

S O U T H F L O R I D A

STYLE

FALL/WINTER 1991

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**Style:
What Is It?
Who's
Got It?**

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hot *shot*

She's one of the world's most-imitated women. But top model Christy Turlington, whose face has dominated the cover of nearly every high-fashion magazine over the past five years—*Vogue*, *Elle*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Mirabella*—refuses to consider herself a fashion goddess. "I don't create trends. I reflect them," says Turlington. "Anything I wear for the camera is strictly the creation of someone else. Basically, I follow what's in, the same as everyone else does." And yet, few women are in quite so enviable a position to define glamour as this 21-year-old. Peel away the designer wear and she remains the very essence of style: South Florida Style. Indeed, the sultry brunette—half-Latin, half-Anglo—exudes the cosmopolitan sophistication of Miami Beach. Her virtually flawless skin radiates the sun-drenched glow of the Keys. Her full, pouty lips are every bit as sensual as a steamy night in Palm Beach. "They say I've got the look of the '90s, but I don't think that's necessarily true," she says. "I think one of the reasons I've been successful as a model is because I have a look that would be at home in just about any decade." Turlington's sassy looks are also at home in just about any

B Y R I C H S M I T H



KEN SCHIFF

[Miami's Christy Turlington Clicks As Cover Girl]

locale. It should come as no surprise that she's been photographed in many of the world's most romantic settings. But the cameras actually started clicking for Turlington in Miami. Her first cover: *Miami/South Florida* magazine. "I moved away from here in 1983, when my dad, who works for Pan Am, was transferred to San Francisco," she says. "But I come back to South Florida from time to time, usually to do a shoot, since the area is so popular with photographers. I'm really impressed by the way the area has become so much

more style-conscious. A lot of it seems to be due to the growing New York influence. Happening people from New York are coming down, opening restaurants, clubs and shops, which is giving South Florida a much stronger sense of self. I think the region is fast reaching the point where it can hold its own against a city like New York or Los Angeles in terms of importance in setting trends. But South Florida's charm is that its style is so totally unique." South Florida Style is a smooth blend of laid-back and pulsating urban

HOT SHOT

hipness, she says.

Growing up near Southwest 152nd Street and Old Cutler Road in South Dade, Turlington was allowed by her parents to partake only of the laid-back. That meant Turlington was forced to limit her after-school and vacation activities to sunning on the beach or riding horseback. The latter was enough to launch her career.

One afternoon in 1983, she was riding at the ranch of a friend when she was spotted by a local photographer who happened to be taking head shots of an aspiring actress. As Turlington galloped up and brought her mount to a halt to watch the shoot, the photographer was transfixed. He found out her name and contacted Turlington's mother for permission to photograph the 14-year-old Southwood Junior High schooler.

Turlington took it as a lark. But the studied eye of the photographer recognized her potential. Quick to notice, too, was the Michele Pommier model agency in Miami, which eagerly signed a contract to represent her. Within weeks, Turlington made her professional debut on the cover of *Miami/South Florida* magazine.

But the same month that issue of the magazine hit the stands, Turlington and

her family moved to San Francisco. "After we moved to California, I sort of forgot about modeling. My attention was on school work."

Then it came: The Call. Scouts from the prestigious Ford Modeling Agency in New York had visited Michele Pommier to seek exciting new talent. Turlington's name was among the first offered. Ford operatives lost no time tracking down Turlington in San Francisco, insisting she fly out to the Big Apple for training that summer. "I agreed, largely because the offer included a month in Paris for location work," Turlington says.

That was in 1984. During the months that followed, Turlington bided her time until, finally, in 1985, she scored her first big national cover, *Vogue*.

From there, Turlington's life has been a blur of flashing strobes. Demand for her talents became so intense that in 1988 she sought a lucrative, multi-year exclusive contract with Calvin Klein just to cool the pace.

"It turned out I didn't like having as much free time as the Calvin Klein contract gave me," she says. "So I negotiated with the company for an early release. Fortunately, they were nice about it and

consented."

Signing that contract represented a rare rough spot for Turlington. She of the 5-foot-10-inch frame and 20-inch waist is reputed to have one of the keenest business minds in the profession. "Business sense comes naturally to me. I'm very conservative about decision-making. One thing that's helped me avoid being overexposed or caught up with disreputable individuals and companies is my insistence on having the right to personally approve every assignment in advance—usually you have no choice but to go wherever the agency sends you. I just don't like not being in control of my situations."

Turlington figures she's got perhaps five more years in front of the camera before younger, fresher faces spirit away the admirers who have enthroned her as queen of chic.

However, when that time comes, Turlington isn't likely to cease shaping South Florida's perceptions of style—she plans to become a novelist.

"I'd like to write the Great American Novel," says Turlington, an avid reader of classical literature. "Maybe I'll be the next Ernest Hemingway. I've got a lot to say." ●



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