

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 out here, it's made me feel more at home. Silver Lake or Headwood Canyon, sweet little family-run coffee shops.'

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

Since then, her career has started moving in earnest. First comes *Immortals*, a Greek mythological epic, co-starring Pezita Pinto and Mickey Rourke. 'I like playing smaller characters in films,' she says. 'It's been feeling 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 *Dogbreathers*, I would go on to the set and spend hours watching Sam Neill and Willem Dafoe.'

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

'I was shy 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 *Home and Away* was my first audition. I remember being so overwhelmed by it that 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.'

Work is something she's passionate about. After *Immortals*, 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'll love to explore documentary film making, too. And writing is something I'm always doing. Angus is a beautiful writer 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.'

She's an interesting chatter, Isabel Lucas, and not your average Hollywood star. She will sit with you to catch lunch, listening to conversations, asking questions and opinions rather than bombarding with her own. She doesn't own a telly, she says, because it doesn't make her feel good, preferring to watch films on a giant projector on the wall — *The Untouchables*, *Lightness of Being* and *Amélie* being particular favourites.

You offer her control of the stereo 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 daggie?'

Her spare time is spent campaigning for causes she believes in. She's climbed Kilimanjaro with Jessica Biel and her friend Emilie Hirsch 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 (standing naked 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. Lindsay Lohan, cut your heart out.

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

Immortals is released on 11 November



BY JENNIFER JARVIS FOR EW.COM. STYLING: JESSICA WATSON. HAIR: JESSICA WATSON. MAKEUP: JESSICA WATSON. GROOMING: JESSICA WATSON. DRESS: CALVIN KLEIN.



Jason Nocito

DSREPS

dsreps.com
© DSReps

New York

(917) 407-4292

Nicki Silverman: nicki@dsreps.com

Los Angeles

(626) 441-2224

Deborah Schwartz: deb@dsreps.com

Crystal Roberts: crystal@dsreps.com