



NICOLE KIDMAN

Gorgeous actress Nicole Kidman makes a welcome one-off return to modelling for *Cleo*'s cameras and talks about boyfriend Tom Burlinson, co-star Sam Neill and a film career that's rocketing her to stardom.
By Josephine Brouard

this star's not a kid anymore

LEFT: Stephen Galoway. Hair and makeup: Stephen Galoway. Dress with embroidered bolero, price on application. Shoes from Accent. Earrings from Ikon.

RIGHT: Audrey Hepburn-style "tall" dress by Kara Scher for Serravallo, \$275. Shoes from Accent. Gloves from Darts. Hair and makeup from David Jones.

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he's gorgeous when you set eyes on her for the first time — and after the first scrutiny of a five-hour photographic shoot and the candid snapshots of conversation in-between — you're convinced: If any young woman deserves to be successful, it's Nicole Kidman. And what a success story Nicole is. No starving in the garret for this would-be star. She's shone since she was a teenager — and she's skyrocketing now.

Last year saw her walk off with the AFI's Best Actress award for her role in the marvellous *Witness* and into the arms of swooningly handsome Sam Neill in the film *Dead Calm*. This was a starring role 20-year-old Nicole scooped from many other hopefuls and one that saw her working with one of the world's most reputed film directors, George Miller, of *Witches Of Eastwick* and the *Mad Max* trilogy fame.

Now she's landed another major part, this time in the film version of David Williamson's *Emerald City*, and happily she'll be filming in Sydney, where she lives. That means she'll be nearer to the two people most important to her — actor boyfriend Tom Burlinson, 31, whom she met on the set of *Witness* more than two years ago, and her mother, whom she describes as "my other best friend".

If it all sounds too impressive, take heart: Nicole is human. She admits to a fiery redhead's temper — "it's ferocious but it's over quickly", she says — and confesses to a paranoid fear of being lonely. She suffers incredible jealousy in the love stakes and lusts like any other girl after unattainable heroes like *Mr. Cash*. "Those legs," she sighs. This milky Botticelli beauty also says she suffers enormous guilt because she appears to have so much — yet she still never feels totally satisfied.

Standing in front of the mirror as she trundle up for another *Cleo* shoot, she ponders this dilemma and shrugs. "It's ambition I guess, or drive. I always want something more. I don't believe in sitting around whining about it either. I believe you've got to do something about it."

Certainly, when it comes to her acting career, Nicole has had lashings of help from *Mother Nature*. This is the perfect English Rose and beyond the awesome front of such loveliness there appears to be an equally lovely nature.

She talks — without arrogance — of how she stipulated in her contract for *Dead Calm* that she have someone to stand over her all day on set with an umbrella to protect her from the sun. "My mother always went on about us having to wear hats. And I was always smeared with sunscreen! If it weren't

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