



PHOTOGRAPHY BY CLIFF LIPSON • STYLING BY ANGELIQUE O'NEIL

**CBS' MOST STUNNING CRIME FIGHTERS—
LAUREN LEE SMITH OF *CSI*, *COTE DE PABLO*
OF *NCIS* AND EVA LA RUE OF *CSI: MIAMI*—
TRADE THEIR BADGES FOR A DAY IN THE CALIFORNIA SUN.**

POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

POLICE LINE

BY JIM COLUCCI

They hunt down stray hairs and other crime scene clues. They dissect dead bodies. Sometimes, they even rough up rogue gunmen. And all the while, they look darn good. These are the lady crime fighters of CBS.

With beauty as their special weapon, Cote de Pablo, Lauren Lee Smith and Eva La Rue can stun any adversary into submission—and us viewers as well. At our photo shoot in Laguna Beach, Calif., *Watch!* asked these stars from *NCIS*, *CSI* and *CSI: Miami*, respectively, to trade in their firearms for mascara wands. Effectively disarmed, the three sirens of the small screen revealed the secrets behind their pulchritudinous power.

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LAUREN LEE SMITH

For Lauren Lee Smith, the fresh-faced actress behind *CSI*'s newest investigator Riley Adams, a high-style photo shoot can be a welcome change. "All of us every day go to work and we're tough chicks," she says of the characters she, La Rue and de Pablo inhabit from week to week. "So it was such a treat to get to wear these beautiful dresses, these phenomenal shoes, and get made up. It was really fun to get to let the inner girliness come out."

Of course, for a jeans-and-T-shirts gal like Smith, the wired false eyelashes she wore here for *Watch!* were foreign, exotic—and more than a little scary. "I really don't wear a lot of makeup; I like to be comfy," Smith admits. "And these lashes were like 3 inches long. It was a little bit intimidating because they took about 25 minutes to get onto my eyes. And then I was afraid," she adds, laughing, "that I wasn't going to be able to open them."

It's unusual for the 28-year-old Canadian actress, who credits her laid-back outlook to her wandering, international upbringing by self-described "hippie" parents, to spend time thinking about such small, cosmetic details. "I'm pretty comfortable in my skin," she avows. "We all have our flaws. That's what hair and makeup and wardrobe are for, to create this sort of illusion of perfection. But in reality, we all get pimples. We all have fat days. I think you have to embrace that stuff."

The tall, slim blonde maintains her confidence (and her good looks) quite casually. She doesn't plan an exercise regimen, but just naturally loves to run. And she doesn't stress out about diet either, indulging in hamburgers and pizza about as often as she opts for brown rice and veggies, a meal she grew up with thanks to her vegetarian mom. "Like everything in life, it's all about balance," she says.

After her high school years spent performing Shakespeare at a local theater in Los Angeles, Smith curiously left Hollywood and moved back to her native Vancouver to start an acting career. The strategy worked; she was soon appearing in a wide range of Canadian-produced TV series and films. And

with each role, the chameleon-like actress has sported a different look. "For every major project, I try to change as much as possible. I'm surprised that I actually have hair on my head right now, because it's been every color of the rainbow," the actress says. "For me, the one thing that always bothers me when I watch actors is if they always look the same, then I identify them as that one character. So I think I've been quite lucky in that a lot of times, people will say, 'That was you?!' I love it when I hear that. Because I think it's part of the character to look as different from Lauren as possible."

But when it came to creating *CSI*'s Riley Adams, who debuted last fall in this season's third episode, Smith decided to imbue the character with many of her own real, casual traits. Like Smith, Riley is "a confident girl, and a tomboy. She's a wash-and-go kind of gal, who wants to be accepted as one of the guys." In fact, the actress has no problem even playing down her own natural, glowing good looks in service of her role as a junior investigator often called upon to sift through the muck and mire of a crime scene. "I love to play it the grungiest, the dirtiest, and the most minimal," she stresses. "Putting aside my vanity helps me feel like the character."

In researching her role, Smith says, she met with a Las Vegas *CSI* Level 2 who showed up in camo cargoes and a T-shirt, *sans* makeup, "and she looked amazing." After all, for the real team, there's no time to reapply one's lipstick. "They get a call in the middle of the night, and they have to go."

Of course, this being network television, home of the pretty people, the actress does understand that Riley may sometimes have to end up smudging a bit of unlikely eyeliner as she peers into a lab tech's microscope. "It's a bit of a compromise," she admits. Both on screen as Riley and in her own personal life, chasing after her two black Lab puppies in the park with her fiancé, "I would love always to wear a messy ponytail." But it's the high-glam days like this one, at the *Watch!* photo shoot, where Smith says she realizes, "after all, sometimes it's kind of pretty to let your hair down."

If you've ever watched a worldwide beauty contest like the *Miss Universe Pageant*, you've undoubtedly noticed that the continent of South America consistently produces young women as vibrant and long-stemmed as the roses that grow in *NCIS* star Cote de Pablo's native Chile. South of the equator, with so many native, European and African ethnicities mixing together, "it's a melting pot culture, and you get all these beautiful creatures," de Pablo theorizes.

And although the world continues to succumb more and more to a plastic-surgery-obsessed Western culture, she remembers her homeland, from which she emigrated with her family to Miami at age 10, as a place that valued much more natural looks. "Often, they're not conventionally pretty, and that in itself can be so very beautiful. You can have a big nose, and carry it with such pride. That's why to me, the perfect kind of beauty is a little boring."

During her college days studying musical theater at Pittsburgh's Carnegie Mellon University, de Pablo recalls her classmates encouraged her to play up her natural assets, and thus juice up her grades. She would refuse, "because I wanted people to perceive me based on what I did on stage. I felt like my beauty might make people not take me seriously. That it would never enhance anything, and might even take something away. So my reaction to beauty was always to get rid of it."

Even in her adult career, she says she has never read a Hollywood casting "breakdown" looking for the pretty girl role. The character parts, the smoldering-eyed ingénue adds, tend to be so much more interesting. Nonetheless, de Pablo maintains her looks, as well as her health, by drinking plenty of water or tea, working out at least four times per week with a trainer, and doing yoga. Sometimes, with the long hours that go along with working on an hourlong show, her schedule of sleeping at least eight hours per night and getting regular facials—"which are important for me because I really like to not wear makeup," she explains—can fall apart. And then there's chocolate. "Every once in a while, I'll junk out," de Pablo

admits. Another downfall: potatoes. "In any way, shape, or form, I love them."

In 2005, de Pablo joined the cast of *NCIS* for its third season. Ironically for the actress now playing the Israeli Mossad agent Ziva David, "Cote" is actually a common Chilean nickname for Maria Jose, meaning "Mary Joseph." "You can't get more Catholic than 'the father and mother of Jesus,'" she points out, laughing. So to research her role, de Pablo traveled to the Middle East to meet her character's real-life counterparts. And while TV's Ziva may seem to be the hottest possible woman ever to don camouflage cargo pants, de Pablo says that in Israel, she found plenty of equally beautiful men and women working in service to their country. "You could cast them in an action movie and they could be stars tomorrow, just based on their looks."

Still, from the beginning, she wanted to play Ziva's looks on the plainer side. For one thing, it keeps de Pablo's time in the hair and makeup trailer down to a mere half-hour of blow-drying. But more importantly, as a character choice, "I wanted to wear very little makeup, and just to make the character's beauty come from her confidence in her sexuality. Her appeal doesn't have to come from her being glamorous, or cookie-cutter beautiful. It just comes from her security as a woman, from being in control of the situation," she explains.

In the seasons thereafter, de Pablo has occasionally acquiesced to a little more primping, especially when it's tied to a particular storyline. In this season's premiere, Ziva glammed it up in a knockout purple backless dress as she posed undercover as a jazz singer. Divalicious days like those are fun for de Pablo, because their relative rarity, both on screen and off, keeps them special. "I'm not much of a Hollywood scene person," the single actress, who is in her late 20s, explains. But in a departure from her everyday self-described "beach bum" style, "when I do go out to a party, trust me, I do it all up. I have my makeup artist, and we can play and get really girly. But when it's done, it's done—and the next day, I'm back to no makeup and my own real life. And that's really good, too."





EVA LA RUE

CSI: Miami's Eva La Rue is glad that while she was growing up pretty, even winning her home state's Miss California Empire crown in 1984, her mother stressed that in the end, outward appearances aren't what matter. When people would compare her good looks to those of silver screen star Natalie Wood, "my mom would counteract that by saying how it's important to be smart, to be considerate, to be kind and talented and to work hard," the 42-year-old actress remembers. "She reminded me that 'there will always be somebody prettier.' So if you live your life based on just being beautiful, then you'll always be frustrated."

Now, La Rue is careful to pass on the same message to 7-year-old Kaya, her daughter with her former husband and *All My Children* co-star John Callahan. "Kaya knows I think she's beautiful, but we also talk a lot about how real beauty comes from using your talents for other people's good, and not just for your own."

Her ancestry an exotic mix of Puerto Rican, French, Scottish and Dutch, La Rue is relieved that she avoided being pigeonholed in unfortunate and stereotypical Hispanic roles. "For the longest time, there was just the whore, the drug addict, the maid or the nanny," she notes. On the soap, La Rue played a doctor, and now on *CSI: Miami*, a scientist. "I'm really proud of the Latina parts that I've gotten a chance to play. These women just happen to be Latina. It's not what defines them as characters."

La Rue may have made a specialty of playing some brainy ladies, but they're glamorous as well. Her *Miami* DNA specialist, Natalia Boa Vista, seems forever on the go, collecting and analyzing samples from some gory locales. Yet, when Horatio Caine enters her lab unexpectedly, looking for some fast-tracked results, Natalia's look is always flawless, never sweaty or disheveled even when it's clear she must have just pulled an all-nighter. "She has a makeup and hair team that follows her around. We call it the Vanity Support Team," La Rue jokes. "Plus,

I guess she reapplies in the car on the way from crime scene to crime scene."

But, she adds, "I've met quite a few beautiful cops, and attractive EMTs and doctors. I don't know why everyone just assumes beautiful people should all be in the entertainment industry. For one thing, there aren't jobs for all of them. So beautiful people end up in all walks of life."

Moreover, La Rue thinks that with Natalia, there just may be method to her mascara. The beautiful women of *CSI: Miami*, she theorizes, "have the opportunity to soften people up, whereas the boys don't. It's a nice balance. They can send the guy in for a little strong-arm, or the girl to use her feminine wiles."

In real life, the actress maintains Natalia's secret weapon with a regular program of diet and exercise—that is, when being a mom allows. All through school, La Rue loved to dance and performed professionally into her mid-20s, until her love of acting caused her to leave ballet behind. And so dance classes had always been her workout regimen. But after 40, La Rue found she was starting to lose muscle mass. "So as much as I hate going to the gym," she admits, she now combines weight workouts with classes in Pilates or yoga.

The actress also espouses facials—"although I rarely get a chance to do it"—and always ensures that she washes off all her makeup and applies under-eye cream before bed. In regard to her glowing complexion, "I have to say, being half-Puerto Rican has helped," she explains. Because after a lifetime of battling oiliness and acne, the actress has reached the point where some women dry out or wrinkle. But age has brought La Rue to a point of equilibrium. "Now for the first time in my 40s, I'm enjoying really great skin."

She's also enjoying her fit lifestyle—although she does harbor a thought that many undoubtedly share. "Wouldn't it be brilliant if you could just do a certain number of sit-ups and thigh raises, and then be done, forever in shape? That's what I wish," she says, joking. "Nobody would have to worry about it anymore. I think that would actually bring about world peace."



ON LOCATION

The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel, where this photo shoot took place, is a coastal retreat dedicated to creating an unforgettable experience. Situated atop a 150-foot bluff in picturesque Dana Point, Calif., it was the first full-service, 5-star resort to take residence within the idyllic community of Laguna more than 25 years ago.

With nearly 400 rooms, The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel continues to raise the bar for its guests with enhanced programs; creative, high-end amenities; and impeccable beachside service. Perfectly situated halfway between Los Angeles and San Diego along the famed Pacific Coast Highway, Laguna has been Southern California's premier artistic haven for more than a century. At the center of this beloved community, The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel has the services and amenities to impress any traveler.

From the koi pond to the exemplary culinary offerings at ENO and Restaurant 162' to the Adirondack chairs that dot the property, the natural beauty of The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel provides the perfect backdrop for any celebration. Whether guests are looking to get away for a second honeymoon, try surfing for the first time, or just relax on the beach, the oceanfront retreat boasts luxuriously appointed guest rooms, casual and upscale dining options, a recently renovated spa and access to several local golf courses.

For more information or reservations, call 800-241-3333, the hotel directly at 949-240-2000, or a travel professional or visit The Ritz-Carlton website at ritzcarlton.com.





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IN THIS SHOOT



PAGE 42-43:
LAUREN LEE SMITH
 Rouge silk taffeta dress (\$1,750) by Kevan Hall (kevanhalldesigns.com).

Pink "Carnaval" pump (\$1,665) by Christian Louboutin (christianlouboutin.com); 18k white gold diamond starburst earrings by Black, Starr & Frost (blackstarrandfrost.com).

COTE DE PABLO Clay gown with organza pleats (\$4,400) by Michael DePaulo, Kleinfeld (646-633-4300, kleinfeldbridal.com). Beige bow pump (\$695) by Valentino (valentino.com). 18k white gold white and champagne diamond drop earrings by Black, Starr & Frost (blackstarrandfrost.com).

EVA LA RUE Chocolate jersey gown with tortoise rings (\$2,100) by Kevan Hall (kevanhalldesigns.com). Earrings, vintage Miriam Haskell (miriamhaskell.com). 18k gold and platinum fancy vivid yellow diamond ring by Black, Starr & Frost (blackstarrandfrost.com).



PAGE 44: SMITH
 Pleated halter swim dress (\$186) by Juicy Couture (bloomingdales.com). Nude "Vidar" platform sandal (\$335) by Theory (piperlime.com). Earrings, vintage Larry Vrba for Miriam Haskell (miriamhaskell.com).



PAGE 47: DE PABLO
 Lipstick silk chignon gown (\$1,265) by Notte by Marchesa (marchesa.com).

Burmese ruby and diamond earrings, necklace and ring, all set in platinum, by Black, Starr & Frost (blackstarrandfrost.com).



PAGE 48: LA RUE
 Black shirred maillot (\$208) by Michael Kors, Saks Fifth Avenue (saksfifthavenue.com).

Pink ruffle coat (\$1,300) by Terexov (terexov.com).



PAGE 50: LA RUE
 Yellow viscose dress (\$760) by Terexov (terexov.com). Yellow "Scarpe" sling (\$875) by Christian Louboutin (christianlouboutin.com). 18k white gold white

and champagne diamond necklace, drop earrings by Black, Starr & Frost (blackstarrandfrost.com).

DE PABLO Globe silk halter dress (\$760) by Terexov (terexov.com). Lime crocodile half d'Orsay pump (price on request) by Valentino (valentino.com). Pink "Triangolo" satin clutch (\$795) by Christian Louboutin (christianlouboutin.com). Platinum blue sapphire and diamond earrings and ring by Black, Starr & Frost (blackstarrandfrost.com).

SMITH Green silk keyhole dress (\$840) by Terexov (terexov.com). Snakeskin peep-toe platform sandal (price on request) by Giuseppe Zanotti Design, Giuseppe Zanotti Design Boutiques (www.giuseppe-zanotti-design.com). 18k white gold turquoise and diamond necklace and drop earrings by Black, Starr & Frost (blackstarrandfrost.com).



PAGE 41:
STORYLINES OPENER

SMITH Organza poet blouse (\$1,320) and black skinny pant (\$660) by Cesar

Galindo, Gabrielle (610-668-2801). Black and metallic zig-zag patent leather pump (\$995) by Giuseppe Zanotti Design, Giuseppe Zanotti Design Boutiques (www.giuseppe-zanotti-design.com). 18k white gold diamond starburst earrings, 18k white gold diamond starburst necklace, 18k white gold diamond starburst bracelet, by Black, Starr & Frost (blackstarrandfrost.com).

LA RUE Black and silver beaded dot dress, (\$5,550) by Pamela Roland, Bergdorf Goodman. Black patent "Hyper Prive" pumps (\$865) by Christian Louboutin (christianlouboutin.com). 18k white gold mesh diamond star design choker and 18k white gold black and white pearl earrings with diamonds by Black, Starr & Frost (blackstarrandfrost.com).

DE PABLO Black rosette gown (\$1,710) by Tadashi Shoji (877-TADASHI, tadashicollection.com). Fuchsia satin peep-toe pump with silver bow (\$750) by Giuseppe Zanotti (www.giuseppe-zanotti-design.com). 18k white gold drop diamond earrings and 18k white gold diamond cuff bracelet by Black, Starr & Frost (blackstarrandfrost.com).

Harley-Davidson motorcycles courtesy of Orange County Harley-Davidson (949-727-4464, ocharleydavidson.com). **L**

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 Meagan McLaughlin

Producer:
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 Jared Mechaber (1st);
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 Stephanie Hobgood for Artists by
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