

a change is afoot in hollywood, and writer-actor lauren miller is in the vanguard. bra-mances, anyone? by dan frazier, photographed by jessica haye and clarke hsiao

# call me

# m maybe?

become your best friend. That girl who peed in your hair ten years ago could become your new best friend!

The hilarious film draws on such relatable quarter-life situations as recession-era unemployment, expensive urban rent, and cohabitation annoyances. The plot is convincing, the humor is unapologetically sordid, and both can be attributed to the cowriters drawing on their own life experiences. It's no coincidence that the main characters are named Lauren and Katie: Miller and Naylon first met as college roommates, and Naylon was secretly working as a phone-sex operator out of their dorm room. "We wanted to tell our friendship story," says Miller. "Girls love each other as friends in ways that guys don't. Girls hug each other, braid each other's hair, and share a bed during sleepovers. That's just how girls are." When asked where she found her own phone-sex voice, Miller laughs. "To this day, I have never been on a real [phone-sex] call. I guess I'm just that good of an actress."

Miller made the movie a family affair: Her brother, Daniel, is an executive producer; her character's parents are based on her own and share their first names; her dog, Zelda, plays herself, and her husband, Seth Rogen, makes an unforgettable cameo as the first customer to request a phone-sex threesome. "I asked him [to be in the movie] while we were brushing our teeth before bed one night," she says.

Miller plans to continue her creative trifecta of writing, acting, and producing female-focused comedies, and she isn't afraid to keep them dirty. "I'm driven to tell stories that feel real," she says. "In the past, funny moments for women [in comedies] were often contained to them falling down, but now, women can shit in a sink or hold a dildo, and audiences eat it up!"

SOMETIMES IN HOLLYWOOD, you have to take things into your own hands. That's what Lauren Miller learned when pitching her racy comedy *For a Good Time, Call...* "We tried to get it made by a studio, but this was pre-*Bridesmaids*," says the 30-year-old writer turned producer turned actress, sitting on the patio of Coffee Commissary in West Hollywood. "I had an epiphany that sometimes you have to generate your own material," she continues. "Recently there have been very few comedies with female leads, so I had to become a producer if I was going to get this movie made." With stunning blue eyes, long brown hair, and sporadic smiles, Miller speaks pleasantly, her open confidence laced with sharp wit. Naturally, she's an all-in-one auteur.

Having written a few web shorts ("Poo Splash Silencer" and "Solo Artist") and taking minor acting parts in successful comedies (*Superbad*, *Observe and Report*, and *Zack and Miri Make a Porno*), Miller was last seen in the dramedy *50/50*, but *For a Good Time, Call...* will be her breakout role. A hit at this year's Sundance Film Festival, the Jamie Travis-directed film was picked up by Focus Features and is what Miller's writing partner, Katie Anne Naylon, likes to dub "a bra-mance." Miller stars as Lauren and Ari Graynor as Katie, two young women who share a hostile past and a mutual friend (Justin Long). Due to various life pressures, they reluctantly become roommates and soon decide to start a phone-sex line in order to pay their rent. "It's a girl friendship movie," says Miller. "Girls often hate each other for no reason, and you never know who's going to

stylist: deborah ferguson, hair: david gardner for leonor greyl at solo artists, makeup: mai quynh for mark cosmetics at starworks artists, jacket by diesel, jeans by current/elliott, sunglasses by mercuria NYC.