



JONES

ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

RACEDAY
READY

WHAT TO WEAR
(AND HOW TO
WEAR IT)



INSIDE
THE HOUSE
OF DIOR

THE AUSTRALIAN
CONNECTION

THE SENSATIONAL

Rose & George

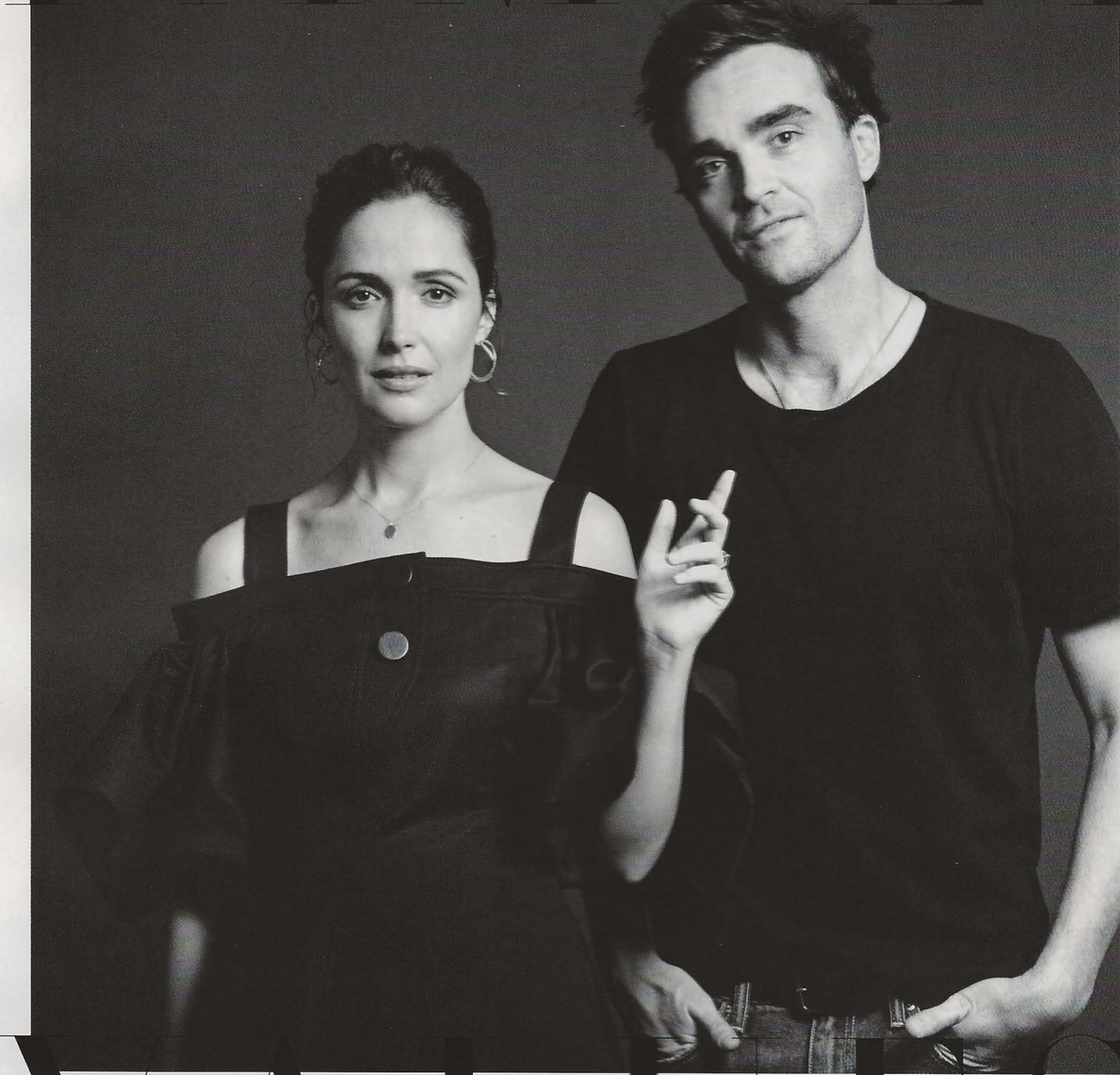
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DAVID JONES



FAMILY



VALUES

Creative siblings Rose and George Byrne on backing each other, butting heads and bonding over a shared love of *Seinfeld*.

Words by Georgina Safe Photography by Will Davidson



Rose wears Lee Mathews dress, \$989. Georg Jensen earrings, \$350 and ring, \$350. George wears Bassike T-shirt, \$90. Own necklace and ring (worn throughout). OPPOSITE PAGE: Rose wears Ellery top, \$1050. Georg Jensen earrings, \$350 and ring, \$350. Own necklace (worn throughout). George wears Levi's jeans, \$129.95. Own T-shirt. Own belt (worn throughout).

It's a rainy New York day and Rose and George Byrne are cracking jokes and goofing around on the JONES set like any brother and sister.

But, as soon as photographer and close family friend Will Davidson points his camera at the duo, Rose snaps into focus with all the poise and professionalism of an award-winning actress and George, an accomplished photographer himself, takes his turn on the other side of the lens (which loves his tall-dark-and-handsome looks). A minute later, however, the pair crack up again.

"There was a lot of laughing," Rose says afterwards. "We were nervous and laughing and then not nervous and laughing. George is a photographer, so he understands much more about the technical choices on a shoot than I would. But I understand more about the modelling side, so it was a good combination of the two."

Rose and George Byrne are quite rare: celebrity creative siblings who are as open and friendly as they are talented. Where some actresses can be reserved or aloof, Rose immediately volunteers that she and George are heading to a friend's wedding in Greece on the weekend with Davidson – "We're all going together: Will's best friend is getting married and he and George are the best men" – while George confides that their shared sense of humour grew out of their joint *Seinfeld* addiction.

"*Seinfeld* is like comfort food for us," he says. "We were obsessed with it growing up and people actually call me Jerry now as a nickname, so maybe it's all caught up with me."

He and Rose may have spent their formative years watching endless episodes of the American sitcom and Britain's *Fawlty Towers* at home in the leafy Sydney suburb of Balmain – "Basil Fawlty is my comedic hero" says Rose – but it's now the willowy brunette who commands the laughs. Her big comedy break in *Get Him to the Greek* with Russell Brand led to *Bridesmaids* with Kristen Wiig and *Bad Neighbours* and its sequel with Seth Rogen. Yet she's equally compelling playing it straight: she earned two Emmy and Golden Globe nominations apiece for her role as Ellen Parsons opposite Glenn Close in the legal thriller *Damages*, and also impressed in *The Place Beyond the Pines* with Ryan Gosling and *Adult Beginners* alongside her partner Bobby Cannavale.

She and Bobby now live in a brownstone in Brooklyn with their

17-month-old son Rocco, while George is carving out an impressive art career from his home in Los Angeles. His striking photographs, that reveal the beauty in the banal buildings and landscape of the City of Angels – "breaking it down, one palm tree at a time" he jokes on Instagram – have garnered the artist and musician more than 92,000 followers and significant interest from the wider art world. He is represented by the Olsen Gallery in Sydney, which featured his solo exhibitions, *Local Division* in 2016, and *Colour Field* in June this year. In between was a residency at Soho House in LA. George's upcoming show, *New Order*, will feature more of his signature aesthetic, combining geometry and colour theory to evoke a sense of urban isolation. Opening at New York's Olsen Gruin gallery on 15 September, it is part of the artist's ongoing quest to forge a new path in photography: "I'm pushing the medium away from straight documentary or portrait because I'm more interested in creating a feeling than telling a story."

He cites artists including Jeffrey Smart, Richard Diebenkorn and Stephen Shore, a member of the New Topographic movement of American landscape photographers, as among his influences when

it comes to capturing unexpected California moments.

"I love the idea of accidental beauty, and I'm most satisfied when I can make a good image out of the most unlikely scenery or surfaces," he says.

One of the first people he shows his photographs to is Rose: "She has a really good, natural feel for aesthetic, and she's been really helpful as a sounding board over the years". That respect for each other's opinions reflects the deep bond between the pair, who support each other in their professional and personal lives.

"We have a great dialogue and, while we are in different businesses, you obviously navigate a lot of similar things in the acting and photography industries," says Rose. "I learn a lot from George's perfectionist attitude when it comes to his work, because as a Leo I can be lazy, and I always value his opinion on a film project or a screenplay, because creatively he's got great taste. He's got a great sense of humour, so he's excellent to have a vent with if

Bassike T-shirt, \$90.



ABOVE: Hollywood Playground, 2016 by George Byrne. LEFT: Bianca Spender coat, \$995 and pants, \$485. KitX top, \$395. Georg Jensen earrings, \$350. BELOW LEFT: Transparent Billboard, 2016 by George Byrne. BELOW: Hugo Boss jacket, \$799. Jac+Jack T-shirt, \$80. Levi's jeans, \$129.95. BELOW RIGHT: 99c Culver City, 2016 by George Byrne. BELOW FAR RIGHT: Rose wears own rings.

STYLING: JESSICA DOS REMEDIOS. HAIR: HARRY JOSH. STATEMENT ARTISTS: MAKE-UP: CHRISTIAN MCCULLOCH/STREETERS

it was hard to juggle them to be successful – the old 10,000 hours theory – so in a sense I’ve been slower to achieve and get to where I wanted to be. But, while there is an argument for laser-like focus, I think there is also an argument for being open minded, so it’s always about finding that balance.”

Once George settled on music and art as his twin passions, his sister was ready to assist in any way she could.

“For my career she’s always been incredibly helpful in terms of using the resources she’s had through who she knows or what she’s doing,” he says. “She’s also a fantastic listener, which is why she has such deep friendships and why she is so great for advice.”

It was Rose who George turned to when he first arrived in New York from Australia.

“When George came to the States he lived with me for a while in New York before he went out to Los Angeles,” says Rose. “Coming from a super-close family, we are all deeply entwined and unwaveringly supportive of each other. It’s an unspoken bond.”

And when they do disagree, it’s simply a matter of giving each other a little space.

“We are both strong-willed and can be strong-headed sometimes in what we think,” says George. “Usually if we have a disagreement we’ll just have a cooling-off period to give each other a bit of a breather, but we’re fortunate enough with our personalities that we don’t tend to butt heads or scream and shout. We are both pretty intuitive and we tend to have similar views on things.”

George could be moving into similar territory to Rose, with

“Maybe my kids will want to do something really different, like run a granola company or become accountants.”

plans to expand his art practice to encompass his latest interest, the moving image.

“A lot of my work is inspired by driving around Los Angeles, and that in itself is a moving image,” he says. “I’ve been filming a lot in LA and I’m interested in the idea of exploring that moving content when it comes to my art.”

Rose has also been busy making *Peter Rabbit*, the animated film featuring fellow Aussies Margot Robbie and Elizabeth Debicki.

“I’ve always wanted to do a kids’ film,” she says, “And I thought it would be sweet to do one now that I’ve had my own child.”

Which brings us neatly to Rose’s other big news: she’s pregnant with her second child.

“I’m a little tired but feeling good,” she says. “Everyone was very sweet on set today, and you always get a little bit more attention when you’re pregnant, which is fabulous.”

As the shoot starts to wind down and the siblings prepare to head home to Rose’s house, where George is bunking

down before the trip to Greece, I ask Rose whether she expects her own children will follow in the creative footsteps of all of the Byrne siblings.

“I remember doing the film *The Rage in Placid Lake* years ago with Ben Lee, about the kid who rebelled against his bohemian parents and became an accountant,” she says. “Maybe my kids will want to do something really different, like run a granola company or become accountants themselves.”

No matter what they choose, they’re sure to have plenty of encouragement from their mum...and uncle “Jerry”. J

