

Work is something she's passionate about. *After Immortal*, there are four more films on the horizon. I feel grateful that I've been able to work in so many different genres," she says. "I've done action, drama and comedy, and I'd love to explore documentary film making, too. And writing is something I'm always doing. Angus is a beautiful filer and that inspires me. I've been writing diaries since I was six. Sometimes it's to get clarity on a certain issue, or to never forget something that I want to savour... Maybe it's my form of therapy."

and I had started to feel a hunger to work again after *Home and Away*. In a way I've been in denial about living in L.A. - I still rent a car and I've been here three and a half years! I never felt like I lived here until about two years ago, because I was in and out so much. I miss my friends, my family and the nature of Australia, but I've liked discovering special little places over here; it's made me feel more at home. Silver Lake or Beachwood Canyon, sweet little family-run coffee shops.

But the move from the motherland has paid off. Soon after arriving on US shores, she landed a part in the Steven Spielberg-produced mini-series, *The Pacific*. After that, Spielberg recommended the meet director Michael Bay, who cast her in *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen*. They were a small part, but pivotal in her Hollywood acceptance.

Since then, her career has started moving in earnest. First comes *Imperatriz*, a Greek mythological epic, co-starring Freida Pinto and Mickey Rourke. "I like playing smaller characters in films," she says. "It feels right not to have all the weight on me to carry it. That will come along when it makes sense. On a film I did called *Dryburgh*, I would go onto the set and stand hours watching Sean Neill and William Dafne."

The acting, she says, came after a 'candiditious encounter' with her new agent, who she found herself sat next to under a tree in a Melbourne park. 'She asked me if I was interested in modelling,' babbles says, 'and I wasn't, but then she asked about acting. I was 17 and I didn't even know that as a agent was how an actor got a job.'

"I was also a drama girl, you know.

"I was skittish when I was young, and I wouldn't have had the guts to go after it myself. But then I did acting courses for a year and *Hans* and *Ausy* was my first audition. I remember being overwhelmed by the face people would even see me for an audition. I got booked and it was a big shift. Suddenly I was 18 and moving to Sydney. Acting has helped me come out of my shell. I always thought I was too sensitive but now I know I can channel that for work."

She's an interesting character, I feel. Lucas, and not your average Hollywood star. She will sit with you to eat lunch, listening to conversations, asking questions and opinions other than bombarding her own. She doesn't act at all, you say, because it doesn't make her feel good, preferring to watch films on a giant projector on the wall. *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* and *Angela's Ashes* being particular favourites.

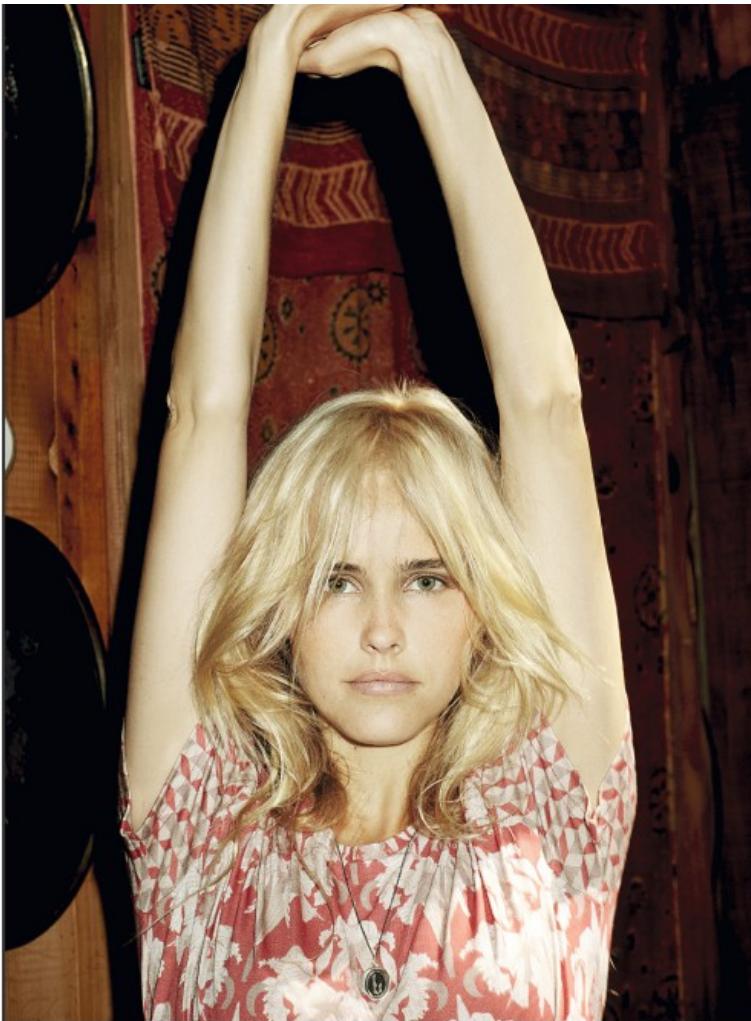
You offer her control of the scene on the shoot and she asks, in the most polite way, if it would be OK to put on some music from Angus & Julia Stone, her boyfriend's band with his sister, or if "that makes me a little dagg?"

Her spartan life seems campaigning for causes she believes

His spare time is spent campaigning for causes he believes in. She's climbed Kilimanjaro with *James Bond* and her friend Ettie Hirsh to raise awareness for the global clean water crisis. She's had an arrest warrant issued against her in Japan for protesting against the killing of dolphins for a documentary called *The Cove*. Google her, and a video will come up that she made with Angus (surrounded by a song his sister wrote for them both) to try and get people to join them in a crusade to protect Australia's coral sea. Lin day Lohan, eat your heart out.

For all that Isobel is different, these things make her so likeable and special. She may be an anomaly, an anti-Hollywood heroine, but maybe a bit of 'daggy-ness' is just what we all need right now.

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DSREPS

dsreps.com
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New York

(917) 407-4292

Nicki Silverman: nicki@dsreps.com

Los Angeles

(626) 441-2224

Deborah Schwartz: deb@dsreps.com