

MELISSA BOLONA

Entrepreneur Spirit

By ANDREW MACPHERSON @andrewmacpherson_official

Melissa Bolona is a young, vibrant actress based in Los Angeles. Starring in numerous films with co-stars such as John Travolta and James Franco. She has blossomed in her acting career as well as a renowned philanthropist; giving her support to the ASPCA, Hatian Relief Foundation, AmFar, and others. Melissa shares with us her tricks of the trade, her universal love for L.A.

PHOTOGRAPHER: ANDREW MACPHERSON @andrewmacpherson_official

CREATIVE DIRECTOR: ROBERT STEINKEN @robertsteinkenhair

WARDROBE STYLIST: ORETTA CORBELLI @orettac

MAKEUP ARTIST: BRETT FREEDMAN @brettglam

HAIR STYLIST: ROBERT STEINKEN @robertsteinkenhair



Jumpsuit AGENT PROVOCATEUR
Shoes LOUBOUTIN



What made you want to be an actor?

Gosh, I used to run around saying I was going to be an actress when I was a little girl because I loved making people happy, making them laugh and putting a smile on their face. Then I took acting classes while I was in school and once I graduated I decided to pursue the dream full time.

How did you get discovered?

There wasn't a real discovery moment. I started my career modeling. The work I did modeling gave me an edge, especially the Beach Bunny Contest as they have such a big fan base. I got my start in TV on a pilot for *The Saint*, so I guess that's when I was initially discovered.

Was it a remake of the old English one? I loved that show when I was a kid.

Exactly.

What character have you enjoyed playing the most?

I've liked a lot of the different characters I've played for different reasons, but I liked playing Mia from *Acts of Violence* the most. She was really sweet, she loved her fiancé and his brothers, but then she was also super tough, she took no shit and could really defend herself.

Which director would you most like to work with and why?

I'd love to work with Martin Scorsese. Of course he's a legend and I'm a huge fan of his films. I especially loved *the Wolf of Wall Street*.

What do you think about social media and its role in the business?

People can say it doesn't matter, but I think it does, especially in this day and age where everyone is their own entity. Social media has become a marketing tool, so if they're deciding between you and someone else, your followers are free marketing for their film. In the entertainment industry they are making movies

to make money, so by definition, they need their film widely watched. Social media has become a very important tool for getting it out there.

So conceptually you're a fan of it, you embrace it. Do you enjoy it?

Yes, I do, I love my stories, I have fun with it. At times it can be a little stressful because you literally have to be social on social media, like go around liking, commenting. You need to commit the time to doing it, but I enjoy the window into so many other worlds too.

So you take it seriously as a vital part of the business?

Absolutely, it's part of the job

Nice. Who's your favorite musician or band? Who do you listen to a lot?

I feel like such a dork for like saying this because I always say it, but I love Chris Martin and Coldplay.

I think their music is amazing. It's inspirational. It's clean and sends positive messages. I love the Chain Smokers, Imagine Dragons and Panic at the Disco.

This magazine is LA based, so let's talk about our city. How long have you lived here now?

About seven years.

So it's home?

Yes, this is home.

Tell me, what do you love most about LA?

I really like the nature and the clean, healthy lifestyle. It encourages you to be outdoors, to go hiking and take advantage of the amazing topography, the beaches, the mountains, the deserts, and all the amazing parks. I also really enjoy the driving too, though not so much the being stuck in traffic part of it. I grew up in New Jersey, so blasting music with the windows down feels like a slice of freedom. The one thing I do struggle with out here is the lack of really good delis, there's nothing that compares to the East Coast delis, but that's pretty much my only complaint.

Black jacket JOANNA HADFIELD ATELIER

Red Leather Biker Jacket LTH JKT
Geometric Earrings IRIS TRENDS
White High Waisted Panties and Sports Bra with Logo SINGLE UNDERWEAR



I never realized that weren't any good delis, never heard that before! Do you like the north beaches or the south beaches? Are you more a Malibu girl or would you go down to the Orange County beaches like Laguna or Huntington Beach?

I go even more north. I love the beach in Montecito because it's dog-friendly, the people are super nice and there's a real sense of community.

Where's your favorite beach up there?

It's called Butterfly Beach, it's right near the Four Seasons. I love that one and so do the dogs.

Do you spend a lot of time in Santa Barbara and Montecito?

A good amount, I go up there several times a year.

What's your favorite hang out here in LA? What's your favorite like restaurant, club? Where do you like going? If you had a friend come to town for a weekend where would you take them?

I know it sounds a bit bougie, but I do love the Soho House because it has spectacular views and cocktails. I also really like Éléphante in Santa Monica which overlooks the beach and once again has great cocktails and food.

What's your favorite restaurant here?

I love Dan Tana's because it's so old Hollywood. I love the staff there, it's just such a fun environment. I love Tower Bar in the Sunset Tower because it's so classic and with the piano it just feels like very 1920s.

If you weren't acting, what would you be doing?

Selling bone broth, of course.

Tell us about your bone broth business. How did that come about?

My sister Michele is super into health and wellness. She has a fitness account called @FitForFoodies. I was really trying to get healthy and begging her to train

me. In New York we'd have bone broth all the time together, then when she came out here to visit we went to find bone broth and realized there weren't many places to go to like in New York. That's why I decided to start it, but also because I have digestion problems and it's really helped me. Besides I always wanted to do something entrepreneurial while I act.

Are you going to do the kitchen, the marketing and distribution from here in California?

Yes, it would be Cali-based, baby.

What bones do you use? Chicken, beef, pork, all of it?

The whole enchilada, all grass-fed healthy bones for the various broths. I'm also going to make one for vegans with Chaga mushroom, seaweed, and collagen powder.

Fantastic. How long have you been on the bone broth regimen yourself?

I've been on it really since November. It's really, really changed my gut health and I feel way better than I have in ages.

Are you using it as a meal replacement?

No, not me personally, some people do bone broth cleanses. I drink it just like you would coffee. You should have a cup of bone broth every day, the health benefits are exponential. I have at least one cup a day if not more.

Is it like a morning soup, if you will?

I've been having it in the morning, but if I'm super busy that morning, I'll come home and have it later in the day. At my place, we will offer it hot in a to-go cup, or if you want to bring there'll be a fridge full of 32-ounce ones to take home and heat up.

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Dress **MALAN BRETON**

MODEL: **BOJANA KRSMANOVIC**



“I really like the nature and the clean, healthy lifestyle (of Los Angeles)”

Dress JOANNA HADFIELD ATELIER

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The meat is all going to be grass-fed?

Absolutely. The bones will be 100% grass-fed. The healthier the animal, the more benefits of the collagen. That's something that's very, very important to me to have these animals happy, healthy, grass-fed and free roaming on the farm.

Sounds awesome!

I'll bring you guys some!

Have you got a name for it yet?

I most certainly do. Drum roll, please. "The Beauty and the Broth".

That's such a great name, can't wait to try it! Good luck with it and thank you so much for taking the time to shoot with us.





Vest and trousers **ON AURA TOUT VU**
Bodysuit **AGENT PROVOCATEUR**

Dress **ANTONIO MARRAS**
Earrings **HOUSE OF EMMANUELE**

