

— NOT YOUR

AVERAGE —

It Girl

On-the-rise actress Zoë Kravitz takes time out from being the next big thing to talk film, music and growing up with that last name.

BY MELISSA GOLDSTEIN
PHOTOGRAPHED BY DOVE SHORE
STYLED BY BEAGY ZIELINSKI

HAIR: NIKKI NELMS
MAKEUP: ASHUNTA SHERIFF
STYLIST ASSISTANT: DANI MORALES

Long Sleeved Botanical dress:
ALICE BY TEMPERLEY, \$840,
temperleylondon.com.
Hat and jewelry worn
throughout: Kravitz's own.



When we pin down Zoë Kravitz for a chat in the frenzied days

before she hops a flight to Australia to report for work on the much-anticipated (and much-delayed) *Mad Max: Fury Road*, she has no idea what lies ahead. "I'm so not in the loop," she assures us of her closely guarded schedule.

But this leap-of-faith itinerary doesn't faze the überpetite, doe-eyed 25-year-old. While some of her peers—in stereotypical Hollywood fashion—may need to know the bean provenance of their next latte, Kravitz is an unabashed free spirit, openly embracing the spontaneity that comes with the territory. "That's actually what I like about New York," says the Brooklyn transplant. "You can just wander, and you never know where you're going to end up."

As the daughter of Lenny Kravitz (yes, that Lenny Kravitz) and Lisa Bonet (yes, Denise Huxtable), who divorced when she was five years old, she was raised to appreciate the unexpected. Hers was the sort of upbringing—in the wilds of LA's Topanga Canyon—in which one might run into Stevie Wonder in the kitchen and suddenly find her 13-year-old self on the receiving end of an acoustic serenade. (Fact: While tweens everywhere were humming along to "Isn't She Lovely" during their friends' Bat Mitzvah slide shows, Kravitz was happening upon an up-close-and-personal rendition.)

Of course, these days it's less serendipitous encounters and outer-borough meandering, more global commuting. Such is the reality for an up-and-coming actress and perennially tipped It Girl with the high-profile experience (films *X-Men: First*

Class and *After Earth* and Showtime's *Californication*, to name a few), exes (Michael Fassbender, Penn Badgley), rumored paramours (at press time, hip-hop artist Drake) and bestie (Jennifer Lawrence) to match. You can add to this potent mix a sideline as a style star: Kravitz's well-traveled look routinely graces fashion blogs, blending a downtown gallery vibe—leather cutout dresses, knee-grazing gladiator sandals and zippered moto jackets—with West Coast bohemia (think hippie-esque coats, layered turquoise necklaces and whimsical hair wreaths). She has even served as a muse for designer and Balenciaga creative director Alexander Wang.

All that's missing from the starlet checklist, some might say, is a YA (young adult) novel film adaptation—something Kravitz crosses off her list with the March 21 release of *Divergent*, a dystopian thriller based on author Veronica Roth's best-selling trilogy, which also stars Kate Winslet and Shailene Woodley. But she is quick to clarify that her attraction to the project was not because of the genre's trendiness.

"I hadn't read the book, so at first when I heard the premise I was like, It's another *Hunger Games* post-apocalyptic [project] because, you know, that's a thing right now," says Kravitz with wry

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THIS PAGE: Silk print top, \$390; Silk print bottoms, \$480; SEE BY CHLOÉ, saks.com. Fae Strappy sandals: LAURENCE DACADE, \$950, bergdorfgoodman.com.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Jude Biker jacket, \$506; Lala tee, \$253; James shorts, \$156; AMERICAN RETRO, alenetoo.com.





Stripe top, \$78; Shorts, \$55; EDITH A. MILLER, shopbird.com. Solstice kimono: ELEMENT, \$80, elementeden.com. Watch: BABY-G, \$120, macys.com.



“Whether it’s work or music or whatever, I like to go go go.”

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understatement. “But I read the script and thought it was really smart and engaging. There are very few roles for young people that aren’t just angsty kids—all of the roles in this film are strong characters that don’t seem edited for bubblegum reasons.”

It also helped that Kravitz’s character, Christina, a tough-as-nails warrior-in-arms to the film’s heroine (played by Woodley), was relatable: “She’s a loudmouth,” says Kravitz with a laugh. “I identify with her because she’s no bullsh*t and has foot-in-mouth syndrome, which I also happen to have all the time.”

That’s not to say she can’t play against type. After wrapping *Divergent*, Kravitz immediately began filming *The Road Within*, a remake of the German movie *Vincent Will Meer*. In it she inhabits the vulnerable Marie, a young woman being clinically treated for anorexia who joins forces with her fellow patients (Robert Sheehan and Dev Patel) to steal their doctor’s car for a coming-of-age road trip. “It was really intense, trying to be present and able to work, and be creative and a pleasant human being while basically not eating,” says the actress, who joined the drama club in middle school and studied acting at Purchase College in New York. “But it’s rare to come across young female roles that are challenging in that way, so I was grateful.”

As an antidote to the emotional toll of her daily experience, Kravitz turned to other creative endeavors, namely her R&B-infused electro-pop band, Lolawolf. “I had to do something to stay positive and not go completely insane,” she says. “Friends of mine from New York [James

Levy, Raviv Ullman and Jimmy Giannopoulos of the band Reputante] came to stay with me for a couple of weeks, and every night we’d just record a song for fun.”

The word of mouth surrounding Lolawolf’s music landed them on Pitchfork, leading to media raves and gigs in New York, London and at Art Basel Miami Beach. The band released its first EP in February, and Kravitz says a full-length album is likely on the horizon. It all sounds a bit full-on for something the actress insists is a hobby. Then again, a hobby by normal Joe-celebrity standards may not be the same for Kravitz, who is hardly your average twentysomething actress.

This is, after all, a woman who “doesn’t understand people who don’t listen to an album as an activity,” who goes to great pains to remind herself the business is not about “the shiny things” but about aspiring to art and storytelling, and—let’s not forget—spends her downtime crafting an EP while fasting.

So if anyone can squeeze a music career into a schedule weighed down with thoughtful indie flicks and big-budget blockbusters, it just might be Kravitz. “I have a hard time slowing down,” she admits with a hint of pride that indicates she has no intention of trying to. “Whether it’s work or music or whatever, I like to go go go.” *EF*

THIS PAGE: Grid Jacquard Bonded Neoprene top, \$225; Grid Jacquard Bonded Neoprene Cropped shorts, \$235; T BY ALEXANDER WANG, alexanderwang.com.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Knitted Croc-front sweater, \$96; Sheer blouse, \$76; TOPSHOP, topshop.com. Hip-Zip shorts: RTA, \$179, shopbop.com. Fatale over-the-knee gladiator sandals: LAURENCE DACAIDE, 212-391-0050. Moon Dust sunglasses: CAST, \$240, casteyewear.com.

