THE EDITORS LETTER

A Series of Summer Nights

Well our latest issue of GCMAG before the christmas break has rolled together and we search for those amazing summer night stories.

So we have a few feature shoots from surfing nights in the UAE to our summer nights shoot with Big Brothers Runnerup Jade Albany all the glitz and glamour you could need.

Dami Im, Vanessa Marano, and the finalists for QTFW Face of Fashion Week stop in for a chat! We once again have our beverage reviews rocking and ready to go and some good gift guides for your favourite people.

a Mini issue to wrap up the year but we will be back in March with our 21st Celebration Issue lets celebrate :)

Owen George
Editor and Chief
As the year comes to a close there are few words that sum up 2013 better for X Factor winner Dami Im than “unexpected”.

“I didn’t expect to win X factor at all. When it all happened it didn’t even seem real. I didn’t know how to feel,” says the 25 year-old Korean-born Brisbane resident.

Dami’s childhood interest in music saw her complete a Bachelor of Music at the University of Queensland and pursue a career worked as a gospel singer in South Korea.

“I wanted to sing in Australia but I didn’t have an audience here. It was my husband who said, “You should go on X Factor, don’t be afraid to try new things.” I thought, “Oh well, I might as well have a go. You never know what might happen and if anything it will just be a good experience.”

After a staggered start in the initial rounds of the hit television show, Dami went on to amaze the X Factor judges and win overwhelming support of the Australian public.

Since then things have been anything but ordinary. In the month following her win she had her initial single “Alive” soar to the top of the Aria charts, shot her first music video, recorded and released her self-titled debut album, and embarked on a nationwide tour with other X Factor alumni.

The highlight however was her performance on Dancing With the Stars when she had her first taste of performing without critique.

“It was great not having anyone to judge me after my performance and give me their opinion. I could just be myself and didn’t have to please anyone.”

“And I got to take some selfies with Todd (McKenney).”

Throughout her success Im has credited her husband Noah as her greatest support.

“I don’t think I would have even auditioned if Noah wasn’t there in the first place. He is like my real mentor in a way, brainwashing me to do good things and keep going for it.”

“Without him I think I wouldn’t have been able to take all this emotional stress. His support just means everything to me.”

With X Factor catapulting her into the national spotlight Dami is now looking to her future as an artist.

“I am already planning on writing new songs or even reworking songs that I have written. I think that is where an artist truly gets their satisfaction: it’s a really great way to communicate with people.”

Im isn’t taking her newfound notoriety lightly. As one of the few Asian-Australian performers in the mainstream entertainment industry Im is hoping that her success will be an inspiration for other Asian-Australians.

“To think about what impact it might have made to people’s lives—not just Asians but all the immigrants that are in Australia—is such an overwhelming thought and I am really proud that I can represent that part of the community on national TV.”

Dami Im’s first single Alive and self titled album are both available for purchase.
Summer nights

Concept and Styling by: Courtney Thorpe  Photography: Elizabeth Grinter
Hair & Makeup: Tim Thadontree  Models: Jade Albany, Danni Johnson
Dress: Begitta  
Cuff: Adorne  
Earrings: Hotsy Totsy

Dress: Vintage  
Accessories: Hotsy Totsy
Dress: George Wu  Earrings/Ring: Adorne  Headpiece: Hotsy Totsy

Dress: George Wu  Head piece: Ascot Hats  Bag & Belt: Adorne
Ring, Earrings, Bracelets: Hotsy Totsy
Skirt: George Wu  Accessories: Adorne

Head Piece: Ascot Hats
Dress: Belluccio  Bracelet & Necklace: Adorne  Earrings: Hotsy Totsy

Dress: Belluccio  Accessories: Adorne
Dress: Mac Duggal  Accessories: Hotsy Totsy

Dress: George Wu  Head piece: Ascot Hats  Accessories: Hotsy Totsy
She captivated us on the most recent season of Big Brother and she has graced our cover for this issue of GCMAG. We sat down with Jade to find out a little more about her, her time in the house, and her plans for the future.

Why did you want to enter Big Brother?
I entered Big Brother for the amazing experience also to try and create a name for myself and boost my acting career. But I never ever thought I’d get in so that was a massive surprise.

What was the process before getting into the house?
The audition process started back in April. There was a massive audition where you go through three different rounds. Then if you are lucky enough to get through there are a couple more auditions later on, as well as medicals and all that jazz. It definitely was a quick process!

Tell us about your time in the Big Brother house?
Throughout my time in the house, I really focused on being myself and enjoying the experience. I played with my heart and never nominated my close friends. For me it wasn’t about winning it was about getting to the end with all my friends and some great memories.

Do you think you will remain friends with anyone in particular from the house?
Absolutely, I always be friends with Ed, Mikkayla and the sugar sisters.

What has life been like out of the Big Brother house?
It has been insane! I’ve been so busy and the support from the fans has been really overwhelming. I feel so lucky! I don’t want my life to ever go back to how it was.

What advice do you have for those wanting to enter Big Brother in 2014?
It sounds really corny but just be yourself. If you put on an act, or try to be too full on the producers will see through it. If I proved anything it’s that you don’t have to be the loudest to get to the end.

What was the first thing you did when you got home from the house?
Well actually I was flown to Sydney the day after the finale for four days of media and radio. So I just talked…a lot! I also got to spend some time with the house mates and my dad who had flown out from Italy for the final.

What does a normal day look like for you now?
I don’t have a normal day anymore, but in my down time I spend time with my family by the pool and go to the gym.

What is it like having fans?
Having fans has been amazing! I’m so grateful to every single one of them for watching and voting and for their continued support during and after the show.

You also competed in Italy’s Next Top Model, tell us about that experience?
Italy’s next top model was great but it didn’t make me happy. I have always modelled but it’s not who I am. I’m not majorly into fashion. And there are a lot of parts about the modelling world that I don’t like. Milan can be a very full on place and is not great for the self-esteem.

Tell us a little bit about you and your other achievements prior to Big Brother?
I modelled overseas for four years. During that time I also went to New York, Spain, Morocco, Sweden, Germany, and travelled around most of Italy. After all that I came back to Australia to pursue my dream of acting. Just before Big Brother I was lucky enough to land a very small part on a TV show called Camp by NBC starring Rachel Griffiths and Adam Garcia, just to name a few. It was amazing!

Now that you are back in the real world what are your career plans?
I really just want to focus on my acting and try my hardest to land a role on an Australian drama.

Where do you see yourself in five years’ time?
Well I hope as an actress on a great Australian drama, well known and living in a beautiful home in Sydney or Melbourne- fingers crossed!
Adair Boutique leading online fashion boutique showcasing Australian designers.

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The Annual QT Fashion Week and Awards has already begun stirring up jitters as the event is set to take GC fashion to brave new heights again in 2014.

The event will once again be held at QT Hotel Surfers Paradise with all the events centred at the hotel making it a hot destination for fashion lovers. The event was a huge success last year with designers such as Marlies Dekkers, Andy Cameron of Muchacho, Nicola Finetti, Lisa Brown, Kelli Wharton (Talulah), Karla Spetic, Benjamin Ringuet and Nomiki Glynatsis.

QT Fashion Week and Awards was faced by the very gorgeous Georgia Ansell last year. Her career has skyrocketed and she has been seen in some of Australia’s most notable fashion campaigns because of her leading role as the Face of QT Fashion week and Awards 2012.

Preparations begin as the search for a fresh new face of fashion week continues. It is now down to 10 finalists who are battling it out for the prestigious title. Stay Tuned for event info shortly!

BY ADELAIDE LODDER
Edyn Mackney
Edyn Mackney a finalist for the face of QT Fashion week was born and raised on the Gold Coast. She has been modelling for one year and filled in at last year’s QT Fashion week. “I thought I would give this year’s competition a shot and see how I go. I really think this is the best thing for me right now as it will get my name out there. “There is such a diverse range of girls in this year’s competition. No one looks the same and we all have a unique natural beauty.” She told GC Mag. The personal trainer hopes to one day be a fitness model and wants to help and inspire other women to lose weight. She can closely relate to this issue because through exercise she was able to lose a total of 20kg.

Violet Atkinson
Finalist for face of QT Fashion week, Violet Atkinson started modelling when at the age of 16. “I have always had a passion for fashion and modelling, I love the GC fashion especially.” She has been off and on modelling landing gigs such as Robina’s Spring/Summer launch and also shooting for Lala bazaar. “This whole thing is pretty new to me and I am kind of using the competition to get my name out there. “I stumbled across it randomly one day on Facebook and thought it would be good exposure.” Violet told GC Mag that the competition this year is pretty stiff with anyone capable of taking out the title. But Violet is not just a pretty face, she is also studying Law at Bond University and looking to make her mark in the corporate world as well as the fashion world. “Law is my structured side and modelling is my creative outlet.” You’ll be sure to see more of these beauties at Face of Fashion Week Jan 29.
She’s currently starring in the hit drama “Switched at Birth,” and we were lucky enough to sit down with rising star Vanessa Marano and chat about the show, the secrets behind filming and her tips for acing the red carpet…

You’ve been in show business since you were very young, what is it about acting that you love?

I love the sense of community you feel when shooting a project. You spend twelve hours a day with the same people for an extended period of time and everyone contributes to creating a film or a show or a play. When you finally get to see the finish project, you get to sit there and remember everything that went into shooting it. The ADs cueing background, the sound department setting up microphones in the car you have to shoot in, the camera team zooming in a prop and getting it in focus. It’s all of those things that make something worth watching, and as an actor, I get to witness it first hand and contribute to it.

What has been your biggest achievement to date?

I’ve really tried to continue my education while working. It’s been tough, but whenever I can, I take a course. I’m very happy that I’ve stuck with it.

How do you get into the zone to portray a particular character?

I wouldn’t say I get into a particular zone. I’m constantly laughing and enjoying myself at work because I get to do what I love everyday. That being said, everybody has a process they get into. For me, it’s all in the details of acting. Everything that goes into the technical aspect of it. Things like hitting your mark, memorizing your lines, and keeping the same continuity in every take. All of those things are so important, but it’s your job as actor to not show any of that. You’re performance has to take over, and I find that to be amazingly fun challenge. “Switched at Birth” added a whole other detail to the work because all the actors have to learn their lines in sign language as well. It’s tough, but it’s awesome.

The show you are currently starring in, “Switched at Birth,” has become a huge success, what’s the best thing about being on the show?
The group of people I get to work with; I adore seeing them everyday.

Do you hang out with the cast when you’re not filming?

Oh, yes we do. A lot! In fact, Katie, Constance, and I just took a yoga class together. We had not worked out in awhile, and the result was hilarious.

Tell us a bit about your character Bay?

Bay is an artist. She’s difficult to get along with at times, but that’s what I honestly love about her. She’s not perfect at all. She’s real, what you see is what you get. She doesn’t hide her emotions, and she’s constantly growing as a person.

Do you relate to Bay in anyway?

Our humour is definitely similar and so is our energy.

You’ve become a red carpet favourite at awards shows, what’s your number one beauty tip for looking your best?


Who has influenced you professionally, that you would someday like to work with?

Well, I have an absolute obsession with Helen Mirren. I just think she’s fantastic. There’s a playwright named Christopher Durang who I would love to work with. I’m a huge Aaron Sorkin fan as well.

So what’s next for Vanessa Marano?

I just finished shooting a movie called “Senior Project.”
With QT Fashion Week and Awards fast approaching, all eyes turn to the Gold Coast’s best and brightest talent on and off the runway. GCMag was lucky enough to catch up with model Dani Fitch and photographer Ricki Vale to have a chat about what it’s like being on either side of the lens.

So what’s the best part about working in front of the lens? For Dani, it’s about “the final product! A forever keepsake of a beautiful image.”

Behind the camera however, Ricki focuses on “bringing concepts together and making people look amazing.”

When asked about working on this shoot, Ricki revealed, “I love Dani - she’s awesome… I filled a whole a memory card!

No stranger to the runway, Dani admits having “a soft spot for Nicola Finetti ever since I walked for him in Fashion Week in 2012… Nicola always brings the goodies to the runway but I’m interested to see what else will grace the runway next April. I guess we will have to wait and see.”

Speaking on dream collaborations, Ricki couldn’t narrow it down to just one designer to work with: “All of them! Every person has a different concept and I love to see things through a different person’s eyes.”

How do these ladies like to unwind after a big shoot?

“The reality is there’s a lot of craziness behind the scenes that you just don’t see. Once the heels, makeup and beautiful clothes are off, it’s all slippers, baby wipes and fluffy robes for me!” Dani admits.

For Ricki, it’s “a glass of wine or beer.”

Raise your glasses to these talented and hard-working ladies by checking out Ricki Vale Photography on Facebook and keep an eye out for their latest collaborations.
Top Products for Her This Summer

**BENEFIT STAY FLAWLESS 15 HOUR PRIMER**
Flawless works overtime! Our instant PRO-long primer acts like a magnet to lock on your foundation for 15 fresh & flawless hours. This invisible stick primer glides directly onto skin for optimal wear and a natural-looking finish. Go longer. Stay flawless in this top summer heat.


**TRIANGLE JESSY NIGHTFOX WINNIE BIKINI**
Bright, bold and flattering these 100% neoprene bikinis are the perfect Summer staple
Designed in sporty luxe Neoprene, it features a structured strapless top with flexible boning for support. It has a functional front zip and buckle fastening at the back.

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Nothing better then some good shades for the long hot aussie summer

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To Get your Summer Nights Experience visit www.creativeholidays.com or call 1300 301 711.
Prices start from $1172 per person, twin share.
When it comes to summer nights there is no better place than Barcelona's buzzing streets. Dinner at a tapas and wine bar, Paella by the sea or snack through the vibrant street markets before finding out why Barcelona sets the benchmark for all things music and claims the title of the city that never sleeps. Feel the passion of the flamenco before exploring the alley ways of bars that burst with live music or if you are settling in for a big night get ready to dance to some of the biggest international DJ's in one of Barcelona's underground clubs. The best part about it is you can wake up refresh in the ocean, hit the world famous shopping in Las Rambla, have an afternoon siesta and do it all over again the next night in true Spanish spirit.

Travel to Barcelona with Contiki on the Amsterdam to Barcelona trip from $2294* per person when booked before 15 January 2014. Including 10-nights hotel accommodation, breakfast daily, 5 three-course dinners, professional Tour Manager and Driver team and sight-seeing tours in all major cities. To book or find other tours that visit Barcelona check out www.contiki.com or phone 1300 266845.
MACADAMIA
TOMATO
BASIL &
BERRY
DAMPER

Ingredients
2 cups self raising flour
1 tablespoon ground mountain pepper berry
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup unsalted macadamias, roasted
100g semi-dried tomatoes, roughly chopped
1/2 cup firmly packed basil leaves, roughly chopped
250ml buttermilk
1 tablespoon macadamia oil
Milk for brushing

Method
Preheat the oven to 180°C, fan forced. Sift the flour into a large bowl, add ground mountain pepper berry, salt, macadamias, tomatoes and basil leaves and make a well in the centre. Combine the buttermilk and oil, pour into the well and use a round-bladed knife in a cutting motion to mix until the mixture just comes together then use your hands to bring the mixture together. Turn the dough onto a lightly floured surface and gently knead for a couple of minutes or until smooth. Shape into a disc and place onto a baking tray lined with non-stick baking paper. Dip a sharp knife into flour and mark 8 wedges on the top of the damper. Brush with milk and bake in the preheated oven for 30 minutes or until the damper is golden and cooked through and sounds hollow when tapped on the base. Cool on a wire rack.
LAMB MINT & MACADAMIA SAUSAGE ROLLS

Ingredients
500g lamb sausage mince or remove the meat from lamb sausages
1/2 brown onion, grated
1 garlic clove, crushed
1 zucchini, grated
1 carrot, peeled and grated
1 stick celery, finely chopped
1/2 cup fresh mint
1 tablespoon lemon zest
2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
1 egg
1/2 cup macadamias, toasted and coarsely chopped
salt and pepper
2 sheets puff pastry, cut in half
1 egg, (extra) lightly whisked with 1 tablespoon of water

Method
Preheat oven to 200°C, fan-forced. Line baking trays with non-stick baking paper. Place all the ingredients, except the pastry, extra egg and sesame seeds into a large bowl, season with salt and pepper and using your hands massage the ingredients together. Place the lamb mixture along the long edge of the pastry half and brush the other edge with egg wash and roll to enclose leaving the ends open. Cut into half and place onto prepared trays. Brush the tops with egg wash and sprinkle with sesame seeds. Bake for 20-25 minutes or until golden and cooked through.
**Macadamia Chocolate Lamingtons**

**Ingredients**
- 125g butter, softened
- 1 cup caster sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 6 eggs
- 1 3/4 cup self raising flour, sifted
- 1 tablespoon dark cocoa powder
- 1/2 cup milk
- 2 cups shredded coconut
- 2 cups unsalted macadamias, roasted

**Icing**
- 6 cups icing sugar mixture
- 2 tablespoons butter, softened
- 3/4 cup boiling water
- 1/2 cup dark cocoa powder

**Method**
Preheat oven to 160°C fan-forced. Grease a 3cm-deep, 20 x 30cm (base) lamington pan. Line with non-stick baking paper, leaving a 2cm overhang on all sides.

Beat the butter, sugar and vanilla in an electric mixer until light and creamy. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Sift half the flour and cocoa over the butter mixture and stir until combined. Mix through half the milk and repeat with the remaining flour, cocoa and milk. Spoon into the prepared tin and smooth the top. Bake for 30 minutes or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. Cool in pan for 10 minutes then turn onto a wire rack and cool completely.

To make the icing, sift the icing sugar and cocoa into a bowl, add the butter and boiling water and stir until smooth. Cut cake into 15 pieces. Place the macadamia and coconut into a food processor and pulse to blend together, tip onto a dish. Use a fork and dip one piece of cake into the icing mixture, shake off any excess and toss in the macadamia and coconut. Place onto a wire rack over a baking tray. Repeat with remaining cake, icing, coconut and macadamias.
Top Summer BEVERAGES

TEQUILA BLU
Unlike common ‘mixtos’ tequila, Tequila Blu is made from 100% blue agave grown in 4 different regions and hand bottled in Tequila, Mexico. Rusted in American Oak Barrels for 6 months then cold chill filtered, creates a Tequila with perfectly balanced flavour and an ultra smooth finish. Tequila Blu tastes how true tequila should.

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EVERYDAY SUNDAY
Everyday Sunday is a refreshing all natural relaxation soda that is available in three delicious flavours. For centuries people have used natural herbs and plants for their calming and rejuvenating properties. We have combined the knowledge of these ancient formulations to create a modern version that is both fun and functional.

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One of the worlds true Vodka icons, Stolichnaya is pure spirit distilled from selected grain is filtered through birch charcoal and quartz sands and blended with pure water.

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TEMPUS TWO PINOT CHARDONNAY
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An award-winning wine from one of the region’s largest and most prestigious wineries, Domaine de la Grande Séouve, who have established AIX as perhaps the definitive Provence rosé. Boldly brought to you in a party-ready magnum!

www.aixrose.com

**APEROL**

Aperol is a lively drink that evokes the sociable Italian lifestyle, from pre-dinner conversation to an evening with friends and family in the piazza. An infusion of high-quality herbs and roots, together with orange peel and rhubarb, Aperol is the perfect apéritivo.

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Australian’s have always been an at the forefront of craft beer ingenuity and now the next step has been made - craft beer in a can! By protecting this quality brew from heat, light and oxygen, this authentic Australian Pale Ale can truly shine. With a typical cloudy hue, the Australian Brewery Pale Ale has a distinct aroma of Australian Galaxy hops married with a perfectly balanced palate of richness and complexity.

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COURTNEY HANCOCK
IRONWOMAN CHAMPION
THONGS: STUNNERS DIAMANTE

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Expires: 31/01/2014
We have just entered into another one of Australia’s finest summers and what better way to kick start this summer by talking to the girl who has summer wrapped up in all things health, beauty and fashion. Bianca Cheah knows how to put the C in cool. Not only has she been an accomplished commercial model for 10 years she is also a designer and health guru which has seen her blog, Sporteluxe, become a common destination for health nut’s just like her. GC Mag caught up with the beach gal and here is what she had to say:

If you could summarise your life in three words what would they be?
Health, style and fitness

Tell us about your model background?
I’ve been a commercial model since I was 20-years-old. Modelling has seen me do some fantastic jobs, but at the end of the day it’s just a job. It’s really important to not take anything to heart and just be yourself. And most importantly look after yourself!

You seem to be the ultimate beach gal, what about the beach and summer do you love most?
I grew up on the beaches of South Gold Coast, and going to the beach for me was always second nature. The beach reminds me of home, being free and my family.
Finish this sentence: Summer is…?
Sipping on a fresh chilled Coconut, snacking on frozen blueberries and hitting the beach!

How did SPORTELUXE come about and how did you come up with the name? Sporteluxe naturally came about because I’ve always had a passion for health and fitness. I’ve always been super healthy and fit growing up, so starting Sporteluxe was only natural for me. I wanted to create a lifestyle destination that would inspire people to live a healthier and stylish active life.

Go to www.Sporteluxe.com for all the latest tips on an active summer from Bianca.

What must-have products would you recommend our readers invest in for the summer? For fitness, I would most definitely say a Nike Sports Watch as it tracks the calories burned, distance, speed and heart rate. For hair, you can’t go past the Morroccanoil hydration mask. I can’t live without this. Lastly for your face, it has got to be the Banana Smoothie Mixstix lip balm by Chapsticks.

What are your tips to surviving the summer? Hydrate, Hydrate, hydrate and slap on a 50+ sunscreen.

What are some of your guilty pleasures? Like everyone I love a good chocolate feast, especially those Caramello Koala’s.

Who are some of the people that you look up to in life? My fiancée, because he has always been my number one fan and supporter.

What can we expect to see from you next year? Lots of website videos!
DESER
NIGHTS

What happens when you get summer nights and some pro surfers together with a creative team of photographers

A Series of unprecedented action photos with Adriano De Souza and the free surfer Pedro Scooby in the desert nights of the United Arab Emirates.
Top Products for Him This Summer

**VINTAGE WATCH FROM BAUSELE**
Bausele have created this vintage style companion to enhance your everyday style and take you confidently from the office to the bar next door. Bearing the insignia of the Bausele brand and the Australian name itself on a smooth square face, this designer model is a customised tribute complete with the finest of quality materials.

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Arnette collaborated with the legendary band Slayer to create a capsule collection featuring matte black and blood red artwork for their Witch Doctor sunglasses.

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We know we have featured our friends at willi footwear last issue but with new styles on the board we thought you should all get the heads up that you can get $10 off any order by quoting the code GCMAG12.

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**REKORDERLIG CIDER HAS SUMMER COVERED**
This summer, Rekorderlig have created a special pack which is perfect for sharing & was inspired by our consumers desire for discovery. As we welcome the warmer summer months, Australians can embrace this refreshing and exciting pack of cider, enabling all to taste & share the incredible array of Rekorderlig flavours with their friends. The perfect summertime accessory.

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SEASON GREETINGS FROM THE GCMAG TEAM
SEE YOU IN 2014