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Picture perfect

Romijn-Stamos speaks about 'House of Style'

NEW YORK (AP) — These days, being a supermodel is more than looking good while striding down the runway or posing for a magazine cover.

Fashion's top faces are profiled in newspapers and magazines. They also make guest appearances on television talk shows and land acting roles in movies.

Rebecca Romijn-Stamos is at the top of this new class of do-it-all women.

She is the host of MTV's "House of Style," which, in past years, helped boost the careers of multimedia models Cindy Crawford and Daisy Fuentes.

"It's so much fun. It makes us look a little more human," she said during an interview at MTV's Times Square studio.

MTV is celebrating the show's 10th anniversary with special programming for "Fashionably Loud Week," to be aired Nov. 21-27.

To mark the event, Mademoiselle magazine put Romijn-Stamos, Crawford and Fuentes on the cover of its November issue.

Romijn-Stamos said her job on "House of Style" is to help young women sort out all the styles, trends and sources of influence in fashion.

"I've always been intimidated by fashion, and I knew I wanted to make it as disarming as possible and take out the serious element as much as I could," she said.

"I try to come off as approachable and have the people who watch the show think I could be their friend — and I could."

"House of Style," which does not use cue cards or a TelePrompTer, has taught her to think on her feet.

"I've learned to tell a story, be funny, be interesting and engaging, but keep it concise in a time frame," Romijn-Stamos said.

She learned the "fashion rules" early in her modeling career in Paris. But Romijn-Stamos, 27, said she has adopted a more "rock 'n' roll and relaxed" style since joining the show in December 1997.

"I've always been intimidated by fashion, and I knew I wanted to make it as disarming as possible."

— Rebecca Romijn-Stamos
Host of "House of Style"

Tommy Hilfiger's "Tommy" girl has modeled for Escada, Christian Dior and Victoria's Secret catalogs.

People magazine named her one of its 50 Most Beautiful People of 1996 — not for her looks, the magazine said, but for her sense of humor about her body and her profession.

She loves clothes and is willing to try — or try on — almost anything. She has no trouble raiding

the closet of actor/husband Stamos ("Full House"), a fact that he was not thrilled to recently turned a pair of jeans into a skirt.

When she goes over putting on something too sexy — Stamos became fashion police.

"I value his opinion on what I wear," she said. "I'm not in charge of my wardrobe, but I do have a room with one shoe on the wall and asks him, 'Which one?'"

Romijn-Stamos was on the cover of the 1999 Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue and is a face on NBC's "Just Shoot Me."

But she will be unrecognizable when she appears in the movie, scheduled for release this summer. Why?

Not much can be said about her role. But here it takes 10 hours to get her villain's outfit and two hours to get her out.

She plays an evil blue-eyed beauty who kills her husband. Romijn-Stamos joked that it took 14 hours to paint the face of her "bathing beauty" for Sports Illustrated.

Her philosophy is to be a fashion with fun.

"I think that fashion on TV is about attitude," she said. "Once you strip that away, you'll see that we all have humble beginnings and you realize that none of us has to take ourselves so seriously."

ORCHESTRA

Continued from Page 5

"I'm interested in arts management," she said. "Mark has great charisma and energy. We talked and had similar ideas and standards. He also has vision, which is so important."

The idea for MSC OPAS' Intimate Gatherings came from board planning meetings last year, Perry said.

Intimate Gatherings is different from regular OPAS performances because it gives the audience an opportunity to interact with musicians after the performances through a question-and-answer session.

"A facilitator, either someone who is part of the performance, or an outside person is brought in," Perry said. "That person leads the question-and-answer session, which serves as the discussion."

This format goes well with Powell's mission for the orchestra. His priority is to let the audience see and feel the music, an experience possible with the Intimate Gatherings series.

"My goal for the audience is to have them come away ready to listen to more music and to explore," he said, "or to go to a concert they may not have chosen to go to before. I want them to come away with a better picture of how they hear music."

Sponaugle said putting the performance on was her favorite aspect of being a musician.

"I love the whole package," she said. "The idea of finding a venue and a presenter, the rehearsals and preparation and finally presenting to the public."

Powell said the music a person listens to determines how they listen to new types of music in the future.

"People go to concert hall, put a CD on or turn on the radio," he said, "and everything you've heard up until this concert has formed your ear. Music helps you get in touch with what you don't know and also with what you do know and you haven't heard."

The question-and-answer session to follow performance will not be a typical question-and-answer session, Powell said.

"All I'll say is that you will see something the orchestra has never really done before, and I'll be at that," he said.

Sponaugle said she hopes to introduce the orchestra to new and old orchestral music.

"We have standard favorites mixed with what has premiered only once," she said. "The creative process is for everyone involved, not just the performers."

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