

# Golden GIRL

RUNWAY

Fashion darling and movie veteran Dakota Fanning shines in Shanghai

Words CHRISTINE VAN DEEMTER

With her elfin face, wide blue eyes, and lanky frame, it is not easy to miss Dakota Fanning. Or perhaps it is because the 24-year-old has been on our screens for almost two decades, morphing from adorable ingenue (*I Am Sam*, *Charlotte's Web*) to confident young woman not afraid to tackle meaty roles (*The Alienist*, *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood* – Quentin Tarantino's upcoming film about the Manson Family murders). Through it all, she has remained cool, effervescent, yet approachable – making her the ultimate Massimo Dutti brand ambassador.

The actor is in Shanghai for the first time, for the presentation of the Spanish brand's limited-edition FW19 women and men's collections. She's fresh and breezy in that quintessentially American way, her light blonde hair scraped up into a utilitarian top knot, wearing a slip dress in an unexpected toffee-and-turquoise plaid, from Massimo Dutti's new collection. "It's my first time here," she bubbles. "It's such a cool thing to have a show in Shanghai and to bring in different cultures and people." Known for pushing herself out of her comfort zone in her work, Fanning is also something of a style star, sitting front



row at fashion weeks and walking the red carpet in Miu Miu, Rodarte, and Louis Vuitton. Citing Grace Kelly and Audrey Hepburn's "effortless chic" as fashion inspiration, she's a fan of Massimo's Dutti's easy to style separates, too. "I always like to look like what I'm wearing is effortless. They make it really easy to do that. And then they have something unusual like this dress – the brand mixes things that you might not think work together and somehow it does." Her favorite piece from the show? "The corduroy brown trench coat. Classic but cool."

As with her movie roles, she's not afraid to showcase adventurous choices when it comes to fashion, like "really weird shoes or a colorful bag" with a simple outfit. "I take more risks with my accessories, while the clothes I wear are usually on the timeless side. I don't like to dress super trendy – inevitably you look back at something you've worn in the past and you're like, what was I thinking? But I try to avoid that feeling as much as possible!" she laughs. She knows what suits her and what

doesn't and is refreshingly frank about it – "It might look good on a six-foot runway model but on my proportions, it won't work" – grounding her style and giving her a youthful/classic hybrid that's difficult to pull off. But that's perhaps not surprising in someone who understands the power of fashion. "Style says so much about you," she says. "It's the first impression people have of you, it's a form of self-expression and individuality. You have control over how you choose to dress and how you want to portray yourself, which is important to remember."

ABOVE DAKOTA FANNING ABOVE RIGHT MASSIMO DUTTI'S LIMITED EDITION FW19 SHOW PLAYED WITH LIGHT, SHADOW, AND REFLECTIONS BELOW TAIWANESE ACTOR JANINE CHANG AND LUKE EVANS AT THE SHOW IN SHANGHAI

