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In this town, fortune favors the bold. Needless to say, we're head over heels for blonde bombshell Leslie Bibb, the towering beauty vamping it up opposite Isla Fisher in girlie blockbuster *Confessions of a Shopaholic*. At 34, the versatile model-turned-actress has crafted a four-alarm career, commanding attention with her looks, approachable charm, and winning ways on camera. And given the way things are shaping up, this lucky lady is only warming up.

Bibb's *Confessions* character is conniving editrix Alicia Billington, the nemesis to Fisher's charge-crazy good girl, Rebecca Bloomwood. "She's deliciously evil," says Bibb, "but only because she's frightened of losing things. Even though she looks like the girl who has everything, she's scared on the inside." On the outside, however, Billington is a fierce, head-turning, man-trouncing fox, decked to the nines in high-end finery, courtesy of famed stylist Patricia Field (*Sex and the City*). "When I found out I'd be working with Patricia every day, I realized how lucky I am to do what I do for a living," Bibb declares. "It's amazing to watch her work. She is a true gift for putting things together and creating something special." Field was instrumental in crafting Bibb's character, concocting spot-on, over-tight outfits. "Alicia Billington is a controlled and precise person, so it's important for her clothes to reflect this," Bibb says. For Bibb, considering the smallest details of how a character dresses, holds herself, and behaves when no one is watching makes the difference between a good performance and a great performance. "I draw inspiration from everyday people," she says. "I can take someone I see walking down the street and study their body and their actions. People can't lie with their bodies."

Movie audiences got an eyeful of Bibb's own bodacious body—and dramatic delivery—in last summer's blockbuster hit *Iron Man*, a role that wound up much bigger than the one she first auditioned for. "I initially went in for a very small part with two scenes," she recalls. "They kept adding more to the role, and the character grew." Memorably, Bibb—playing a *Vanity Fair* investigative reporter—had a contentious, bed-hopping romance with Robert Downey Jr.'s Tony Stark and a snarky exchange with Gwyneth Paltrow.

Entranced by her flawless features, makeup giant Almay was quick to approach Bibb with a lucrative contract, and she's now the face of Almay's Pure Blends, a line of natural, earth-conscious makeup. An enthusiast of eco-friendly living, Bibb is proud to be the line's spokesperson. "I'm really aware of our thumbprints on this planet, so it's very exciting to be a part of this," she says. Bibb will even start penning a blog for the makeup line soon.

No stranger to modeling, Bibb got her start at 16, back in 1990, when her mother sent her photos to *The Oprah Winfrey Show* for its nationwide modeling

contest. Much to her astonishment, Bibb was announced the winner and was soon flying around the world on high-profile gigs. Magazine spreads led to commercials, and in 1997 Bibb landed her first film role, in shock jock Howard Stern's comedy *Private Parts* (as an NBC page, not anything naughty). In 1999 she became a household face as cheerleader Brooke McQueen in the cult high school hit *Popular*, which ran for two seasons.

In 2001 Bibb won a Young Hollywood Award in the Exciting New Face category. She has since been living up to this title with countless roles on screens big and small. Hoping to mold a career like that of screen legend Joanne Woodward—an actress who is constantly working—Bibb says she has yet to have a role she regrets. In 2006 she proved her skills as a comedic actress playing Will Ferrell's over-the-top race-car-driver wife in *Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby*. The character was one she says she still feels connected to today. "I love Carley Bobby and how insane she was," Bibb says. "She was so much fun to play. There are days when I still pretend to be her just for laughs."

Bibb is the youngest of four sisters from a small town in Virginia; her father passed away when she was three years old. "My mom always tells me that I have the same hair color as my dad," says the natural brunette, "and there's a part of me that wants to hold on to that. So I hate when I have to be a blonde." Lulu, as her friends and family know her, attended an all-girls Catholic high school and first exhibited her performance skills as a member of the school's dance team. These days, the 5-foot-9 actress still likes to kick up her heels from time to time, and found herself dancing on her birthday this year. "My three best friends surprised me with tap-dancing lessons after treating me to dinner," she says. "It was the greatest gift ever." Her goal is to dance for her friends by this time next year.

Bibb is eager to tackle more diverse projects and hopes this includes additional credits as producer. (She recently starred in and produced the upcoming *Miss Nobody*.) She would also like to someday conquer Broadway, a world she finds both scary and challenging. "You have to do things for the experience," she insists. "Sometimes a movie doesn't end how you want it to, but that doesn't mean you don't take the part"—a statement that applies as much to life as it does to Tinseltown.

These days, Bibb is happy to call LA home, where she enjoys taking hikes with her two dogs and throwing dinner parties for friends and family. "I've been so busy working; I've only been here five months out of the year." Don't mistake that for complaining, though. She loves every minute of it and says she plans to work until the day she dies. Given the buzz Bibb is generating, she'd best keep her bags packed.