

By Adam Rathe
Circulation 425,000

OUT & ABOUT

HOW TO DISAPPEAR / THE DOORMEN OF BEVERLY HILLS / THE POWER AT THE TABLE

Krysta Rodriguez, photographed at the Towers of the Waldorf Astoria. MAX MARA TOP (\$1,090); LAPOINTE PANTS (\$1,350); O2 MONDE SHOES (\$398); HARRY WINSTON EARRINGS AND RINGS. FOR DETAILS SEE PAGE 97.

Everybody Loves a WINNER

In the new series *Halston*, Krysta Rodriguez gets inside Liza Minnelli's life and lashes.

BY ADAM RATHE PHOTOGRAPH BY EMILIO MADRID
STYLED BY MARYKATE BOYLAN



HAIR BY MATTHEW MONTON FOR ORIBE AT TWC-IA.COM; MAKEUP FOR OUR MAKEUP MANICURE BY KAYO HEDUCHI FOR CHANEL LE YVESIS; LOCATION: THE TOWERS OF THE WALDORF ASTORIA

Although the filming of *Halston*, the Netflix limited series about fashion's glamorous, troubled 1970s golden boy, wrapped last December, Krysta Rodriguez—who stars as the designer's friend and confidante Liza Minnelli—hasn't yet left the world that the legendary pair created.

"I've been renovating my own house to add a little Halston-Liza flair," she says. "I want it to feel like a sophisticated place where people will climb on the roof. What Halston had was a place where, when the lights went out, it all went down."

When the five-part series—which stars Ewan McGregor as the designer—premieres this month, we'll all be plus-ones on a tear through the fashion, nightlife, and

high society of the disco era. But beyond the cocaine and caviar, the series portrays a singular friendship between two misunderstood people who were able to bring out the best in each other.

"Liza has been replicated so often by people trying to do impersonations and emulate her," says Rodriguez, 36, a California native whose career on stage and screen has included roles in *Spring Awakening*, *A Chorus Line*, *Gossip Girl*, and *Smash*. "What I wanted to get into was her emotional journey and her relationship to Halston. They were linked their whole lives, and I think that the two of them meeting created both of them."

The series's director, Daniel Minahan, agrees. "The thing about Halston and Liza,"

he says, "is that they gave each other their best selves." And to embody that dynamic, he needed an actress who could play Minnelli at her best. "Besides the similarities of Krysta's physicality—she has the right bone structure and those big, beautiful eyes—she had something about her," he says. "That guileless quality, the sadness, and the tenacity that Liza has."

For Rodriguez, nailing the inner life of an icon was the most important thing she had to do. "What I tried to honor was her genuine humanity," she says. "There is a quote of hers I read: When someone asked, 'Would you ever do any of your mother's songs?' she said, 'My mother sang about victims, and I sing about survivors.'" **T&C**