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OSCAR-WINNING ACTRESS LUPITA NYONG'O SHOT BY MARIO SORRENTI FOR PORTER'S DESIRE ISSUE TALKS DRIVING CHANGE IN HOLLYWOOD, HAVING THE POWER TO SAY NO TO HARVEY WEINSTEIN AND REDRESSING BEAUTY STANDARDS



PORTER MAGAZINE ON SALE GLOBALLY FROM FRIDAY AUGUST 10

Trailblazing Kenyan actress Lupita Nyong'o talks frankly to the award-winning global fashion magazine **PORTER** about navigating her own destiny and driving change in Hollywood; how she owes much of her success to her mother – most notably last year when Nyong'o shared her own experience of sexual harassment with Harvey Weinstein, it was her mother who she looked to for guidance; and why she is redressing beauty standards: *"I have an opportunity to show other dark, kinky-haired people, and particularly our children, that they are beautiful just the way they are."*

Nyong'o, who appears on the cover of PORTER's Fall issue (on sale August 10), is photographed by acclaimed photographer Mario Sorrenti and styled by Cathy Kasterine. In Sorrenti's second cover shoot for PORTER, the actresses' natural beauty and grace is captured in a series of bold silhouettes wearing pieces from the forthcoming FW18 Collections.

Nyong'o reflects on change in Hollywood over the past year: including the critical and financial success of Marvel's *Black Panther*; and the #MeToo and Time's Up initiatives. Following her revelation about being sexually harassed by Harvey Weinstein, Nyong'o tells PORTER that she attributes finding the strength to speak up from her mother, who supported her in coming forward to share her story: *"I come from a very patriarchal world, but not within my family. My dad listened to my mom. My mom held her own. There was never a sense of her deflecting from my father. She had the power to say no to things, and I saw her hold that power."*

PORTER's editor-in-chief Lucy Yeomans says: *"Lupita Nyong'o is someone I have long admired – she has always insisted on writing her own narrative and is all the more desirable for it. Therefore, I am incredibly honored to have her as our cover star for the Desire issue. For all the negative connotations that may be attached to the word 'desire', there remains a powerful life-force of female sensuality which is something to be celebrated and not denied – Lupita captures this perfectly."*

The theme continues throughout the issue, as Katy England examines the enduring allure of her close friend, Kate Moss, ahead of the release of new book *Kate* – a series of intimate and previously unpublished portraits of the young Moss shot by Mario Sorrenti. *“Kate is clear about her boundaries. She will only go as far as she wants to, and if something detracts from the overall portrait of beauty, she will be the first to say,”* says England. Sorrenti tells PORTER *“Kate was an amazing, vibrant young girl, full of character and confidence. Everyone who came across her fell in love with her instantly”*.

Fashion force Donatella Versace talks about creating clothes that empower women to feel, act and be as fabulous as they look. Desirability, she says, is our most powerful weapon: *“I want to make women feel they are never too shy to say what they think. That is what we have always stood for.”*

PORTER also speaks to Hollywood’s most in-demand divorce lawyer, Laura Wasser (her clients include Angelina Jolie, Johnny Depp, Heidi Klum, and Gwen Stefani) about what fires her up, why she still believes in happy endings and what women should really be asking, and arming themselves with as they enter into marriage today: *“We’re all raised to think about getting the ring, having this beautiful day, the honeymoon, getting pregnant. It’s absurd.”*

And, far from your average boy-meets-girl tale – from waiting a year before making the first move with the handsome osteopath treating her son, to the fairy-tale proposal, and now a baby-on-the-way – supermodel Arizona Muse tells PORTER her extraordinary story of modern romance.

Lupita Nyong’o Interview Highlights:

Nyong’o on why no one should dare touch her hair: *“My hair is something that, historically, has been shunned, I mean, how often do you hear ‘You can’t get a job with hair like that?’”* Natural, African, kinky hair – it’s often been painted as uncivilized or wild. *Being featured on the cover of a magazine fulfills me as it is an opportunity to show other dark, kinky-haired people, and particularly our children, that they are beautiful just the way they are.”*

Nyong’o on celebrating her diverse heritage: *“My whole outlook and sense of self is Kenyan, but my mom made a point of letting me know that I was born someplace else, so I always felt an affinity, a need to get to know that place. I was the only one in my family born there. It was the thing that made me special.”*

Nyong’o on being an actress: *“At times, I’ve had to remind myself why I love this. It’s not because of the recognition. I love it because I enjoy experiencing the world through other people’s eyes.”*

Nyong’o on crediting her mother as a source of power: *“I come from a very patriarchal world, but not within my family. My dad listened to my mom. My mom held her own. There was never a sense of her deflecting from my father. She had the power to say no to things, and I saw her hold that power.”*

Nyong’o on why she chose to write a children’s novel “Sulwe”: *“I was touched by how it had resonated with so many people of color, and not just black Africans. I started to realize that there was a demographic that really needed to hear this message but wouldn’t hear my speech. I wanted to get to kids before they reach an age where the world is telling them they are not as valuable.”*

Donatella Versace Interview Highlights:

Versace on creating clothes that confront people, to stand up to them: *“I want to make women feel that they can do that in Versace, and never be shy to say what you think. That is what we have always stood for, but especially in this time.”*

Versace on #MeToo: *"This climate of harassment and #MeToo is not about sexuality. It is about power. People who have been attacked have been so by people in positions of power. Now it is about taking that power back to yourself and not letting anyone take it from you."*

Versace on the power of dressing: *"It's a weapon. Though it's not all about fashion. But when your clothes are desirable, your attitude is too. It's important to have something to say so that other people want to listen to you. They say that Versace is all about sex and sensuality, but it's about people choosing to notice you because you look a certain way, so you need to have the voice to go with it."*

Versace on her friend Madonna: *"She's strong and intelligent, empowered and she's a multi-national brand, she's a force and she's very generous with that. Madonna pushes people to understand the power of being a woman and how to claim the power and how to transform that power."*

Versace on Meghan Markle's wedding dress: *"She made the right decision to be totally neutral in a way, it was all about her, her face, her attitude and culture. I know that some people considered the dress too plain and simple, but I understand why she chose it. We are all going to remember her walking down the aisle in the church, as that was an incredibly powerful moment."*

Cindy Crawford on Donatella Versace: *"When I first met her and Gianni I was so moved by their relationship and how she was his original muse. She brought his ideas about female beauty to life. I am so proud of all Donatella has done. Her Versace not only respects the heritage of the brand but also brings a modern perspective for the women of today."*

Katy England and Kate Moss Interview Highlights:

Katy England on Moss: *"Kate is clear about her boundaries. She will only go as far as she wants to, and if something detracts from the overall portrait of beauty, she will be the first to say".*

Mario Sorrenti on a young Moss: *"Kate was an amazing, vibrant young girl, full of character and confidence. Everyone who came across her fell in love with her instantly."*

Katy England on Moss's attention to detail: *"She wants to create memories, precious moments in time and for everything to be special – if we meet for a cup of tea in her garden, there will always be beautiful china, the right tablecloth and flowers. The whole portrait is perfect. She's always thinking, "How can I turn this into the best moment?" It's the same when she gets dressed for an evening out: "Where am I going, what's it going to be like once I'm there, what type of dress will suit the location?" She makes it her own and she'll say to us, "Right, we're going here. It's a smart restaurant so we should make an effort. Let's all wear a dress." And there we all are in our dresses."*

Laura Wasser Interview Highlights:

Wasser on ideology marriage: *"I don't know that humans were meant to mate for life. Maybe we were when we were dying in our late thirties and early forties – you procreated in your teens or twenties and then you died. But we're living until our nineties. Some people meet, fall in love, and stay soul-mates forever, God bless them. But that's not the majority of the world. A million Americans a year are getting divorced. Our marriage rates are down, but our divorce rates have stayed the same."*

Wasser on the outmoded views of marriage: *"We're all raised to think about getting the ring, having this beautiful day, the honeymoon, getting pregnant. It's absurd. It's fun if you have the other stuff in perspective – career, the realities of raising children – but if the wedding is all you're focusing on? That's a huge problem."*

Kris Jenner on Wasser (Jenner is mother to three of Wasser's clients): *"Laura really does want a happy ending, no matter if a couple can't stay together, she wants the ending to be OK."*

Arizona Muse Interview Highlights:

Muse on love at first sight when meeting husband Boniface Verney-Carron: *"It was clear to me that I was weirdly in love with this man I'd never spoken to beyond the professional 'This is what's paining me...' kind of way. I felt like this awkward stalker."*

Muse on making the first move: *"I started dreaming about him pretty much every night. I still do. I realized I was never going to forget about him so I wrote him an email about one of these dreams. It wasn't sexual, we were just together and it was really nice. It was probably the best piece of writing I've ever done. I'm not a great writer."*

Muse on being a young single mother (Muse has a son named Nikko, aged 9 from a previous relationship): *"I've always been a mother. I've had my child since I was a child, and I've never known anything else."*

Muse on introducing her son to Verney-Carron: *"I've always told him, 'we're waiting, you and me, we're waiting for this dad, and he'll come one day. And we don't know who or when, but when I marry someone, that will be your dad.' That's why our engagement was such a big deal, for me and for Nikko, because that to us means forever. That was the signal."*

Muse on working in the fashion industry: *"I've been hurt, but even the toughest people get hurt. Life is cutthroat, but not in the ways you'd expect. I've never felt my peers were cutthroat, but I was quite cutthroat on myself. I think I made it harder for myself than I needed to."*

Muse on missing the social media boat: *"It would have been good to have friends at work. I would have enjoyed it sooner. I totally missed the 'social media' boat. Joan Smalls, Karlie and I were all equals, the same caliber, and then Instagram happened, and I didn't do Instagram, and look at those two now and look at me. If you don't catch fire with it the instant it comes out, you've missed the moment."*

Photo captions:



Lupita Nyong'o wears dress by Gucci and necklace by Fallon photographed by Mario Sorrenti for PORTER.



Lupita Nyong'o wears dress, choker and belt by Versace, bracelet by Robert Lee and cuff by Kenneth Jay Lane photographed by Mario Sorrenti for PORTER.



Lupita Nyong'o wears dress by Givenchy photographed by Mario Sorrenti for PORTER.



Lupita Nyong'o wears top and pants by Valentino photographed by Mario Sorrenti for PORTER.

To see the full cover story and interviews, buy the latest issue of PORTER, on sale August 10, available in both print and digital editions, or go to [PORTER.com](https://www.porter.com)

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ABOUT PORTER

PORTER, which launched in February 2014, is the only women's fashion magazine to offer a truly global perspective. Edited – and launched – by high-profile British editor Lucy Yeomans, the game-changing luxury fashion magazine, which combines the intimacy of print with a state-of-the-art digital shopping experience, is sold in 60 countries and is published by The YOOX NET-A-PORTER Group. PORTER celebrates and is aimed at stylish, intelligent women and offers readers a unique global curation of fashion, lifestyle and beauty. Cover stars have included some of the most iconic women in the world from supermodels Gisele Bündchen and Christy Turlington, to music phenomenon Lady Gaga and Oscar-winning actress Cate Blanchett. In May 2015, PORTER was named best print product at the British Media Awards. In 2018 PORTER launched PORTER Digital delivering daily original content, every day. www.PORTER.com