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MAX TARDIO

In conversation with

ANNA JOHNSON

342

Anna
Van Patten



Dress CHLOÉ

Earring *Serpenti Viper* 18 kt yellow gold set with pavé diamonds on the head and tail, \$5,250.

Necklace *Serpenti Viper* 18 kt rose gold necklace set with full pavé diamonds, \$61,000.

Watch *Serpenti Spiga double-spiral* 18 kt rose gold case set with diamonds, malachite dial and 18 kt rose gold bracelet partially set with brilliant-cut diamonds, \$84,000.

BVLGARI Fine Jewellery

Curious, youthful, and surprisingly open, Anna Van Patten is a breath of fresh air in a carefully curated industry. The young actress is finding her place in the Hollywood world, though in many ways the world has always been part of her life. Growing up in New York, she spent her childhood moving between movie sets with her father, Tim Van Patten. Still, it wasn't until recently that Anna began to discover her own way in the industry. Signing on to iconic projects like "Gossip Girl" and "Euphoria", and most recently "The Twisted Tale of Amanda Knox", she is steadily making a name for herself. With each role, she adds another layer to her growing presence, capturing attention not only for her talent but also for her natural ease on screen. As we watch Anna Van Patten's world unfold and wonder which direction she'll take in the future, we're left excited for her new projects and the path she's forging for herself.

Outside of the acting world, Anna has her sights set on the future—one where she may eventually step behind the camera. She hints at building her "own little world," one filled with possibilities and creativity. Costumes, set design, and the details that shape atmosphere are already sparking her imagination. While the story itself is still taking shape, she has some exciting ideas, sketching out the beginnings of a possible directorial debut. But more than that, behind the increasingly bright spotlight is a young, charismatic woman who is grappling with the same things many of us are: authenticity, identity, and her self-proclaimed existentialist period. There's a depth behind the purposeful image, one that comes through in her thoughts on ChatGPT and her own sense of self. She speaks with both curiosity and conviction, the kind of balance that makes her feel at once relatable and refreshingly different. With these human moments, it's exciting to imagine what kind of career Anna may have. As more projects roll in, one thing is certain—Anna Van Patten isn't going anywhere.

ANNA JOHNSON. Your parents wanted you to have a normal childhood between the ages of 8 and 18. Do you think that stepping away from acting during those years gave you a different kind of fuel or perspective when you finally decided to commit at 18?

ANNA VAN PATTEN. It's so hard to think what they meant by normal, I guess. Whenever people ask what it was like growing up in New York City, it's hard to answer, because that's all I know. My sister and I grew up around the arts and often visited my dad on set. That felt normal, and we loved it so much because we got to run around and play pretend in the rooms that weren't being used on set. I grew up doing all of my school plays and musicals and going

to acting class in the summer because I thought it was fun. I also played lots of sports and took painting classes. My parents let me explore what interested me, I was never thinking of acting as a profession at that point—but I knew it was a possibility. Our dinner parties, birthday parties, and holidays were always with actors and creatives and people who worked in film and other artistic mediums. It felt very normal. I think it prepared me because they all put really realistic standards in my head. I knew how difficult it would be, and that it came with many challenges, but they also presented it as the most magical and fun thing you could do. So I think it's hard to think of what would be considered normal.

Coat, top, bra, skirt, tights and shoes MIU MIU

Ring *Serpenti* 18 kt rose gold set with rubellite eyes and pavé diamonds, \$15,700.
BVLGARI Fine Jewellery





Top STELLA MCCARTNEY

Necklace *Serpent Viper* 18 kt white gold set with full pavé diamonds, \$65,000. BVLGARI Fine Jewellery

A.J. I can imagine. It's quite nice, because you've sort of got some really great built-in mentors.

A.V.P. Yeah! The actors we grew up around were always the most fun—definitely a little wild. No one really talked about the work they were doing. It was their job at the end of the day, but at the same time, they seemed so happy doing it.

A.J. Your mom's advice has always been to "be kind, respect everyone, and be confident in your own skin." Have there been specific moments on set where those lessons really carried you through, especially as a newcomer navigating a big-name project?

A.V.P. Another example I thought of—it's a silly one—but this past year I've been dealing with skin issues. With all the traveling back and forth from Budapest to LA, I was breaking out a lot and feeling self-conscious about how it would look on camera. My mom would remind me that it was the character's skin; this is what she is working with, so there's no other choice but to own it. If your character's sister's freedom was at stake, I don't think she'd be concerned with a pimple. It was freeing—they weren't my pimples, they were the character's pimples. It also reminded me that I don't personally have to like or agree with what my character does. It isn't about Anna—I don't have to concern myself with whether people like the character or not. It would be a disservice to the story to involve myself.

A.J. You've hinted at wanting to be more hands-on behind the camera in the future. Are there particular roles (like directing, writing, or producing) that intrigue you most, and what movies particularly inspire you?

A.V.P. I'd love to do it all and build my own world from scratch. I don't have a story yet, but I want to let my imagination roam free and challenge myself. In a dream world, I'd design the sets and the costumes, go crazy with it. I want to see what my mind is capable of. Movies that feel like fever dreams inspire me, from big landscapes to tiny rooms. I love an adventure through a creepy forest or crowded city, a long wedding scene, or a guy eating bread after something crazy just happened. I don't know, Human nature!

A.J. You've been working on "Euphoria", and I was wondering, what's it been like joining such an established cast and crew?

A.V.P. It's been magical. Every cast and crew member has been so welcoming. Usually, on new sets, I am shaking with nerves, but for some reason, on "Euphoria," I felt so calm. That was a first for me, and I think it had to do with the atmosphere and trusting the vision completely. The level of creativity and dedication from everyone was beyond inspiring.

A.J. That's really nice to hear. Do you feel like it's challenged you in new ways as an actor?

A.V.P. Yes, it's been really rewarding stepping outside my comfort zone. I've been learning so much about myself. I feel like I've grown so much, just from being on set with people who are pushing themselves constantly.

"I don't feel like I have a finger on the pulse right now, not that I claim to ever have, but my thoughts feel especially abstract. I don't know what space I'm existing in currently. I like to be super intentional with the media/culture I consume when working on a project. When I am not working on a project, there's a lot of time to reflect, to watch and listen, and talk—I like thinking of it as being intimate with the earth." — Anna Van Patten

A.J. You've also spoken about how you grew up surrounded by creative people. Does that environment shape your taste or your choices in roles now?

A.V.P. Absolutely. Being around so many creative people from such a young age made me curious about all kinds of stories. I don't think I ever want to be boxed into one type of role. I'm drawn to things that feel human and true, whether that's something really small and intimate or something much bigger.

A.J. Do you ever feel pressure coming from a family of successful actors?

A.V.P. There's pressure, but it's all internal. I want to be the best I can be, and I feel pressure to keep learning and growing, but I don't focus on it too much. I just want to make sure that I'm doing work I'm proud of and that I'm honest in what I'm putting out there. I know my family will love me no matter what.

A.J. The word authenticity gets thrown around a lot these days in our era of AI, Instagram, and influencers. Sometimes, it feels like the word has lost all meaning. As an actress, what does the word authenticity mean to you? How do you balance being your true self with protecting the more vulnerable sides of your identity?

A.V.P. I choose to believe that everything holds meaning, that everything we do is important—how we make our bed in the morning, how we interact with pigeons. My art is how I live my life. There are a million ways to do something, and I like getting to the root of why certain things resonate with me. I don't like to ignore any musings the universe sends. I feel a responsibility to live as authentically as I can to fulfil my potential as a human. I think, as an actress, authenticity means listening to your gut and prioritizing truth. I don't know. I feel like I am constantly evolving and learning about myself,

and sometimes gut feelings are all you have in the present moment. I can get very opinionated, but I love it when people can change my mind; I welcome it. I search, sometimes selfishly, to lose a sense of self—it feels freeing. Being fully present can be terrifying, but that may be where authenticity lives. Maybe I struggle with this idea of authenticity because I think about it too much. Still, I can find love and inspiration in everything. I do think with AI and social media, authenticity shines through more easily. I've never thought about having to protect the more vulnerable sides of my identity; I'm not sure what that even means. I think vulnerability is a beautiful thing—my favorite performances are the ones that feel so private we shouldn't be watching. I am a voyeur at heart; I love to observe people's authentic selves when they think no one is watching- or when they know someone is watching—it's all fascinating. At the same time, I love mystery. I



Coat ALTUZARRA
T-shirt and pants DIOR
Boots BURBERRY

Necklace *Serpenti* 18 kt white gold pendant set with emerald eyes, a blue sapphire and pavé diamonds on the chain and head, \$84,000.
BVLGARI Fine Jewellery

Top and skirt BURBERRY

Watch *Serpenti Seduttori automatic* in stainless steel with diamond-set bezel and black lacquered dial, \$10,200.
Ring *Serpenti Viper one-coil* 18 kt white gold set with full pavé diamonds, \$11,300.
BVLGARI Fine Jewellery

Top, skirt and shoes PRADA

Necklace *Serpenti two-coil* 18 kt rose gold set with pavé diamonds on the head and tail, and black onyx eyes, \$86,000.
Lady Watch *Serpenti Seduttori 33mm* rose gold 18kt case, bracelet 18 kt rose gold bezel and crown set with cab cut pink rubellite, white silver opaline dial.
Bracelet with folding clasp. Quartz movement, hours and minutes functions, \$25,900.
Ring *Serpenti Viper* 18 kt rose gold thin band ring set with demi pavé diamonds, \$4,700.
BVLGARI Fine Jewellery



Dress HERMÈS
Shoes PRADA
Gloves SAINT LAURENT

Necklace *Serpenti Viper* 18 kt rose gold thin set with demi pavé diamonds, \$63,000.
Rings *Serpenti, two-coil* 18 kt rose gold set with pavé diamonds on the head and tail, and black onyx eyes, \$21,300 and *Serpenti Viper* 18 kt rose gold single-spiral ring set with demi pavé diamonds, \$4,150.
BVLGARI Fine Jewellery



Coat, top, bra, skirt, tights and shoes MIU MIU

Ring *Serpenti* 18 kt rose gold set with rubellite eyes and pavé diamonds, \$15,700.
BVLGARI Fine Jewellery

Mini Top Handle Bag *Serpenti Forever* with a topaz and platinum Calla Crystals pattern applied on suede, and a bright Travertino nappa leather lining. Captivating snakehead magnetic closure in gold-plated brass embellished with diamond-cut engraving on the scales, and black onyx eyes, \$7,400.
BVLGARI



Dress, bracelet and shoes GIVENCHY by Sarah Burton

Ring *Serpenti Seduttori* 18 kt white gold ring set with emerald eyes and pavé diamonds, \$22,200.
Bracelet *Serpenti Viper one-coil* 18 kt rose gold bracelet set with full pavé diamonds, \$41,200.
BVLGARI Fine Jewellery

am constantly searching for magic. I feel the need to prove it exists, and I think that might only be possible with a lack of information. To me, balancing my presence online with my true self means knowing that my work and my art don't define me. My heart defines me. For some reason, when I envision my true self, I'm in a grocery store wearing basketball shorts, dissociating.

A.J. Outside of your acting career, we'd love to know more about your hobbies and passions. Do you have a favorite book or film from childhood that sticks with you even now as an adult?

A.V.P. My latest hobby has been perfume. I love looking at notes, watching videos, and reading reviews of people describing them: dusty theater curtains, gasoline, electricity, lipstick, gunpowder, kitchen sinks, dirty ballet tights, and rubber. I want to learn more about wine, too, and become friends with "noses" and grape growers—they seem like poetic people. I've become passionate about philosophy; I wish I had studied it in college. I'm currently in my existentialist period, but I think stoicism has helped me a lot on set and in navigating this career choice: only focusing on the things in my control, surrendering myself to unpredictability, and finding excitement and beauty in it, trusting that God has a plan. When it comes to pieces of art that have had the most impact on me as a child, "The Gates of Hell" by Auguste Rodin changed my life, probably!

A.J. The idea of a "cultural moment" is often spoken of but rarely unpacked. You were part of the "That's Harassment" campaigns in 2016, a time when conversations around the Me Too movement were reshaping the world. Looking at today, what cultural moment do you find yourself noticing, discussing, or reflecting on, and how does it resonate with you personally?

A.V.P. I don't feel like I have a finger on the pulse right now, not that I claim to ever have, but my thoughts feel especially abstract. I don't know what space I'm existing in currently. I like to be super intentional with the media/culture I consume when working on a project. When I am not working on a project, there's a lot of time to reflect, to watch and listen, and talk—I like thinking of it

Dress CHLOÉ

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Watch *Serpenti Spiga double-spiral* 18 kt rose gold case set with diamonds, malachite dial and 18 kt rose gold bracelet partially set with brilliant-cut diamonds, \$84,000.
BVLGARI Fine Jewellery

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Shoes PRADA
Gloves SAINT LAURENT

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BVLGARI Fine Jewellery

as being intimate with the earth. I feel the most tapped in when I am out in the world, but I've been keeping to myself lately—keeping my energy open yet compact. My 14-year-old sister will fill me in on what's happening; she's a fun and fascinating filter to see things through. I guess I've been reflecting on what to do and how to handle all the information we are getting fed. I haven't been sold on the potential of AI in the arts, though I did really like Jon Rafman's recent "Proof of Concept". I used ChatGPT for the first time the other day. I wanted to find the location of a picture a travel blogger posted on Instagram. It was Ponza. To me, the culture feels divided; everyone is labeled and put in boxes. In terms of acting, my relationship with wanting to appear as a blank canvas has been changing, but I don't know how to vocalize it yet. I think horror films are having a huge cultural moment. Scary movies feel very relevant, and they are such a great, effective way to speak about

culture—it's always been that way, but I think things are becoming more nuanced.

A.J. That's a really grounded way of looking at it. Where do you see yourself in five years? Do you have a dream role or project?

A.V.P. That's a tough one! I don't know if I have one dream role, but I definitely have dream directors. I'd love to do theatre at some point. I hope I get to work on projects that take me far away and allow me to learn about new places, cultures, and experiences. I hope I can continue to learn about myself through characters, and I hope people can look back at my past projects and feel like I made them laugh or that I made them question certain things. As cliché as it seems, it made them feel inspired or less alone.

A.J. What does culture mean to you?

A.V.P. Taking a long, long walk and looking and listening to the world around you. ●

“I am constantly searching for magic. I feel the need to prove it exists, and I think that might only be possible with a lack of information. To me, balancing my presence online with my true self means knowing that my work and my art don't define me. My heart defines me. For some reason, when I envision my true self, I'm in a grocery store wearing basketball shorts, dissociating.” — Anna Van Patten

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Shoes SAINT LAURENT

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Make-up Artist SAMANTHA LAU @A-Frame Agency using DIOR Beauty
Hair Stylist TAKUYA TAMAGUCHI @The Wall Group using ORIBE
Nail Artist JULIE KANDALEC @Bryan Bantry Agency
Photographer Assistant JEFFREY JIN
Fashion Assistants RYON BURELL and JOSE FEARLESS
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