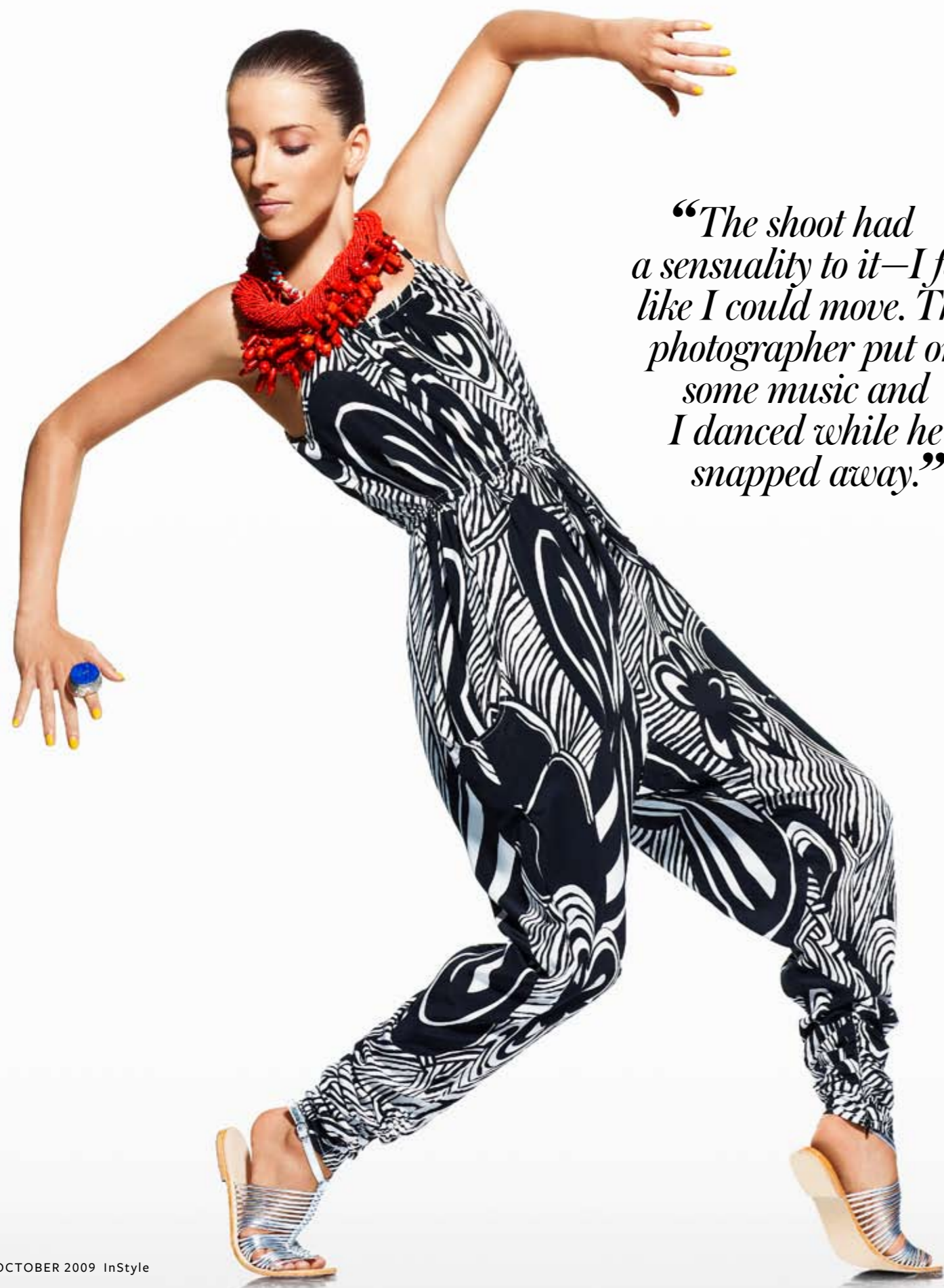


THIS PAGE: Ellery silk dress, \$490; 0406 729 731/elleryland.com. Family Jewels coral necklace, \$469; 02-9360 1215. Go Goanna howelite and turquoise necklaces, \$360 each; 02-9233 3003. Nü+Nán leather sandals, \$179; 02-9264 0599. OPPOSITE: Fleur Wood silk playsuit, \$329; 02-9380 9511. Hermès silk twilly, \$215; 02-9287 3200. Schön by Traudl Troska silver earrings, \$149; 0412 093 017. Mania Mania metal, leather and quartz necklace, \$550; 0421 543 405. Go Goanna lapis ring, \$50; 02-9233 3003. Anya Hindmarch leather clutch, \$1,100; at Christine, 03-9654 2011. Mogil leather sandals, \$200; 03-9827 6005.



Let's Dance

*Australian ballerina and star of new film
Mao's Last Dancer, Camilla Vergotis feels the
beat in sexy dresses and playful jumpsuits*



“The shoot had a sensuality to it—I felt like I could move. The photographer put on some music and I danced while he snapped away.”

THIS PAGE: En Rose silk jumpsuit, \$229; 02-9319 0988. Hermès silk twilly, \$215; 02-9287 3200. Marni resin necklaces, \$1,475 each; at Belinda, 02-9380 8725. OPPOSITE: Tim O'Connor silk jumpsuit, \$475; 02-9516 3066. Family Jewels red-coral necklace, from \$395; 02-9360 1215. Go Goanna coral and turquoise necklace, \$155, and coral necklace, \$380; 02-9233 3003. Go Goanna lapis ring, \$50; 02-9233 3003. Wittner leather sandals, \$99.95; 1300 137 463/wittner.com.au.





“I love playing with colour. Wearing a great colour can lift anyone’s spirits.”

THIS PAGE: Stella McCartney silk jumpsuit, approx. \$2,486; at net-a-porter.com. Schön by Traudl Troska silver earrings, \$169, and necklace, \$698; 0412 093 017. Peter Lang silver necklace, \$269; 02-9319 7033. Megan Park cotton and leather bag, \$185; 02-9360 9100. Peep Toe leather sandals, \$195; 02-8399 1233/www.peeptoeshoes.com.au. OPPOSITE: Life with Bird silk playsuit, \$365; 02-8399 3877. Mogil leather clutch, \$200; 03-9827 6005. Lucy Folk silver and gold-plated necklaces, \$520, and \$785; 0408 109 467. Schön by Traudl Troska coral necklace, \$425; 0412 093 017. Trenery leather belt, \$49.95; 1800 801 911.





THIS PAGE: Kloset polyester jumpsuit, \$425; 02-9281 1110. Megan Park resin and stone necklaces, \$120 (red) and \$210; 02-9360 9100. Mogil leather bag, \$300; 03-9827 6005. Anon Women wooden bangles, \$125 (for a set of 4); 0408 690 134. Miu Miu leather sandals, \$525; at David Jones, 13 33 57. OPPOSITE: Anna & Boy silk dress, \$385; 02-9211 8511. Family Jewels coral necklace, from \$395 (thick), and coral necklace, \$289; 02-9360 1215. Lucy Folk sterling-silver and gold-plated necklace, \$630; 0408 109 467. Lisa Ho leather belt, \$289; 02-8303 7888. Hair and make-up: Darren Cartledge.

CAMILLA VERGOTIS, AUSTRALIAN BALLERINA AND soloist dancer with the Hong Kong Ballet, is flying through the air. With each jump, twist and turn, she gives shape to summer's vibrant jumpsuits and dresses. Despite her day job, her sartorial sense is not all tulle. Vergotis is a style lover. "I adore fashion," she enthuses. "I've been inspired by how these outfits have been put together!"

Lithe and powerful, Vergotis says ballet has always been her first passion. "When my mother took my brothers to the beach every Saturday [in her hometown Benowa Waters, Queensland], I was being dropped off at a hot tin shed for ballet lessons. But it was where I wanted to be. I was excited to go to classes!"

This month, she embarks on a new role: actress. She plays Mary McKendry, an Australian ballerina and wife of Li Cunxin, in the film *Mao's Last Dancer* (out October 1). The true and moving tale follows Cunxin's journey from rural China to become a State-trained dancer who defects after visiting the US on exchange. Cunxin and McKendry now live in Melbourne and have worked with The Australian Ballet for many years. The story has a particular resonance for Vergotis. "I know Li personally, he has been a mentor. I danced with him when I was with The Australian Ballet. I love his story," she says. "Mary also coached me."

Vergotis was approached by Australian producer Bruce Beresford to take on the role. It was her first turn at acting professionally, but the ballerina was undaunted. "I've always acted!" she says laughing. "When I was at school, I would walk around the house reciting Shakespeare monologues! I like being able to tell a story."

Newly engaged, Vergotis and banker fiancé Stuart Haslam relocated to Hong Kong for their careers, although Vergotis remains close to her family. Her mother and two brothers are still based in Queensland, and despite moving to Melbourne at 16 to attend the Australian Ballet School, Vergotis says, "I still find it hard to say goodbye." While Hong Kong is home for now, Vergotis, who turns 30 this month, admits, "I'm a family person, I will definitely be back in Australia." —Jo McKay

