GENERAL MANAGER, CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS, AUDI AUSTRALIA

Burgdorf has worked for Audi for 16 years and has been instrumental in building the brand's profile in Australia. This is her fourth time as judge.



LOUISE OLSEN

DESIGNER, ARTIST AND CREATIVE DIRECTOR, DINOSAUR DESIGNS

Olsen co-founded her iconic lifestyle brand nearly 30 years ago and last year released her first furniture collection. She has been a judge for five of Women of Style's six years.



COLLETTE DINNIGAN

FASHION DESIGNER

In 2013, Dinnigan, one of our most lauded designers, redirected her focus from her retail operations to designing for her diffusion brands. The author of *Obsessive Creative* is a six-time judge.



KATIE PAGE

CEO, HARVEY NORMAN HOLDINGS

Page runs Harvey Norman, Domayne, Joyce Mayne and Norman Ross retail outlets. She also sits on boards for the NSW Public Service Commission and the MCA. This is her fourth year casting votes.



DEBORRA-LEE FURNESS

ACTRESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATE

An award-winning charity ambassador, Furness is the founder of Australia's National Adoption Awareness Week. She won the Charity & Community Award in 2010 and became a Women of Style judge in 2012.



JANA WENDT

JOURNALIST AND AUTHOR

One of Australia's most highly regarded interviewers, Wendt is author of 2007's *A Matter of Principle*, 2010's *Nice Work* and an upcoming novel. She first became a Women of Style judge in 2010.