



Necklaces by Ben-Amun
Dress by Sandra Mansou
Belt by Kiki de Montparnasse
Gold Bracelets (M Left Hand, Top) by Julie Vos
Black & Silver Bracelet (M Left Hand, Middle Bottom) by Ben-Amun
Black & Silver Bracelet (M Right Hand, Top) by Kenneth Jay Lane
Silver Bracelet (M Right Hand, Middle) by Andrew Harper
Black Square Bracelet (M Right Hand, Bottom) by Ben-Amun

DIGITAL COVER



MORENA BACCARIN

Photographer: Mike Ruiz
Stylist: Chaunielle Brown
Styling Assistants: Michelle Copeland and James Howard
Makeup: Matin @Tracey Mattingly using ChapStick
Hair: Peter Butler at Tracey Mattingly
Manicurist: Nails by Jini Lin @SEE Management
Writer: Adina Ilie

Hat by My Bob
Turtleneck by Assembly New York
Pants by Victoria Hayes
Stockings by Falke
Shoes by Guess

Shooting to stardom after prominent roles in *Gotham* and *Deadpool*, comic book superhero in real life form Morena Baccarin is on the path to bigger and greater things each passing day.

Born in Rio de Janeiro, Baccarin moved to New York with her actress mother and journalist father at the age of 7. In spite of her young age, the actress still remembers the toughness of her transition. Coming from a tight-knit family where community was at the core of her upbringing, it was a frightening experience for the actress to leave her extended family behind and dive into a new world. “It was kind of terrifying. I was leaving behind everything that was familiar. Our family was always really close, we had cousins that were my brother’s age and mine and we saw each other every weekend. My grandmother who is now 94 was like a second Mum to me,” she explains.

Leaving her family behind and moving away with only her parents proved to be challenging. It was no easy fret for Baccarin to adjust to the roughness of New York. Speaking of her experiences while growing up in the public school system, the actress is adamant over the fact that patience wasn’t a particular treat that most people had when dealing with a young student who barely spoke English. “I remember not speaking the language and having to learn it. Some people were really kind and helpful, and others, not so much. I was enrolled in the New York City public school system and some teachers were pretty brutal,” she recalls.

Her experiences carried a heavy emotional burden considering that, even though she’s currently a successful actress, she still carries with her the turmoil of being verbally abused in school. “I remember being yelled at quite a bit because I didn’t understand what the teacher was saying. I’ve had great experiences in school since then but I remember one of my teachers was yelling that I needed to get in line and I didn’t even understand what getting in line meant. She kept pointing her finger and wagging it at me.”

In spite of her struggles, Baccarin managed to maintain her Latin roots while also adapting to the harshness of her new found world. Ultimately, it led her to become a more stable and balanced version of herself. But it’s definitely her rough New York upbringing that has helped pave her way to stardom. “I feel like I’ve got a really good combo of both worlds. I definitely identify with my Latin roots when it comes to the warmth and easy goingness. But I’ve also got a very pragmatic nature when I look at my American side” she explains. “I like order. There is definitely a part of me that likes to have order to the chaos. The sides compliment each other.”

In spite of her early struggles, things started rocketing for Baccarin. She enrolled in the A-list producing school of La Guardia and further on attended the prestigious Julliard. Although the actress had an impressive academic background, her early auditioning days were a far cry from instant success. The entertainment climate is based on rejection and the actress had barriers to overcome as she juggled her anxieties and emotion-

al disturbances. “I remember in the beginning feeling like I needed approval. After every audition I felt a sense of rejection and like I wasn’t going to make it,” Baccarin explains. Things started changing for the best for the actress when she had a spur of self-worth that shifted the way in which she viewed the world of acting. “It changed for me when I didn’t work for a period of eight to nine months. I thought to myself ‘Well I’m not going to be doing anything else apart from this, so why don’t I just start auditioning and see that as an opportunity to act?’” she recalls. “At least I was playing different characters and doing something different. Everything changed when I changed my attitude about it. I was doing it for me, I didn’t need anyone else’s approval.”

Baccarin grew up with the industry revolving around her. Spending time backstage at her mother’s theatre performances in Brazil and being surrounded by artists drove Baccarin to have a better understanding of her career goals. “My mother had a lot to do with what I do for a living. I grew up going to the theatre with her and sitting backstage and always being around artists. So I feel that was very comfortable and familiar for me, as well as really exciting. “

Having her mother part of the entertainment business beforehand was also helpful for Baccarin when she was going through periods of constant disbelief and struggles to make the silver screen. “I remember her telling me that this is just for now and I should just stick with it. “

Sticking with it was entirely the right choice for the actress. She’s now Ryan Reynolds’ kickass girlfriend in the superhero franchise *Deadpool*. Baccarin’s character, Vanessa, is the embodiment of female empowerment in both the first and second films. Vanessa is one of the few characters on screen that was portrayed as a sexual worker but was treated with value for other reasons apart from changing her social condition. This offered her invaluable and empowering traits that made her into a superhero in her own right. “She’s definitely someone who was much more bold than I am and the way that I carry myself,” Baccarin explains. “I saw her as an opportunity to be someone that I’ve always been curious about, without having to do it in my life. Even for the audition, I told myself that if I was going to do this, I was going to definitely go for it. Be the kind of girl who has a beer with the dudes and doesn’t apologise for who she is. She’s had a hard life but she’s not sorry for herself. She’s a survivor.”

On paper, Vanessa has a very complex persona, but Baccarin still managed to find a way to empathise, embody and accurately portray her on screen. “I think you definitely have to understand the character. My way in with Vanessa was through the humour. When you’re in a shitty situation or something is not going your way, you have to laugh at it or laugh at yourself to relieve the pressure. She’s a survivor and not a victim. She’s like ‘f*** it, I’m going to do this anyway and I’m going to have fun while I’m doing it. I’m going to make everyone else feel that I’m fine.”

Her relationship with Wade Wilson [Deadpool] is crucial to



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Dress by Sachin & Babi
Jacket by Carolina Sarria
Stockings by Falke
Shoes by Carel



Necklace by Ben-Amun
Dress by Bibhu Mohapatra
Belt by Kiki de Montparnasse
Ring by Andrew Harper
Boots by Alchimia Di Ballin



Coat by H&M
Necklace by Ben-Amun
Bodysuit by Maison Close
Bracelets by Ben-Amun
Bra by Maison Close
Panty by Kiki de Montparnasse

the movie's storyline. Having worked with Ryan Reynolds over the course of two movies, the chemistry between him and Baccarin is unquestionable. It's their partnership that becomes the core of the movie. Speaking of her ever-evolving friendship with Reynolds, Baccarin talks of him fondly as a supportive partner in crime off screen as well. In an industry driven by ego, Reynolds is one of the few actors that acknowledge the values of that lie beneath the surface, according to the actress. "When I auditioned I gave myself permission to not be shy about it and he was very supportive. I think he really appreciated that. When we started shooting the film, I was totally open about how he wanted to work. He is very collaborative and just wants to make a good movie. I appreciate where he's coming from, he's coming from a place where he wants everything to be great. It's not about ego."

When the storyline in *Deadpool 2* took an unexpected turn [SPOILER ALERT] people were quick to point fingers at the writers when Vanessa's character was killed off. The comic book term for it is 'fridging' – when a female character is killed off in order to empower a male character. Even though *Deadpool* needs an incentive for his actions, the general public was opposed to the writers' decision of killing off Vanessa. Baccarin, on the other hand, feels that her role received a new dimension by becoming an emotional part of the film as opposed to merely having a mercenary role. "Their story anchors the movie. Without that emotional arc or pain for him, you don't care about him. There's nothing to fight for. I hate to be just the reason for the movie to happen but it's giving me a really strong emotional play in the film. I feel it's much stronger to be his reason for being. The mistake is for a lot of people to think that it's passive, but I feel it's a very active part. The simplicity of it is very difficult to achieve. It's not easy to let the story speak for itself," Baccarin explains.

With criticism flying back and forth over Vanessa's kill-off and the blatant fridging that the writers had committed, Baccarin still feels strongly that her role in the sequel is more than the catalyst for *Deadpool*'s actions: "People need to chill. It's a movie - it's a story. They're allowed to have their opinion. I'm not saying that they're wrong. I mean, yes, I'm there so he can have a really kick-ass reason for doing everything that he does in the movie. In that sense it's correct. But with every story that we tell, we solidify who these people are more and more. She's a true partner to him. It's a story about love and about family, that's the focus. You cannot focus on everything otherwise you have a mess of a movie. A lot of superhero movies mess up like that because they try to tell everyone's story really quickly." Although visibly disappointed about her character's fate in *Deadpool*, Baccarin is optimistic about Vanessa's future. "I think there are opportunities to do more with her," the actress explains.

What's going to happen in *Deadpool 3* then? The options are never ending, considering the fact that there are a million of comic-book directions in which the writers could go in and considering they managed to bring her character back to life via time travel. Baccarin, on the other hand, is very keen to explore the multitude of scenarios in which Vanessa can evolve: "I would love to see their family life evolve but I would also like to see them carry on their mercenary lives. I feel like this world allows for a lot of possibilities and I want to try them all."