Straight Edge

With designers' unflagging love of lines, stripes are the stars of the season. Photographed by Norman Jean Roy.

Where once America's relaxed vision of refined sportswear was worn by, well, pretty much only Americans, it has now broken through our borders and gone global. And what better example than designer and worldwide brand icon Marc Jacobs? His diffusion line Marc by Marc Jacobs couldn't look more at home on Adelaide-born actress Teresa Palmer. "Although I try to embrace Australian labels," says the 25-year-old, "there isn't one of his collections I haven't wanted to wear."

This spring, Jacobs is among designers (Prada, Isabel Marant) revisiting stripes. "The graphic color play and strong attitude keep this look feeling right for now," he says. "The thick lines grab attention," agrees Palmer, "and twirling in this full skirt really lifted my spirits." Given a profession that calls for slipping into character when she slips into wardrobe, she's used to clothes' changing her mood: There's the tight black leather "Dracula collar" jacket she wears as a Ducati-riding alien in this month's release *I Am Number Four,* and the vintage gold Halston dress she dons as Topher Grace's eighties-glam love interest in *Take Me Home Tonight* (out in March). Off the clock, she chooses another American uniform—slouchy pants and a loose tee, ubiquitous in L.A., where she now lives. "There's something special about looking like a star without breaking the bank," says Palmer, whose ensemble here rings in at under $500 apiece. "I want to feel elegant, not guilty!"—**ESTHER ADAMS**



STEAL OF THE MONTH



BIG-BAND THEORY

Actress Teresa Palmer wears a Marc by Marc Jacobs cotton shirt ($198), a striped silk skirt ($498), and resin bangles ($58 to $88 each); Marc by Marc Jacobs, NYC. In this story: hair, Duffy for Tommy Guns New York; makeup, Yumi, using Chanel Cosmetics, for Frank Reps. Produced on location by 3Star Productions. Shot at Ahmanson Ranch in Southern California. Details, see In This Issue.

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