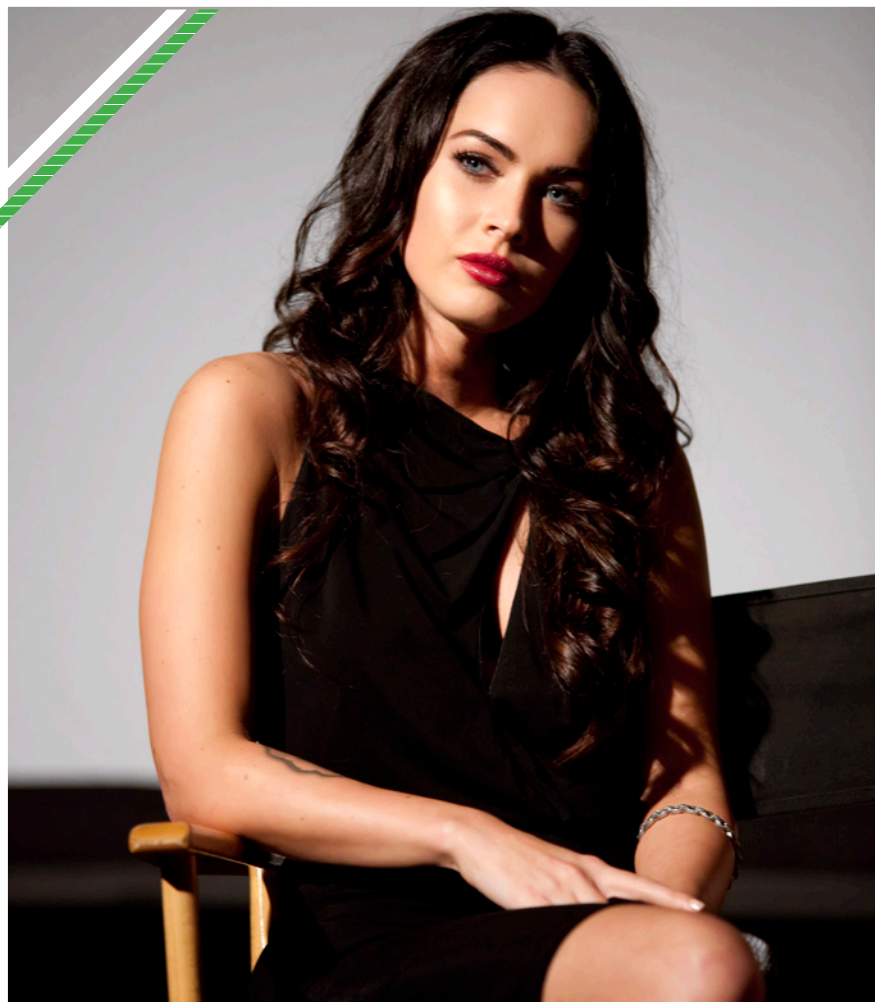


EAT YOUR HEART OUT

WORDS PAUL SALFEN

PHOTO BRYAN ANDERSON



She's wild. She's bold. She's impulsive. And whether you love her or loathe her, you can't avoid her—Megan Fox is everywhere. In the last two years, the *Transformers* star has been on a multitude of magazine covers and "hot lists," graced countless red carpet events and has cemented herself as the hottest desktop background since Marilyn Monroe. The 23-year-old Tennessee native who seemed to come out of nowhere has made quite a splash with her brash, expletive-filled interview quotes and striking photo shoots. Like it or not, lots of people just can't get enough of her.

After years of playing the role of "the fox" in movies, Fox is ready to tackle scripts that require more from her than just looking pretty and running from robots—in slow motion, no less. This month, she gets a chance to show her acting chops with *Jennifer's Body*, a wickedly over-the-top vampire horror flick.

"There's no robots to distract you from whatever performance I do give," Fox says matter-of-factly. "So if it's terrible, you're gonna f***ing know that it's really terrible." Showing a surprising self-realization, she shrugs and offers, "I was just trying to have fun with it, and I felt like I was able to make fun of my own

image as to how some people might perceive Megan Fox to be. I was just sort of flying freely, and I hope some of it works."

What the movie does give Fox is some witty, personality-perfect dialogue from Oscar-winning *Juno* writer Diablo Cody—dialogue not far off from Fox's trademark foot-in-the-mouth soundbytes. Fox says, "I think what I loved about the movie is it's so unapologetic, and how completely inappropriate it is at all times. That was my favorite part about the script and about the character. It's fun to be able to say the shit that she got to say and get away with it, and how people find it charming."

In describing her character, Fox describes herself—charming, inappropriate and wholly unapologetic. The actress has a litany of seeming contradictions. She's sweet but she's sour. She's sometimes juvenile, sometimes mature. And while Fox tackled the gory role of *Jennifer's Body* with gusto, she admits she herself avoids horror movies at all costs.

"I don't ever, ever watch scary movies because I have a very intense fear of the dark and the last horror movie I saw—I think it was called *The Tooth Fairy* [most likely *Darkness Falls*—and I was like 15 years old and I saw it and I slept with my mother for two weeks afterwards," Fox says. "I get really affected by them. So I think for me to be able to play something that I would normally be frightened by was really intriguing and interesting."

Equally intriguing for Fox was being able to do some Linda Blair *Exorcist*-style throw up scenes she could never watch herself. She laughs when remembering the gruesome process.

"We did a few takes where I would just do this scream and sort of puke chocolate syrup, and then special effects did a rig that clamps onto my ear, and then I bite down on it on the side of my face," Fox remembers. "It projectiles. It was pretty intense. I think it was worse for Amanda [Seyfried] because she's the one that got puked on. I was the one doing the puking."

She adds with a wry smile, "I eat a particular boy in this movie that you don't want me to eat. It breaks your heart. He's such a sweet boy in real life that I felt bad about doing it—but I enjoyed it greatly ... It's cool to see myself being able to scare people because I'm just a little girl. 'Look at me—I'm so sweet.'"

SAFETY FIRST

According to ancient folklore, a sure-fire way to deter a vampire is to surround yourself with garlic. But why? Well, for starters, garlic smells bad, which could upset vampires' ultra-sensitive noses. Also, it is a powerful antiseptic intended for germ-killing. In addition, garlic acts as a proven deterrent against mosquitoes and ticks, fellow blood-sucking creatures. Combined, these theories might explain why vampires avoid the pungent plant. But while we can't confirm that eating garlic repels vampires, we can assure you it repels your date—so please, ingest with caution. —Madeline Hollern

