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Dressing for Fame: *Jeanann Williams on Styling Naomi Watts, Liev Schreiber, and Suki Waterhouse*



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Naomi Watts at the Academy Awards

Photo: Frazer Harrison / Getty Images

With our *Dressing for Fame* series, we bring you an exclusive, insider look at everything it takes to create iconic celebrity style moments.

Styling is all in the family for Jeanann Williams. After paying her dues working for the likes of Alexander Wang, Bottega Veneta, and Isabel Marant at PR powerhouse KCD in New York, she stepped up to the plate to style Naomi Watts, the movie star who just happened to be her partner's sister. Since then she's been behind one scene-stealing look after another for Watts and Liev Schreiber and has masterminded Suki Waterhouse's major model-off-duty moments. Here, the stylist opens up exclusively to Style.com about that time bug bites sabotaged a backless dress and coordinating Watts and Schreiber's looks.

How did you get your start styling?

Naomi and I are very close. She needed a gown for the Venice Film Festival in August of 2012 and she reached out to me. She knew she had a big press tour coming and just said she loved my style and asked if I could do it. If all went well with Venice, then we would continue working together. The rest is history.

What do you do personally and professionally to continue to push the envelope?

I stay current, I try to go see new designers, keep things fresh, and always switch it up. There are a lot of markets, a lot of amazing talent, so I do my best to stay on top of it. Your clients have to really trust you. Once you have their trust, you can push them...and that's when it gets fun.

What has been your favorite look to date that you've styled Naomi in?

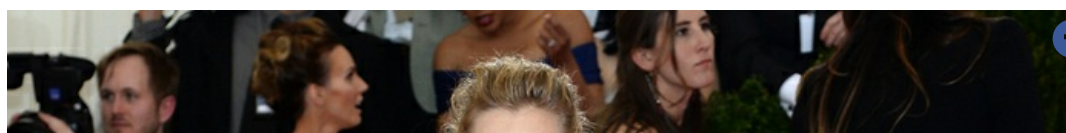
I loved the Armani Oscar moment. She truly shined, and it felt right in every way. When I looked at her, I just saw strength and a glow—it felt perfect for her big night.

When working with a couple like Naomi and Liev for an event together, how do the two looks relate? Do you work on each separate or together?

When I dressed them both for the Globes, it was his night. Naomi never wants to take the limelight, especially when she is there to support. So we started with Liev and worked our way to her. And when dressing men, is there any better place to start than Mr. Tom Ford? Naomi made for the perfect arm candy in her complementing Tom Ford. It was such a moment, very James Bond.

Has there been a challenging instance or situation with styling Naomi that stands out?

Once I was dressing Naomi for a premiere in Madrid—she was coming straight from shooting in Africa...all fast and furious. I did not attend, sent it all ahead of time. The problem arose because in Africa she had been attacked by bugs—her back was covered in bug bites. The backless number we thought was a no-brainer was clearly out of the running. I had to work fast. It always works out, but sometimes there is the unexpected. It keeps me on my toes. It's not called "work" for nothing.





Suki Waterhouse at the "Charles James: Beyond Fashion" Costume Institute Gala at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Photo: 2014 FilmMagic

When styling the likes of Suki Waterhouse, how does model status inform your styling?

Suki can rock just about anything. She's a knockout, and she's young—a stylist's dream. She's totally open and loves fashion, I can definitely push the envelope and get creative. It's been amazing. Her Met look was to die for. I have never seen such a heavenly creature—she truly floated.

Trends / Celebrity: Jeanann Williams on Styling Naomi Watts, Liev Schreiber, and Suki Waterhouse

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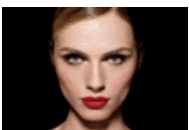
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