

LEATHER:  
THE NEW

Natural. Tactile. Warm. Leather, shearling, and suede are more than just clothes—they're a comfort

### Anna Paquin, actress

Leather makes Anna feel safe. "Wearing it is like having a shell around your body," says the 21-year-old, pictured with her dog, Dee Dee. "It protects you from wind, cold, anything." She prefers thrift shops to department stores ("very claustrophobic"), and her leather jackets are "mostly secondhand stuff that's broken in nicely." Suede? Too high maintenance. "This jacket has an awesome feel to it, but if it were mine, it would probably get destroyed." She's fascinated by the power of clothes to evoke a mood or define a character. "You can completely control the kind of vibe you send off by what you're wearing."

**O ADVISORY** A safari-ish suede jacket gets funkyed up with denim, fishnets, ankle boots. But put it with pumps, a turtleneck, and the skirt from your tweed suit, and hey—Instant office. Jacket, Moschino. Tank, \$29, Petit Bateau. Skirt, \$130, Blujeanious. Fishnets, Wolford. Boots, Cesare Paciotti.



# SENSUALITY

PHOTOGRAPHS  
by  
FABRIZIO  
FERRI

zone for the body, as the eight talented women here

found out.

## Magali Amadei, actress

"I'm not a fan of motorcycles—they're really dangerous—but I love my biker jacket," Magali, 29, says. "It looks really good. I'm that shallow." Not true. She had the guts to go public with her bulimia; she has the sense not to get into a sweat about fashion. "If you're thinking for an hour about what you're going to wear, you're trying too hard." She'll pick up a trend here and there—"one little purse or piece of jewelry"—but otherwise likes timeless stuff: jeans; leather jackets that look "really ancient" even if they're brand-new; leather pants for those kick-out moments "when you go, 'Grrr—I'm wearing them!' You've got to be in the mood."

**O ADVISORY** This rainbow coalition—bright red jacket, pink-and-purple-striped shirt, blue jeans, green slingbacks—doesn't look garish, because the shades are all on the same high-intensity level. A low-key way to wear skins: leather bracelets. Jacket, \$688, Blur. Shirt, \$218, Omnia. Jeans, \$142, Paper Denim & Cloth. Bracelets, Hermès. Silver ring, Magali's own. Circle ring, Pianegonda. Shoes, Gina.

LETTERING: MICHAEL BOBET



Vanessa L. Williams,  
actress

You have to laugh when Vanessa talks about "the unsightly bulges that have come with being 40." But she isn't kidding: "As my body ages, I like more structure—a good trouser with a great crisp blouse." For picking up the kids at school, on the other hand, comfort is queen. "I wear flip-flops, sweatpants, a little hoodie. My husband [L.A. Laker Rick Fox] thinks athletic wear is sexy on me." Although she keeps up with fashion, "it makes me ill to pay top dollar. I'd rather be a bargain shopper and not have to worry if I get a stain or the dog's paws are on my pants." Leather? "I like it well worn, with nicks and a muted texture, not high polish."

**O ADVISORY** The art of biker-jacket maintenance includes unexpected applications—like mixing the offhand *wham* of black leather with a fluid, satiny evening dress. The effect: soft but strong. Jacket and gown, Ralph Lauren Collection. Earrings, Kaviar. Diamond ring, Greenleaf & Crosby. Shoes, D&G.

"I have a thrill-seeking side that responds



A full-page photograph of Mia Farrow. She is wearing a brown leather jacket over a white tank top and blue jeans. She has curly blonde hair and is looking slightly to the left of the camera with a soft expression. The background is a dark, textured wall.

## Mia Farrow, actress

"I'm not thinking urban," says Mia. "I live way out in the country with a lot of mud and farm animals. I have 12 kids, 6 at home. I have to be practical." Her uniform is blue jeans and a T-shirt ("It takes a lot to get me out of that"), with different shelves for everyday jeans, better jeans, and best jeans. "For *O*, I wore my best jeans." Mia, 58, was tentative at first about wearing leather. "I thought, *Uh-oh—am I maybe too old or jumping too far off my little track?*" But the supple jacket fit right in with her unpretentious basics: "It's very comfortable, very light. I'm only 5'4", and small boned, so I like things to kind of disappear on me."

**Q ADVISORY** Nothing tough or self-important here. From the pared-down pockets and discreet snaps to the caramel color, we're talking seriously tender. Also making the rounds: alligator, as in this narrow silver-buckled belt. Jacket, \$704, Blur. Tank, \$15, Gap. Jeans, \$179, Diesel. Belt, Longchamp. Jewelry, Mia's own.

to leather," Mia says. "It's edgy, yet still feminine."






BEAUTY NOTE

**Skin** Rashida Jones has the kind of skin that makes you wonder how she keeps it so smooth and radiant. She was born with it, we decided, but new sheer makeup (Babor Classic Hydra Light) gives us all a chance to look as if we have a naturally gorgeous complexion. Transparent formulations even skin tone without looking as though you're wearing makeup, says Paul Starr, makeup artist for Estée Lauder. Mixed with foundation, a few drops of illuminating lotion, which contains particles that reflect light (Cynthia Rowley White Foundation is pretty), can help skin look more luminous, he says. To brighten your eyes, apply a neutral shadow and mascara. For delicate cheek color, try a cream blush in plum for dark skin, berry for medium skin, or pink for fair skin. To get a light tint on lips, apply a stain (Morgen Schick Stick) under a balm.





“Shearling isn’t ostentatious,” Rashida says. “It’s got more of a primitive feeling, like a pulse.”

### Rashida Jones, actress

Her closet’s a mess, her style is in flux, she has rock-star fantasies and a self-diagnosed shopping obsession (“I love creating a new persona every time I hit the stores”): At 27, Rashida is still figuring out how she relates to fashion. She sometimes splurges on a designer item (a green Balenciaga bag, chocolate Chanel boots) but also likes “deconstructed stuff—unfinished seams, asymmetry,” like the interestingly irregular clothes here. Her inspirations range from the “waif-y, feminine vibe” of sixties icon Jean Shrimpton to the innovative Annie Hallisms of Diane Keaton. One constant is a well-fitting jacket: “I rarely go out without one.” Shearling gets her vote because “it’s amazingly warm, like a teddy bear,” and, unlike fur, “it doesn’t scream ‘I’m rich, I’m privileged!’”

**Q UPDATE** It’s no fun when fashion gets too studied, too matched, too trapped in categories like “night” and “day.” We wanted Rashida’s clothes to feel improvised—as if she’d put on a frilled silk evening skirt, then grabbed the shearling jacket at the last minute. Jacket, Searle. Skirt, \$455, Rozae Nichols Jewelry, Rashida’s own.



## Mia Farrow

For someone whose wardrobe consists of mostly blue denim and whose idea of getting dressed up means black pants and a white shirt, this is a good time to be female. Mia remembers "wandering through my mom's closet, looking at the high heels and petticoats and waist cinches and padded thises-and-thats and thinking, *How am I ever going to do this?*" Fortunately, she didn't have to. Clothes now are "comfortable, practical, and sexy"—like the suede poncho. "It has wonderful lines," she says. "It hangs beautifully and drapes softly, and when I tried it on I just knew it was a lovely thing." There's also a nostalgic element: "It reminds me of a cape I wore in the sixties or seventies. I'd love to have it back."

**O ADVISORY** The poncho's unfinished edges and hippie provenance—from the Andes to the counterculture—give it a mother-earth feel. The flowing shape lets you throw it on over anything. And it's warm, like wearing your own blanket. Poncho, Lost Art. Jeans, \$179, Diesel. Boots, Manolo Blahnik.

"My mother always said, 'Keep



Isabella Rossellini, actress, and  
daughter, Elettra Wiedemann, model

Elettra likes to hang out in handbag shops. "I love the way leather smells," she says. "It's so distinctive." As the daughter of a chic and famous mother who also happens to be the daughter of a chic and famous mother (Ingrid Bergman), this 20-year-old may have a genetic predisposition toward great style. An intergenerational dialogue: Isabella: "She had this leather bomber jacket she wore every day." Elettra: "It had shredded arms, no buttons. I ripped it well." Isabella: "It looks kind of couture now." Even when Elettra wears jeans and a T-shirt, "there is a dignity to it, an elegance," Isabella, 51, says. "But I think she has too many sneakers." Although Isabella

herself is all for comfort, she also gravitates toward the eccentric elegance of men's clothes—tailored suits, pajamas with mandarin collars. "My mother has classic style," Elettra says, "but there is always an edge."

**ADVISORY** On the coziness meter, getting fleeced is right up there with cocoa and central heating. Elettra's Uggs are a snug finish for distressed leather cargos and a cobwebby sweater; Isabella's duffle coat is doubly warm with a cashmere knit underneath. *On Elettra:* Sweater, \$1,075, Vasseur Esquivel. Pants, \$264, June. Boots, Ugg. *On Isabella:* Coat, Calvin Klein. Dress, \$1,100, TSE.



it simple and classic," Mia says. "It's certainly worked for me."



"This coat  
made me feel  
cozy,  
**nourished,**  
taken care of,"  
Laura says.  
"It was  
like having  
a soft,  
feathery  
massage."



### Laura Harring, actress

She'd rather dance than shop, doesn't stress about matching colors ("Sometimes being a little off is very cool"), and is entirely matter-of-fact about fashion. "When I'm wearing a big, furry, fuzzy thing like this coat," says Laura, 39, "I have no problem using it as a blanket on an airplane. You can't get too attached to things; life is about enjoying moments." Such as: shopping ("I think it's therapeutic"), miniskirts ("It's fun to show your legs"), doing the tango ("To take me away from my mind and into my body"). She says suede helps her dance—"They put it on the bottom of shoes so you can slide better"—and that black leather makes her feel "powerful, tough, and in control."

**O ADVISORY** This is not your mother's suede coat, though it's just as cozy—the new age of shearling is here. Ingenious dye work produces an animal-print effect that's glam enough for a major party; irregular edges translate into a quirky kind of wrap that works over jeans or sweats. Coat, Larissa Designs. Tank, \$25, the Limited. Skirt, \$248, Banana Republic. Square ring, Greenleaf & Crosby. Shoes, Sigerson Morrison.

Fashion editor: Jenny Capitan.  
Hair: Colin Gold for Marek & Associates. Makeup: Bobbi Brown for Bobbi Brown Cosmetics. Manicure: Richa for Vernon Jolly. Set design: Noemi Bonazzi for Marek & Associates.

For details see Shop Guide.  
For more fashion ideas,  
see Love That! on page 241.



BEAUTY NOTE

**Hair** How do you get hair like Laura Harring's, with shine, rich color, and unfussy style? It's no mystery: The healthier hair is, the more beautiful it looks, especially when it's simply styled, says Steven Dillon, creative director of Oribe Salon in New York City. Try a moisturizing mask (Kiehl's Deep Conditioning Protein Pak); leave on 10 to 30 minutes and then rinse. You can get softness and shine by mixing equal parts styling cream (L'Oréal Paris Condition Naturelle) and gel or mousse (Keune Pearl Shine Gel or Umberto Giannini Volume Mousse) with a drop of antifrizz serum (John Masters Organics Dry Hair Nourishment & Defrizzer). After towel-drying, apply the mixture to your hair, starting at the ends. Subtle high- and lowlights like Laura's, says Dillon, give multidimensional color and the illusion of fullness. Shearling jacket, Linda Allard Ellen Tracy. Nylon tank, \$25, the Limited.

